

Pershore Times

A free monthly newspaper for Pershore and surrounding villages



Issue 103

April 2025

FREE



Spring Daffodils

Suddenly Spring has Sprung! We have flowers, hedges, trees and bushes in blossom! A wonderful change from the seemingly endless dull cloudy days. It has seemed a long winter. We are now having glorious sunny days, still with a slight nip in the air, but all so enjoyable. The gardens suddenly need urgent attention! Most of us can't wait to get going, and start planting, trimming and mowing. The countryside is especially lovely at this time of the year, and we are still waiting for some plants and trees to wake up and join in the fun!

The birds are great to see, all busy with their new nests and partners; they sound very happy!

The summer is certainly on its way, and we have lots to look forward to. Village Fetes, local

and national sporting events, summer holidays, the Carnival and many more. We will shortly be commemorating VE Day, the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe and VJ Day, Victory in Japan. Five long years of horror and hardship for so many finally came to an end. The rejoicing went on for weeks and I think every street in the country had a party! Slowly but surely the Army, Navy and Airforce came home, and the rebuilding of lives, families and cities began. We owe so much

to all who took part and grieve forever for those who did not come home.

Happy Easter



**Easter Sunday
20th April**

Revills Farm Shop & Farmhouse Café
Open Mon - Sat 9-5 | Sun 10-4
**Check availability for
home grown
Asparagus**



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Transforming St Andrew's Gardens



Promoting Biodiversity, Health and Wellbeing

Pershore Place Board, March 2025 – A new project is set to develop St Andrews Gardens, off Church Walk in Pershore Town Centre, into a high quality, ornamental and sensory-rich green space. Pershore Place Board will take the lead, in partnership with Pershore Town Council, Wychavon District Council, Pershore College, the Diocese of Worcester, Abbottswood Medical Centre, and other key local partners. The project will transform the gardens into a beautiful space that promotes biodiversity, wellbeing, and community engagement.

One of Pershore Place Board's six key strategic objectives is to make Pershore a 'A Destination for All'. The transformed St Andrews Gardens will reinforce Pershore's reputation as a welcoming and attractive town for residents and visitors alike. *A Garden for the Community* St Andrews Gardens is currently

an informal green space and a closed churchyard. The gardens are open to public access.

Through this initiative, the area will be respectfully transformed to become a bespoke sensory garden, offering a tranquil yet stimulating environment for people of all ages and abilities. The design will enhance accessibility, including smooth pathways, raised planters, and ample seating areas for people to relax and enjoy its beauty.

"This is an opportunity to create a magnificently enhanced green space that benefits the entire community," said Darren Eden, Chair of Pershore Place Board. "By collaborating with excellent local organisations, we aim to deliver a garden that is both beautiful and beneficial for mental and physical wellbeing." The team are designing the garden with three key principles in mind:

Sensory experience:

The plant selection will include carefully selected plant species, many of which grown at



Pershore College, to provide interactive experiences through colour, scent, texture, and even taste. The work will include an enlarged rose garden with 135 additional specimen English roses. *Biodiversity:*

A broad range of plants and habitats will support local wildlife and create year-round interest, with a different theme appearing through each changing season.

Health and wellbeing:

In partnership with Abbottswood Medical Centre, the gardens will offer a space for social prescribing. Social prescribing refers to healthcare professionals encouraging outdoor activities that can support mental and physical health. Pershore College will also run gardening courses in the gardens. In addition, the space will celebrate the history of the very special site as a closed graveyard through interpretation boards and maintaining existing memorials and headstones.

The transformed St Andrews

Gardens will continue to offer space for community events and educational opportunities, with links to Pershore College, school visits, and vocational training opportunities. The gardens will remain open to the public every day of the year.

A Collaborative Effort for a Greener Future

The development of St Andrews Gardens is the result of partnerships between local authorities, businesses, healthcare providers, and community organisations. The project is a fantastic example of how collaboration is driving positive change in our town. Pershore Place Board is very pleased to have partnered with Pershore Town Council, who are the custodians of the gardens, to deliver another project for the benefit of the local community, visitors and the town.

We aim to make a lasting impact on Pershore, ensuring this historic space is cherished and well-used for generations to come.

Villages make smart move in fight against crime

Residents in Defford and Besford now have added protection against thieves and burglars after they became the latest area to join Wychavon's SmartWater army. Wychavon has been working with Defford and Besford Parish Council and West Mercia Police to hand out SmartWater kits to residents to help deter criminals from targeting the area. More than 200 households signed up for the scheme, meaning the two villages are now SmartWater areas. SmartWater is a colourless liquid solution that can be applied to the surfaces of belongings and valuables. It leaves a unique code that is almost impossible to remove and can only be viewed under ultraviolet light. Each household signed up has been given a kit containing

enough liquid to mark up to 75 items. Marked items are then registered with a national database, so if items are stolen, the rightful owner can easily be identified, and the property returned. SmartWater deters criminals as they know stealing SmartWater-marked property makes it more likely they will be caught and convicted. Signs have been installed around the villages to warn criminals it is a SmartWater area.

The packs were funded by Defford and Besford Parish Council and West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion. Wychavon's Community Safety team has supported the parish council with promoting the scheme to residents.

It is part of West Mercia Police's 'We don't buy crime' initiative which is aimed at deterring acquisitive crime, which includes burglary, theft, robbery and shoplifting.

Cllr Rob Adams, Executive Board Member for Stronger Communities, Culture and Sport on Wychavon District Council, said: "I'm delighted Defford and Besford have become the latest recruits to Wychavon's SmartWater army. Anything we can do to help protect people's property and make life more difficult for criminals is a good thing. I'd encourage other areas to explore this opportunity to make Wychavon an even safer place to live, work and visit." Sue Rees, Vice Chair of Defford

and Besford Parish Council, said: "This is a positive step that will provide a visible deterrent to criminals and reassurance to residents.

Other parishes or villages interested in becoming SmartWater villages should email: communitysafety@wychavon.gov.uk



Pershore Benefice
EASTER DAY
April 20 2025



0600 Dawn Service and First Eucharist of Easter (Pershore Abbey)
followed by breakfast of boiled eggs and rolls at St Andrew's
Centre. (Please bring an egg cup with you!)

0800 Eucharist (Pershore Abbey)

0900 Parish Communion (St Mary's, Wick)

1030 Sung Eucharist (Pershore Abbey) with **LIVESTREAM**

1030 Holy Communion (St Nicholas', Pinvin)

1030 Holy Communion (St James', Birlingham)

ALL WELCOME

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Facebook: @pershoreabbeycom YouTube: Pershore Abbey Community

Pershore Benefice Easter 2025



Palm Sunday 13 April

0800 BCP Eucharist (Pershore Abbey)

0930 Café Church (St Andrew's)

1000 Palm Sunday Procession on Abbey Park to Abbey. Meet at St Andrew's Road/Abbey Road
crossroads. Come and join us singing and drumming to the Abbey.

1030 Sung Eucharist (Pershore Abbey) with **LIVESTREAM**

1030 Morning Praise (St Mary's Wick)

1500 Ubi Caritas - A Choral Devotion for Holy Week (Pershore Abbey)

1700 Wholeness & Healing Service (Pershore Abbey)

Monday in Holy Week 14 April

1900 Compline (Zoom) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation.

Tuesday in Holy Week 15 April

1900 Compline (Zoom) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation.

Wednesday in Holy Week 16 April

1900 Compline (Zoom) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation.

Maundy Thursday 17 April

2000 Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altars

and the Office of Tenebrae (Pershore Abbey) with **LIVESTREAM**

This service will be approximately one and three-quarter hours and will be followed by
the Watch until Midnight. You are welcome to leave after the Office of Tenebrae.

Good Friday 18 April

1000-1415 Children's Activities (5-10 years) (St Andrew's Centre)

No fee - donations welcome. Booking essential via Suzanne Clarke 01386 553293 from
31st March.

1000-1200 Good Friday Witness details to be confirmed.

1400 Service of the Last Hour (Pershore Abbey) with **LIVESTREAM**

1445 Bredon Hill Service at the Folly please contact the Bredon Group for details of this
service on acbteam@gmail.com

Holy Saturday 19 April

1700 Evening Prayer with Short Easter Vigil (Pershore Abbey)

This service will last approximately one hour.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Daily Offices will also continue to be observed as usual

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Facebook: @pershoreabbeycom YouTube: Pershore Abbey Community

An Easter message from Claire Lording

Dear Friends

Spring always feels a bit like a waiting game. The keen gardeners tell us that you can't do much new planting until the ground gets warm enough. And even if we don't garden ourselves, we'll know that we have to wait for the buds to appear and green things to grow again. The wildlife experts tell us that nature knows when to get going again for a new season and it's all to do with the longer days and the warmer temperatures. The Abbey peregrines certainly understand this and as I type, we are patiently waiting for the first egg to appear!

But Spring is always worth the wait! The colour, the sight and sounds of new life everywhere is just amazing and a beautiful reminder to us that the cold and darkness of winter cannot hold on forever.

I'm always thankful that I live in this country so that the Easter celebrations always coincide with Spring. Easter is late this year so we will be surrounded by the beauty of Spring in the flowers, the trees, the new lambs and by the light. But our Easter Day joy doesn't happen all at once. A bit like waiting for Spring we have to wait patiently for the resurrection of Jesus! As part of your waiting, you might have decided to do special things for Lent, or you might choose to attend special events and services during Holy Week.



These are all good ways of getting ready for the excitement and new life shared on Easter Day. And when we get to Easter we have the perfect reminder for the rest of the year that there is always the possibility of hope and new life for us and our world. Sometimes we just have to wait for it.
Happy Easter!

Claire



Post Box in Holloway Photograph by Sheanagh Hickson

Elmley Castle Village Hall Friday 16th May, 7.00pm for 7.30pm



'Mrs Churchill – My Life with Winston'

Starring Liz Grand as Clementine Churchill

Winston Churchill is arguably one of the most famous Englishmen. Behind every great man, there is a great woman. What of Clementine, his wife for 56 years? Did he bully her like he did so many other people? Was he grumpy and irascible at home? Given his strength, did Clem have any influence on him at all? Or was she 'the little lady at home'? Winston said, "my most brilliant achievement was my ability to be able to persuade my wife to marry me."

All of these questions will be answered, and many more, in Liz Grand's superb, moving, sensitive and informative portrayal of Clementine Churchill.

(Liz's other current shows are 'The Second Best Bed' and 'Where Is Mrs. Christie?')

Licenced Bar - Tickets £15
01386 710511 or 01386 710286

Herbicide use restricted in Wychavon's parks

Limited use of herbicides will be allowed in Wychavon's parks and open spaces again after a trial was only partly successful.

Wychavon introduced a 12-month ban on the use of the chemicals in April last year as part of its commitment to boosting biodiversity and protecting pollinators.

Contractors have instead been removing weeds either by hand or with tools. But an assessment of the trial has found these methods have caused significant damage to tarmac and other hard surfaces in places around the district. It has also not been possible to remove weeds from some difficult to reach areas and this has led to a deterioration in the appearance of some parks and open spaces.

The trial has been more successful in planted areas with only persistent weeds proving problematic.

Councillors agreed at a meeting on Wednesday (26 March) to allow the use of herbicides in parks and open space but only on hard surfaces. They may also be used in planted areas for persistent weeds but only

with sign off from a senior member of Wychavon's parks team.

The move is still expected to cut the 20 litres a year of herbicide previously used in Wychavon's parks. The £88,000 saving from not continuing with the trial, will also be reinvested back into biodiversity projects across the district's parks.

Herbicides and pesticides are still being used to control weeds on hard surfaces in urban areas, like town centres and residential roads.

Cllr Beverley Hardman, Wychavon's Executive Board Member for Boosting Natural Capital, said: "This strikes a balanced approach between still reducing our use of herbicides and avoiding the ongoing repairs that would have been needed to damaged surfaces.

"Reinvesting savings from scrapping the scheme will allow us to continue to boost biodiversity in our parks while limiting the risks to wildlife and insects. We'll continue to explore future opportunities to reduce our herbicide use further."



Communities urged to mark VE Day



A £19,000 fund is being made available to help communities across Wychavon mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. Wychavon is making £250 available to town and parish councils to support activities on and around Thursday, 8 May, to celebrate a significant milestone in the nation's history. Parish and town councils will be contacted directly over the coming weeks with details about how they can claim the money. As well as the dedicated fund, Wychavon is also scrapping fees for road closure notices for anyone holding a street party either on 5 May, 8 May, or over the weekend from 9 to 11 May 2025. Wychavon will join communities nationwide by raising the VE Day 80 flag at 9am on 8 May. Churches are being asked to ring their bells at 6.30pm and communities are also invited to light a beacon at 9.30pm. At the same time,

Chelsea Pensioner Colin Thackery will lead the nation in a rendition of I Vow To Thee My Country. Although 8 May isn't a public holiday, communities are still encouraged to hold street parties on the Bank Holiday Monday before, on the day and over VE Day 80 weekend. Residents are also urged to support their local fish and chip shop by enjoying the nation's favourite treat in tribute to the courageous fishermen who braved the German U-boats and the farmers and Land Girls who cultivated the fields to keep the country fed. Fish and chips was among the few foods not rationed by the Government during the conflict.

For more information about how to get involved in activities on the day visit www.ve80.com. Advice on how to hold a street party and information about road closures is available on Wychavon's website.

Wychavon on track to cut carbon emissions

Action on climate change has helped Wychavon slash its carbon footprint.

Wychavon's Intelligently Green Plan, published in 2020, set challenging targets to reduce carbon emissions as the council's response to tackling the climate emergency.

An annual update has revealed Wychavon is on track to meet its pledges, with carbon emissions from council services falling by 39% in 2023/24 - 1,181 tonnes less than the 2018/19 starting point. The target is a 75% cut by the end of the decade.

Using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in waste collection and park maintenance vehicles saved 200 tonnes of carbon emissions, while upgrades to

Wychavon's Civic Centre headquarters, and buying renewable electricity, also helped.

To hit the target, upgrades to Wychavon's leisure centres, which account for 66% of the council's carbon footprint, are needed.

Detailed designs for a low carbon heating system with solar panels at Evesham and Pershore leisure centres has been developed, with a funding bid planned for the autumn. Droitwich Spa Leisure Centre's upgrade this summer will include energy efficiency measures like air source heat pumps, solar panels, and LED lighting.

Wychavon aims to lead the district to halve its carbon

emissions by 2030. Emissions for 2022 – the latest available – show a 31% reduction, thanks to progress decarbonising the national electricity grid and renewable energy in homes. Travel remains a challenge, with not enough people switching to walking and cycling for shorter journeys. Electric vehicle growth has also slowed, but sales in 2023/24 were almost three times higher than in 2018/19. The district's low carbon economy is on track to double by 2030 and is now worth 381.1 million – up 51% from 2018/19. The industry employs more than 2,100 people and is set to grow by £447 million over the next five years. Renewable electricity

generation has more than doubled since 2014 to 200,664 Megawatt Hours, with a goal to treble it by 2030.

Studies are underway to measure if Wychavon will meet its commitment to capturing 500 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. Several schemes have contributed to this target including further development of Avon Meadows in Pershore, improvements to Coney Meadow in Droitwich Spa, and the planting of 13,472 trees through the Trees Call to Action Project with Heart of England Forest.

To find out more, visit: www.wychavon.gov.uk/intelligentlygreen

A few words from... Dame Harriett Baldwin MP



Local Tourism to Boost Economy

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP has offered her support to local tourism venues as she joined MPs to hear plans to promote English Tourism Week. The MP was briefed by tourism experts from Visit England and Worcestershire County Council to hear of the benefits that visitors bring to the local economy. There are more than 2200 tourism businesses across Worcestershire and visitors are estimated to welcome over 17 million visitors contributing £962 million to the local economy. Dame Harriett said: "Tourism is hugely important to our local economy with major events

like the Three Counties Show and the regular Three Choirs Festival as well as impressive destinations like Croome Court, Witley Court the Malvern Hills and Bredon Hill. There are many small and medium sized businesses that welcome visitors to our area and they do an amazing job. English Tourism Week is a chance for us all to recognise and support the great work they do. I will be out and about in West Worcestershire talking to local tourism business and helping to promote the sector as we look forward to warmer weather soon."



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OPEN MORNING
FRIDAY 9TH MAY

DISCOVER MORE: [KSW.ORG.UK/SHAPEYOURFUTURE](https://www.ksw.org.uk/shapeyourfuture)

Vale Group plans to boost local bus services

Transport campaigners Vale Bus and Rail are stepping up their campaign to provide daily bus services to more Vale villages and improve bus/rail connections at Pershore's rail station, a mile and a half from the town. Detailed plans have now been sent by the group at the invitation of Worcestershire County Council's newly appointed Bus Service Improvement Plan Manager based on improving services through simplified and better timetabling of services such as the Pershore PlumLine and Village Hopper services and improved use of existing resources.

The plans - if they get the go ahead - would see daily services restored to Vale villages such as Fladbury, Cropthorne and Charlton now served only by a fortnightly bus and to Drakes Broughton where the centre of this rapidly growing village is served by just one bus a week to Worcester and one to Pershore. Vale Bus and Rail has welcomed the introduction of fast half hourly services between Worcester, Pershore and Evesham

with additional services in the early morning and early evening and on Sundays but has highlighted the continuing problems of access to both Pershore and Evesham for shopping and other needs from poorly served but large Vale villages - and the inability to connect with the new much improved X50 services or into the upgraded hourly rail services from Pershore's rail station.

"The current Pershore PlumLine service is popular with customers but the timetables have incredibly not changed for 11 years and as such do not adequately cater for residents of the 500 plus new homes in the Station Road area, the growing Pershore High School, the thriving Pershore Trading Estate or connect into the much improved rail service to Oxford/London and Worcester/Malvern," said Vale Bus and Rail chair, Julian Palfrey. "We are also calling for changes which would benefit usage of the Village Hopper service which provides a vital link for residents of several villages north and south of



Vale Bus and Rail members waiting for an improved bus service from Pershore Station are:
Left to right Neil Berry, Julian Palfrey, Phil Ralls and Viv Moss.

Pershore and Evesham into the two towns but which suffers from an over complicated timetable which deters potential users and which would be improved - and serve more Vale villages -through better

timetabling." The Vale Group is being supported in its campaign by Pershore Town Council and is in regular contact updating West Worcestershire Dame Harriett Baldwin MP.

Town Council News



VE Day – 8th May 2025

8th May 2025 sees the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe, marking the end of World War Two. In celebration of this historic day, the Government are encouraging the public to mark the occasion by holding street parties on Bank Holiday, Monday 5th May. In aid of this, Wychavon District Council is scrapping fees for road closure notices for anyone holding a street party either on Monday 5 May, Thursday 8 May or over the weekend from 9 May to 11 May. We would love to see all shops

and traders in the town decorate their windows, with the High Street due to be adorned with the Union Jack flags once again. If you need any bunting, please do let us know. The Town Council are extremely proud to be linking up with the Royal British Legion in a shared moment of celebration on 8th May, details below.

Thursday 8th May 2025

11:00am:
Chapman Court for a shared moment of celebration

11:15am-13:00pm:
The celebrations continue at the Town Hall with light refreshments

20:00pm:

Join us for celebrations in the run up to the lighting of the Beacon, location TBC

21:00pm:
Lighting of the Beacon

Mrs Charlie MacIntyre
Town Clerk



PERSHORE TOWN COUNCIL
Town Hall, 34, High Street, Pershore

5th March 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Pershore Town Council calls for full involvement in Local Government Reorganisation.

Pershore Town Council have written to both the County and District Councils to formally request involvement in discussions regarding the transition to a unitary authority.

Pershore Town Councils primary aim is that the best possible outcome is secured for the town and is determined to ensure that voices of local residents are heard.

The move to a unitary authority presents a unique opportunity to return many local services to the direct control of the Town Council, which will enhance service delivery, improve responsiveness to community needs and ensure decisions are made as close to home as possible.

Pershore Town Council urges residents to stay informed and engaged as further developments unfold. The Council remains committed to transparency and will provide updates as discussions progress.

Mrs Charlie MacIntyre
Town Clerk

townclerk@pershore-tc.gov.uk
01386 561561

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FROM
PERSHORE WORCESTERSHIRE**

**CHIPPED
SPAYED**

SCAN ME



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OR

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Royal British Legion - Pershore & District Branch

bringing you news for events the in April and May



April

April heralds the Cross Laying in Pershore Cemetery on: *Palm Sunday 13th April*
In 1940, a tradition was instigated by Pershore Youth Fellowship which was formed in 1937. Having made collections through Carol singing they purchased holly wreaths, laying them on the graves of servicemen on Christmas morning. This tradition continued until the early 1970s when it was taken over by the Pershore and District Branch of the Royal British Legion when the remembrance took the form of a poppy cross being laid on the war graves, this was undertaken by various young people of the town including uniformed organisations. This used to take place on the Sunday before

Christmas but more recently due to snow and icy roads causing the event to be postponed on several occasions it was moved to Palm Sunday.

RBL Annual Dinner - [including Cadet Awards] takes place at the end of April.

May

V E Day -

Victory in Europe Day is the day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on Tuesday 8th May 1945. It marked the end of WWII in Europe, but the war in the Pacific continued, with Japan surrendering on 15th August, 1945; known as V J Day.

V E Day 80th anniversary on:

Thursday 8th May 2025

Pershore Remembers.

1100hrs in Chapman Court the Town Crier will read the declaration and Reveille will be played. All the Community are welcome. We hope many veterans will attend wearing medals and uniform as

appropriate. This will be followed by tea/cake in the Town Hall from 1115-1300hrs, again War survivors and all veterans' welcome.

Later on, Thursday 8th May at 2015-2045 hrs singing will take place near the War Horse in Abbey Park and later at 2100 hrs the Beacon will be lit [TBC]

Friday 9th May -

Pershore Remembers - 40s

theme night at the Football

Club. 7pm-12 midnight.

Band - Tuxedo Junction

Please dress in 40s style and

there will be a prize for the best dressed male and female.

Bar and snacks will be

available.



Further details on ticket sales, costs etc will be advertised in due course.

In addition, the morning service will include remembering V E Day in Pershore Abbey on: *Sunday 4th May*

Susan Payne

"My father always told me.
find a job you love and you'll
never have to work a day in your life"

Jim Fox

PERSHORE CELEBRATES

Pershore Branch Royal British Legion in association with Pershore Town Council

VE DAY

8th May 1945

80

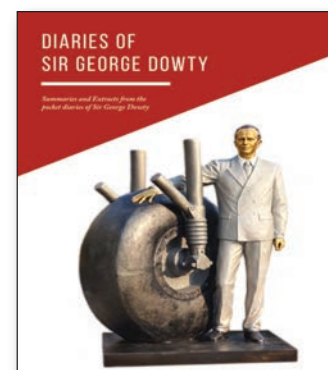
th Anniversary

EVENTS

Chapman Court <small>A shared moment of celebration</small>	8th May 11am
Town Hall <small>Refreshments</small>	8th May 11:15-1pm
Beacon Lighting <small>Abbey Park</small>	8th May from 8pm
40s Themed Evening <small>Pershore Football Club</small>	9th May from 7pm

The Diaries of Sir George Dowty

The pocket diaries of George Herbert Dowty (GHD) were supplied by Dunlop and cover the years 1919 until his passing in 1975. He evidently intended them to be kept as he arranged for them to be stored in a purpose made wooden container but many have deteriorated significantly. The diaries mainly contain appointments starting with his journeying days- 1919 until 1924- his draughtsmanship years at Gloucester Engineering 1924 - 1931 and then the formation of his business with £50 in capital in the midst of a world wide slump. Editing the diaries was a Herculean task very ably performed, over nearly a year, by GHD's last personal secretary Caroline Flippance - who served him from 1970 until 1975. The result is a unique insight into one of the country's finest engineers and businessman. The very significant Second World War achievement of no British wartime aircraft equipped with Dowty components (over 90% were) being grounded for



lack of spare parts. Nowhere is there any there any attempt to extol his huge achievements- his knighthood in 1956 has a minor mention.

The diaries are now available to Dowty related personnel only - they are to be formally released on the 9th June at the Worcestershire County Cricket Club in the Graeme Hick suite. Lord Heseltine has been invited to Chair the event that significantly occurs 60 years after WCCC won the County Championship under GHD's Presidency. Most fitting!

Martin Robins

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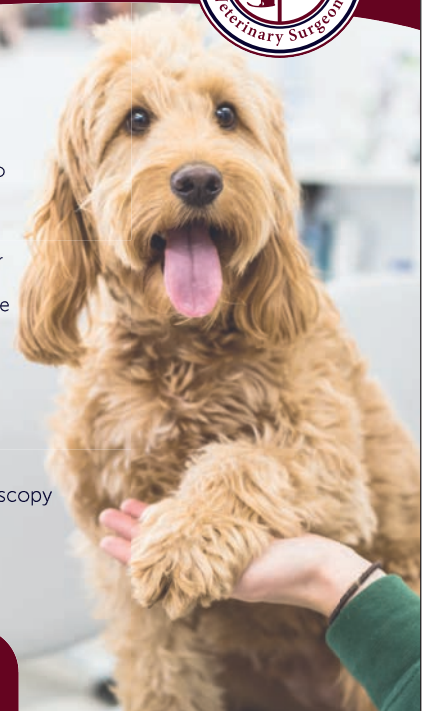
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www.martinandcarrvets.co.uk



The Nectar Café!



Photo by R Edwards

Snowdrops and primroses are now in bloom. Signalling spring's arrival, they lift our spirits, look beautiful and offer a lifeline to insects.

At this time of year early flowering plants provide essential nectar for pollinators emerging from hibernation. While honeybees often steal the spotlight, over 1,500 insect species pollinate plants in the UK. Bumblebees, wasps, butterflies, moths, and beetles all play their part in helping plants to set seed, fruit and reproduce. Sadly, though, many are in decline and one of the main reasons for this is the lack of food for them, especially early in the year.

You can make a difference by planning a nectar café, growing

plants which provide food for them year round. Even a small patch or pot in your garden can make a huge difference.

Choose simple flowers offering easy access to nectar; in spring snowdrops, crocus, heathers and primroses are ideal, providing a nectar and pollen smorgasbord for insects emerging from hibernation. Many of our prettiest insects need flowers for their survival, so why not invite them into your garden? By planning a year round nectar café you can enjoy the flowers and the insects, while giving nature a helping hand.

Karen Rose

A biodiversity officer for Wychavon District Council

Charity fund raising coffee morning

On Wednesday 19th March the Ladies section at the Vale Golf Club was very delighted that they raised over £1,105 for St. Richard's Hospice Worcester. It was a very happy and fun filled event. Various stalls included cakes, plants, pre-loved golf gear, greeting cards, raffle and

putting competition. Carole Lavis Lady Captain and the Ladies Section would like to thank the patrons and all the people and local organisations that supported this worthwhile event such as The Angel Hotel, Mill Lane Nursery, Vale Golf Club, Four Acres Nurseries etc.

"If a window of opportunity appears, don't pull down the shade"

Tom Peters

Hotel retains five-stars!



The Angel Inn Hotel is proud to announce that it has once again been recognised by AA Hotel & Hospitality Services, retaining its prestigious Five-Star Inn status and receiving the coveted AA Dinner Award for 2025. This marks the second consecutive year that The Angel has achieved these esteemed accolades, reaffirming its commitment to exceptional hospitality, outstanding dining, and top-tier guest experiences.

The AA's quality inspection assessed The Angel across five key areas: cleanliness, bedrooms, bathrooms, breakfast and dinner, and hospitality. The Five-Star Inn status is awarded annually and reflects The Angel's consistent dedication to excellence. Alongside its Five-Star recognition, The Angel has once again been awarded the prestigious AA Dinner Award, celebrating the hotel's high-quality dining experience. This honour is granted to establishments that demonstrate a strong emphasis on freshly prepared, locally sourced

ingredients and deliver an exceptional dining experience. With ingredients sourced from St Catherine's Farm, The Angel's restaurant continues to impress with its commitment to quality and flavour.

"We are delighted to have been re-awarded Five-Star Inn status and the AA Dinner Award for another year," said Beth Holmes, Venue Manager of The Angel Inn Hotel. "This achievement is thanks to the work of our entire team, from our chefs to our front-of-house staff to our housekeepers. We are proud to maintain the highest standards for all our guests."

The Angel's continued success reflects its dedication to improvement and excellence in all aspects of hospitality. The hotel's beautifully appointed accommodation, superb dining, and commitment to guest satisfaction continue to set it apart as a premier destination in the region.

For more information or to make a reservation, please visit angelpershore.co.uk

April Events at community run The Queen Elizabeth Inn

VISIT WORCESTERSHIRE PUB OF THE YEAR 2022/23 GOOD FOOD AWARD 2024/25

Who knew that a rural community pub could be so exciting !!

PLAN AHEAD !!

Beer & Cider Festival

Friday 23rd May to
Monday 26th May

The Big 450 Bess-tival

Saturday 28th June to
Sunday 29th June

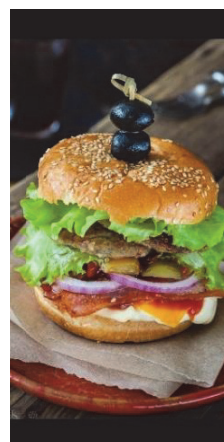


The Queen Elizabeth Inn
Elmley Castle

EASTER SUNDAY LUNCH

April 20th

Booking now!



The Queen Elizabeth Inn
Elmley Castle

GOURMET BURGER NIGHT

Thursday April
24th

Booking now!

The Queen Elizabeth Inn Elmley Castle

Tuesday April 22nd 7.00 pm

Backgammon Evening

Boards provided or bring
your own!

Caring Hands



In the Vale



Queen Elizabeth Inn Elmley Castle

CHARITY PUB QUIZ

In aid of
Caring Hands in the Vale

Tuesday April 8th

19.30pm

£3 Entry Fee

£10 Fish and Chips for Quizzers



serving full breakfasts and
breakfast baps, a wide range of
delicious cakes, *teacakes*, scones,
and crumpets, plus cream teas,
and great tea and coffee.

Eat in or takeaway
Open Tuesdays-Sundays
09:30-17:00



We are a multiple award winning, dog friendly, community-run, 16th Century Inn.
We aim to provide a sustainable 'heart' for Elmley Castle and the surrounding villages, and a friendly destination venue for visitors. Thank you for your support

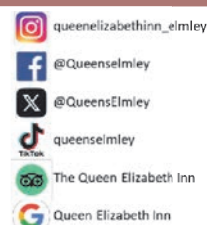
All information correct at time of printing, but please check for latest information at
www.queenelizabethinn.co.uk or call us on **01386 710251**



The Queen Elizabeth Inn
Main Street, Elmley Castle WR10 3HS

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qe@queenelizabethinn.co.uk
www.queenelizabethinn.co.uk



The M5 Motorway *Tim Hickson*



Worcester High Street

Before this motorway was built, motorists would use the A38 which passed through the middle of Gloucester and the centre of Worcester. There were, of course, far fewer cars on the roads then. I have been told that pre-War plans for the motorways sited the M5 nearer to Croome Court. However, local racehorse trainers pointed out that it would pass through their training courses. Hence its route today. The site old RAF buildings, now used by The National Trust at Croome, was used as a place to keep and to repair some of the large vehicles being used. The first stages of the motorway's construction not only carved through existing fields and roads but its builders sometimes caused unintended damage. For example, a lorry so damaged the Croome footbridge crossing the road to High Green that it had to be removed. The lorry had a crane in the back which had not been lowered. This bridge was similar in design to

the one crossing the road by Spetchley Park. On either side the bridge had the Earls of Coventry's coat of arms. These discs were rescued and later built into a new wall at the Estate Yard at High Green. Copies were made and were placed either side of the entrance to Earls Croome Court, off the A38 near The Yorkshire Grey. The first 26 miles of the M5 motorway were constructed as a dual two-lane motorway. This section – from junction 4 in the north to the junction with the M50 in the south – opened in July 1962. Worcestershire County Council, the Police and particularly the County Surveyor of Worcestershire had made repeated representations that a dual three-lane standard motorway was more appropriate. However, The Ministry of Transport insisted that a dual two-lane motorway would be built - at a cost of around £8 million. The carriageways were also built to a lower overall



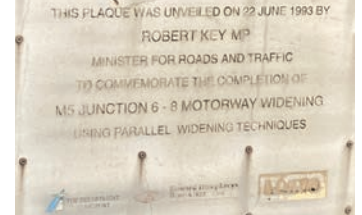
Remains of the Croome bridge



width of 88 feet rather than 100 feet to reduce the loss of agricultural land. When, in the 1990s, the decision to widen the Worcestershire section of M5 was made, the work cost £123 million.

On the bridge near Hatfield you can see the plaque unveiled by the then Minister for Roads and Traffic in 1993. During this work, the northbound Strensham Services were rebuilt further away from the modified M50 junction.

Now, of course, the M5 runs from the edge of Birmingham to Exeter with the possibility of it being extended to Plymouth. So if we want to go to the Southwest it is hard to avoid the M5.



Junction 8 Bridge Plaque

Once, when I was on duty as a volunteer guide in Croome Court, a foreign visitor I had taken around its peaceful interior, walked out on to the south portico. With the wind in its usual direction from the west, the noise from the motorway was immediately apparent. I was taken aback by being asked, "Why did they build the Court so close to the motorway?"



Earls Croome Court, off the A38 near The Yorkshire Grey

Farming

Mike Page



Lambs in the field alongside their mothers

This photograph taken very recently and picks up on the theme in the article below of 'Spring is arriving', taken during a spell of very pleasant early March weather. But to show that Winter has not gone away entirely,

The confrontation over Inheritance Tax (IHT) Rules between those representing farmers and related rural industries with the present Government continues; both sides standing firm in their resolve not to give ground. It would be easy for me to say; the farming fraternity are right in their stance; that is what you might expect a farmer to say. In the February Issue of Pershore Times Carol Draper (FCCA) in her article did spell out the accountant's understanding of the new regime; she ends with the remark, '... farms are typically asset rich and cash poor and planning is essential to mitigate the potential impact of IHT.' Born into a farming family (of several generations past) and raised on a farm, and surrounded by farming in all its aspects – everything from rushing out at 2.00am to round-up cattle reported on the phone by a neighbour as having escaped because a gate had been left open, to having small lambs suffering from hypothermia brought into the kitchen and being resuscitated in the bottom plate warming oven of a Rayburn cooker –

farming was very much at the top of my list of professions to choose when leaving school. Also in Carol's section of the February Edition is a version of the quote: "Find a job you enjoy doing and you will never work another day in your life." That has been very much my experience of farming, and even if chasing after cattle in the middle of the night is not the most pleasurable of experiences as it is happening, the sense of satisfaction, when all over and normality restored, is truly gratifying. I have taken measures, hopefully as best I can, to ensure the impact of IHT is minimised when my time comes. Whether or not my child (an only daughter) or grandchildren choose to carry on with involvement in farming will I hope it will be, all their own choice and not one forced upon them by a need to abandon that lifestyle and sell up in order to pay HMRC a lot of money. After the catastrophic continuing high rainfall of winter 23-24 we are emerging from this winter with land conditions being very much drier and better; as you read this, ewes with lambs at foot



*Taken only 2 days later -Snow on the ground.
At least not enough to worry the young lambs and their mothers too much!*

will be out grazing along with milking cows and other cattle released from their over-winter quarters. As farmers we are being encouraged to go in for Mob Grazing as being a system that is kinder to the soil. In Mob Grazing fields being grazed are of mixed species of grasses and sometimes other herbs (particularly clover) and the animals are moved regularly after grazing the most nutritious (and to them tasty!) upper parts of the growth trampling in lower parts to benefit soil organic matter and general soil health. Grazing animals will certainly eat first what tastes best to them, and that was proven to me some years ago when I planted a field that was regularly mown annually for hay but rarely grazed. I decided to plant it with varieties of grasses such as Cocksfoot and Timothy well known for producing excellent hay, well-liked by nearly all livestock when presented to them in that way during the winter months. But because of seasonal conditions that year grass growth in other fields was much less than expected and I was obliged to turn the sheep into the field of newly growing grass for them to graze. When turned into the field, their first reaction was – very much as expected in such a situation – nose to the ground and start

grazing; I left them to it, returning a couple of hours later to check everything was OK. I found the whole flock (without exception) was spread out around the perimeter of the field grazing at the base of the hedge and obviously consuming the last remnants of the previous grass ley (ryegrasses and clover) which had not been disturbed and was still growing there. They remained as such until all that growth had been consumed (along with a few sprigs of new, soft hedge growth!) and only then did they return to the main area of the field and start grazing that again. Given a chance to choose what they can eat, livestock will always go for what they like best (presumably based on taste, but perhaps they are being guided by instinct and their choice is based on nutritional value?). Once denied the chance to graze the forage of their choice they were happy to graze whatever was available, seemingly without complaint because I did not find them gathering at the gate screaming, "let us out of here!". Like young children perhaps: given a choice between a bowlful of beef stew and a bowlful of ice cream, you can be pretty sure which they will go for, but present them with the beef stew only, or first, and they will eat it quite contentedly.

Thoughts from the Snug ... Redefining political ideology

Politics is a frequent topic of conversation here, and in every Snug in every pub. With the recent turmoil in international and domestic events the very question of democracy and political philosophy had been frequently aired. A regular in the Snug arrived one evening with

some new definitions of political thought. It had a pleasing agricultural theme which we found amusing. Socialism is where you have two cows and give one to your neighbour. Communism is where you have two cows and the state takes

both and gives you the milk. Fascism is when you have two cows and the state takes them and sells you the milk. Nazism is where you have two cows and the state takes them and shoots you. Capitalism is where you have two cows, sell one and buy a bull. Bureaucracy is when you have two cows, the state takes both shoots one, milks the other and then pours the milk down the drain.

Cynical, but more than a germ of truth. It prompted the question which definition fitted which political leader best. Try it. Start with Trump, Thatcher, Starmer and Putin. The source of this wisdom is ascribed to John J Quinn. If any reader knows more about this witty sage we would like to hear it.

Cheers,

Buddy Bach

Ailsa's Kitchen

Ailsa Craddock

Wild About Garlic

Everything is starting to bloom and hazes of green cover the trees and hedges. Amidst April showers and sunshine, we are out walking more and enjoying the Spring. Daffodils, tulips and bluebells; new rhubarb and spinach and strawberry flowers with the promises to come. The Husband has been fishing and the added bonus to this is the first of the year's green treasures - wild garlic by the riverbank. It looks like in the picture.

Please note - wild garlic does look similar to lily of the valley, which is poisonous. The key difference between the two plants is that wild garlic always smells – yes, you guessed it – of garlic. If you're in any doubt about which plant you've found, do not eat it.

Take yourself out for a walk in the woods and you won't fail to notice the fragrant smell of wild garlic as you stroll through. If you're walking through a patch of countryside where wild garlic grows your nose will alert you. The garlicky scent is hard to miss. The leaves can be eaten raw or cooked and taste milder than shop-bought garlic. A fairly low growing plant, smelling slightly of garlic/onion and the most beautiful vibrant green. Pick it when you find it and you can make wonderful soup, dips and oil.

Wild Garlic Soup

This recipe is enough for 4 but freezes beautifully. Not only is it delicious but also helps lower cholesterol and high blood pressure!

1 onion sliced

2 - 3 potatoes

(these are for thickening the soup so depends on size)

500 ml water

stock cube (I use a vegetable one)

milk/creme fraiche/cream

Saute the onion in a little butter in a large saucepan. Add chopped potato, stock cube, and

water and bring to the boil.

Cook until the potato is soft.

Lay 3 - 4 handfuls of the garlic

leaves on the top and allow to

wilt and cook for 2 - 3 minutes.

Cool slightly and, using a hand

blender, puree. Put back into the

saucepan and add milk or cream

or creme fraiche to taste along

with plenty of pepper. It never

lasts long in our house but will

keep in the fridge for 2 - 3 days -

or ladle into bags to freeze.

Serve with crusty bread and a

dollop of creme fraiche.

I served my soup with Leek Pate



on the side. Simply saute a chopped leek and chopped garlic in some butter and olive oil until soft. Put half a carton of cream cheese into a bowl and top with the hot leek mixture. Whizz all up together to a nice creamy paste. Spread on hot buttered toast.

Wild Garlic Oil - blanch several handfuls of leaves in boiling water for 5 - 10 seconds then immediately drain and toss into iced water (this keeps the colour). Drain again and wrap in an old tea towel and squeeze all the liquid out. Chop up into small pieces and put in a jam jar or bottle and top up with 150 ml of olive oil.

Wild Garlic Butter -I make lots of this and usually manage to eke it out all year. Chop the garlic leaves up as you would any other

herb. Soften a block of butter, add salt and pepper and the chopped leaves. Roll into cigar shaped moulds, wrap in cling film and freeze. I usually keep one on the go in the fridge, replacing with a frozen one when needed. Just cut off slices and use to cook with as you would any other flavoured butters. Garlicky green Goddess dressing Put about 30 washed and dried garlic leaves into a food processor or blender with 300ml sour cream (if you haven't got this creme fraiche will do or make your own by adding some lemon juice to fresh cream - leave aside for a minute or two whilst it goes thick), the juice of half a lemon and salt and pepper. Blitz till smooth and serve over a green s salad or use a dipping sauce for bread or crisps.



Dental disease in cats and dogs



Dental disease is one of the most common problems encountered in our pets. Latest studies show 1 in 8 dogs are affected and 1 in 7 cats with older pets being much more at risk. Sadly, dental disease often goes undiagnosed or untreated as our pets are very adept at masking the signs. Many will continue to eat despite advanced dental problems. We do know that having diseased teeth and gums is painful but animals can just become more withdrawn or sleep more, signs often put down to 'aging'. Dental disease is also associated with other health conditions such as kidney and heart disease.

Periodontal disease (periodontitis) is the most common dental problem encountered. It is a build-up of calculus on the teeth leading to inflammation of the gum and surrounding tissues, ultimately it will lead to loss of the attachments holding the tooth in place.

So what can we do?

There are many dental products for use at home. The most effective method to keep your pets' teeth clean is to brush daily with a specific pet toothpaste and brush. Brushing is something you need to build up to slowly as many animals will not be accepting of this straight away. Chewing on dental treats or other products is also beneficial, watch out for the added calories they get from these though!

If the dental disease is progressing a Complete Oral Assessment, sometimes referred to as a 'dental', is needed. This is performed under anaesthesia and involves a full investigation of the mouth assessing each tooth for problems, x-rays are often taken, and professional cleaning of the teeth is done. Diseased areas may be dealt with then or in a separate procedure depending on the extent of the problem.

If you think your pet's teeth are in need of a check-up contact the surgery to make an appointment today.

Best wishes *Eliza*

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

Spring flowers

At last there is a little warmth in the sun, and spring flowers are putting on a show. The number and variety of adult insects is low at this time of year and their activity is reduced in cool conditions, so many plants have adaptations to increase the chance of attracting pollinators to their flowers. Snowdrops are strongly scented and are eagerly visited by honey bees, and similarly, grape hyacinth and spring squill always seem busy with bees. Crocuses open wide in mild temperatures and are a favourite of bumble bee queens which can reach the nectar with their long tongues. Dandelions also open and close daily and are so attractive that bees may ignore apple blossom in an orchard, preferring the golden carpet below, but not all yellow flowers are popular. Buttercups, celandine and daisies attract a few small flies, and small black pollen beetles visit daffodils, but bees do not seem to show any interest in them.

Sloe or blackthorn, the first of the tree fruits to flower, forms patches of white in farm hedgerows but it does not lure many insects as its nectar is fairly low in sugar content. Plum blossom is a little better

and cherry blossom better still, although the showy double flowers of ornamental 'flowering cherries' are of no use at all. The goat willow bearing the fluffy grey 'pussy willow' catkins is a particularly good source of protein rich pollen. Trees positively hum on warm days with the multitude of insects feasting on it, and finches and other small birds also eat the pollen. The spring floral bounty continues with pears, and apples, horse chestnuts and sycamore, hawthorn and cotoneaster and these fuels a rapid expansion of bee colonies. Despite this abundance of flowers, there is never a surplus of nectar from these sources that can be taken as a honey harvest. As fast as it is gathered, it is used to make new wax, to feed the young bee grubs and to generate the heat needed to incubate them. The brood area of the hive has to be kept at a temperature of 37C by metabolising sugars in the bee's muscles, and this is quite a task when the night temperatures fall to freezing or below.

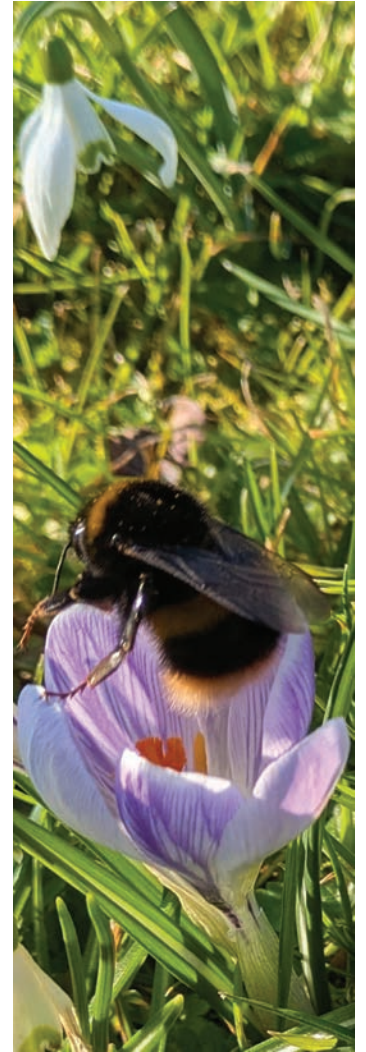
Managing this spring growth is a challenge for the beekeeper. On the one hand you need to provide extra space for the increasing population of bees and brood, but you have to

avoid giving too much empty space that the bees cannot keep warm which could chill the brood.

In this area, the first plant to yield so much nectar that a surplus of honey can be harvested is oilseed rape. The fields of gold are absolutely irresistible to bees, and they will fly past other crops to reach it. In some localities, hawthorn will yield a honey with an almond aroma, but in the UK, I have never seen dandelion honey such as Swiss beekeepers obtain from the alpine pastures, with its egg yolk colour and firm texture.



Martyn Cracknell



Village Life

Are we safe saying that spring has finally arrived? We've already had a first burst of sunshine and warmth, bringing the contented buzz of lawnmowers at the end of February. It seems we need to mow later and later every year with only a brief respite before that dreaded first cut, after which the lawn looks like it's been attacked rather than neatly trimmed. Still great for the spirits though and guaranteed to raise a smile.

The blossom trees are also putting on a great early show, with the promise of much more as each variety takes its bow. As a summer baby I regard this as the start of the best season and am happy to bid farewell to winter with its short days and bleak outlooks. Apologies to any chionophiles out there but light mornings and evenings are here and I for one am celebrating!

I mentioned this last month and

am glad to report that our village bird houses have arrived and have been deployed in a variety of gardens, in trees, on walls and garden features. Never, before have so many desirable detached houses been welcomed to our small village. All are single room and genuinely affordable, with vacant possession and all necessary mod cons – well an access hole and cleaning hatch! We're collectively anticipating an influx of new residents who will hopefully swell our population further by producing offspring. I've taken the precaution of locating mine as far away from our cars as possible as other less welcome feathered neighbours seem to regard them as fair game and easy target practice – not a good look and dreadful for the paintwork! Easter is beckoning, with no excuses for not displaying a few decorative eggs, bunnies

John Driscoll

etc outside our houses. One of our village arts groups is hosting a couple of workshops to create Easter delights, so there's every potential for artistic flair – or just a sociable gathering and pre-Easter wellbeing session.

We'll next be turning our attention as a village to commemorating VE Day, 80 years on. Many in the village will have parents or grandparents who have vivid memories of the end of those particular hostilities. Hopefully this will resonate with a wide range of our village community and give us a chance to get together and empathise with our 1940's forefathers. How much in life has changed in those 80 years, and don't we take so much for granted that we risk forgetting the sacrifices of previous generations upon which our lives are built. Wouldn't it be just amazing if we could wake up to a world



without so much on-going conflict – we can but pray. So, roll on spring and summer and let's collectively hope for pay-back for the non-summer of 2024. Those little feathered families deserve long hot days with an abundance of worms, bugs, pollen or whatever they favour. Welcome to our village, and let's hope you'll be encouraged you to return year after year! What a tweet way to sign off!

How to create a border with year-round interest

When I talk planting plans with clients, the topic of colour is always a focal point—it's such a defining element in any garden. Yet, the colour yellow often receives a dismissive, "Not in my garden, thank you!" I get it. Too much yellow, just like wearing a single bright colour from head to toe, can feel overwhelming. But it's all about balance. Just as accessories elevate an outfit, strategic accents can transform yellow from overpowering to delightful in your planting scheme. Take *Euonymus 'Aureopictus'* as an example. On its own, it might seem a little bold, but in the right context, it radiates cheerfulness and is evergreen too. It's a versatile and low-maintenance shrub that thrives in any soil or position. It forms neat clumps and reaches about 1m tall—perfect for a subtle yet striking backdrop. Pair it with complementary



plants that bring year-round colour and suddenly, that "too much yellow" is a stunning focal point within a well-coordinated planting scheme.

Spring

Consider *Erysimum 'Bowles's Mauve'*, a perennial wallflower with vibrant mauve blooms and blue-green foliage. Flowering from February to July, it thrives in sunny spots and reaches up to 60cm. For an alternative, plant *Viola tricolour* (wild pansy) for splashes of delicate purples, yellows, and whites, adding additional colour.

Summer

After the *Erysimum* fades, plant perennials such as *Echinacea Pallida*. These coneflowers are pollinator-friendly and bloom from June until September. Also try *Cosmos atrosanguineus* commonly known as the Chocolate Cosmos, with its deep maroon blooms which make striking contrast to yellow accents.



Autumn

As summer fades, *Nerine bowdenii* start to blossom with its bright pink flowers. These bulbs are best planted outside with their neck just above the surface of the soil at 10-15cm intervals from April onwards. Alternatively, *Aster x frikartii 'Mönch'* are another autumnal star and will flower from August to October with bold blue/mauve flowers and yellow centres which will look great with the *Euonymus*.

Winter

Winter flowers must be *Helleborus* with rich dark-purple petals and golden stamens such as 'Double Ellen Red' or 'Ice N Roses Red'. Which are one of my favourite winter flowers and they're happy in full or part sun and are loved by bees too. With the right companion planting, your garden will always feel colourful and harmonious throughout the seasons.



Nikki Hollier

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www.borderinabox.com



April gardening tips

Reg Moule *BBC Hereford & Worcester*

Early in the Month

Sow annual climbers e.g. *Asarina*, *Eccremocarpus*, *Cobaea*, *Ipomoea*, *Tropaeolum* and *Rhodochiton*. Dead head daffodils and narcissi—feed them but DO NOT cut off the foliage. Keep an eye out for slugs and take steps to control them. Prune any frost damaged shoots on less hardy shrubs such as *Pittosporum*. Plant summer flowering bulbs outdoors e.g. *Gladioli* and *Nerine bowdenii*, if you already have overcrowded clumps of *Nerines* in your garden lift and divide them now. For trouble free roses, spray with one of the safer rose combined pest and disease treatments, like *Roseclear 3 in 1*, or *Uncle Tom's Plant Tonic* for an organic solution to rose diseases. Prune *Forsythias* and winter *Jasmine* after flowering. Finish dividing overcrowded herbaceous perennial plants. Plant summer flowering bulbs e.g. *Gladioli*, *Dahlias* etc. Straggly silver foliage plants can be cut back now e.g. *Saintolina*. (but not down into old wood - that is risky). Lift

and divide pond plants. This is also a good time to introduce new plants too. Plant *Asparagus* crowns and *Jerusalem artichokes*. Divide overcrowded clumps of *Nerines* and *Siberian Iris*. Vine weevils will be laying eggs now they can be curbed organically by laying a half inch layer of horticultural grit on top of the compost to prevent successful egg laying. Otherwise known infected areas can be treated by watering on *Nemasys* Vine Weevil Killer nematodes. Cover some established strawberry plants with cloches to get an early crop. Plant new conifer hedges and trim established ones.

Mid April

Tackle pernicious weeds, like bindweed, with a systemic weed killer containing glyphosate or *Vitax SBK*. A similar organic based product would be *Neudorff Weedfree Plus*. Hardy annuals can still be sown in situ outdoors. Plant dormant dahlia tubers 10cm (4in) deep outdoors at the foot of support stakes. Undertake lawn renovations by

repairing damaged edges and removing bumps and hollows. Watch out for whitefly appearing in your greenhouse, hang up some yellow sticky traps to monitor them. Plant some French marigolds or *Coleus cannina* near your tomatoes to deter the pests. Take conifer cuttings. Pull off 7.5 – 10 cm (3-4in) side shoots. Trim up the base. Dip in hormone and insert in free draining compost. Watch out for attacks of gooseberry mildew and gooseberry sawfly, these devastate bushes. Plant out cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprout and celery plants. Finish planting sprouted maincrop potatoes. Sow tomato seeds now for outdoor planting in June. Begin planting up hanging baskets, keep them inside until frost risk is minimal. Check your greenhouse regularly, as watering, shading and ventilation are important. Sow Basil indoors, but do not plant outside until there is no risk of frost. Start successional sowings of salad crops e.g. Lettuce, carrots and radishes.



Late April

Sow tender veg. indoors for planting out next month e.g. courgettes, French and Runner beans. Sow marrow, courgette and squash seed on its side and soak Sweet Corn seed in water for four hours before sowing. Prune early flowered *Clematis* after blooming e.g. *C. alpina* and *C. macropetala*. This is only necessary where space is limited. This is a good time to re-pot any houseplants that are pot bound. Store unused seeds left in open packets in an airtight container in the refrigerator. Treat your lawn to an application of lawn food. *Miracle Gro Thick and Green* is my favourite as its food is released according to the weather conditions.

Becoming a foster family

Becoming a foster family is a big decision, we are here to help you to decide if fostering is right for you.

There are thousands of children and young people that need a loving and nurturing foster family to look after them and support them.

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You don't need any qualifications to apply to foster. Phoenix provides training and support during the Form F assessment; then in-depth ongoing training to help you become a therapeutic foster parent. Your skills and qualities to foster come from

within you, your resilience, empathy, care and kindness will allow you to understand the child and welcome them to your family.

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Evie's Teenage Focus

Evie Aubin Oxford Brookes University



Last I wrote to you I promised the first thing I would do is tell you about my concerts, so I guess that's where I'll start. It was a very busy week, to recap I had two concerts one on March 6th and another on the 8th. The first concert was Sabrina Carpenter, and it was absolutely amazing. I'll be the first to admit that I haven't always been her biggest fan. I always liked her, I thought she was cool and I liked a good few of her songs; but she was never one of the artists who I would just go onto Spotify, to listen too. However I fell in love with her music when her new album "Short n' Sweet" was released. It was when this album came out that I knew I had to see her, and looking back it was a very good decision. I usually end up preparing the outfit I will wear months in advance of the concert, however it wasn't until about a week before the concert when I stumbled into urban outfitters and found the perfect dress. I was struggling at first because I had found a few things that had the concert aesthetic but it just wasn't the vibe that I was going for; but I found the right one just in time. The concert was at the Birmingham Utilita arena. We got a train into Birmingham and then had about a 20 minute walk to the arena. In the end we got in the queue at about 2:00 in the afternoon and the doors opened at 5:30. As my parents lovingly pointed out, and I'm sure a few others are thinking, I am aware this is a long time to queue; however it was definitely worth it. Me and the friends that I went with

all had General admission standing tickets, meaning that before we went in, all the people with VIP tickets would go in and in theory they would all get the best view. However, due to the fact we got there early and were pretty close to the front of the queue, we still got very close to the front, only one row of people were in front of me and we had an amazing view. The concert itself was amazing and I made so many great memories that night. The second concert I went to was Gracie Abrams. I've liked Gracie for a very long time now, but this was the first time I had an opportunity to see her, due to this it was a very emotional experience for me. I went with my best friend Daisy which just made it even more emotional. Whilst Sabrina is meant to be a very upbeat artist Gracie manages to capture an overall melancholic vibe whilst still somehow being someone you can dance to. What I'm trying to say is she is absolutely incredible, and I don't think words can describe how amazing the experience was. I can only hope to be able to see these artists again, but until then I'll keep you up to date with everything else. So for now, Toodles!

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Gregory's World!

Gregory Sidaway Exeter College, Oxford

Brief Encounters

Oxford is a city of notable names. You can encounter them without even realising it. Visit the Bodleian Library and you tread in the footsteps of Sir Thomas Bodley. The Ashmolean: Elias Ashmole. Even when I hop over to college for Saturday brunch, I am munching hash browns in the spiritual company of Roger Bannister, J.R.R. Tolkien and Richard Burton. But the Oxford I've experienced has also been a city of notable faces, some of whom I've been lucky enough to encounter.

Most of my encounters were arranged through the Oxford Union, a debating society with their own headquarters, mulled wine at Christmas, and heated blankets. (Sounds rough, I know.) During Freshers' week, I picked up a lifetime membership. I often swing by to listen to their visiting speakers – from Charles Dance to Sir Lindsay Hoyle – and, of course, to enjoy their library, comfy chairs and blankets. In Year One, I'd ensconced myself in a comfy chair to revise, only to glance up from my notes and spot Sir Derek Jacobi being given a tour of the library. My insides jittered. Here was a giant of theatre, a titan of TV, responsible for introducing audiences to a

pantheon of era-defining characters, from Roman Emperor Claudius to Igglepiggle. He seemed particularly entranced by the murals hanging on the walls. They depict Arthurian scenes of shields, crowns and frolicking goats; apparently, they were painted by William Morris and Dante Gabriel Rossetti – no wonder Sir Derek was so interested. When he was asked if he wanted to tour the mezzanine, he raised a hand to his mouth in a very Thespian way and exclaimed in a stunned whisper: 'I daren't!' In Year Two, came Tom Hanks. On special occasions, the Union entices a Hollywood star over to the debating chamber on St Michael's Street. They'd interviewed Edward Norton earlier that year, but Tom Hanks' visit promised an even bigger turnout. Hours before he arrived, a queue was already winding around the front yard and backing up onto the street. Every seat in the chamber was filled. Not one square inch of leather upholstery was spared. I managed to squeeze into the gallery and we all murmured together in a stew of expectation and bubbling energy until Mr Hanks arrived. When he entered and the hubbub lulled, I still didn't trust my eyes. He leapt straight in with some acting exercises. We all had to repeat: 'Is there

something I can do for you?' in the context of various scenarios: helping an elderly person with a package, enduring a long shift at a city hall information booth, or confronting an unsavoury customer in a shop. Later in his speech, I vaguely noticed a woman on the front row rising to leave. I wouldn't have thought much more of this, had Mr Hanks not called out: 'So long, Em, I love you so much!' The woman swivelled around. It was Emma Watson. The chamber pulsed. We'd prepared for one megastar, but two? I blinked. Woody and Hermione were literally having a conversation right in front of us! Emma Watson had been studying a master's degree in creative writing at the time. Some claimed to have spotted her before – one of my mates had apparently seen her outside Leon – but this was a first for me and it was a crazy experience. Crazier still was the opportunity to actually talk to a notable face. In January, we attended a lecture delivered by the English Faculty's Visiting Professor of Creative Media: Sir Stephen Fry. Sir Stephen explained that being a 'visiting' professor meant he was expected to deliver a talk to students without the added benefits of a free welcome dinner or – that most coveted of



Oxford privileges – a parking permit! To our surprise, after his talk on 'The Lure of Language', he wasn't ushered away by security, but left to face a tsunami of fans. He rode this wave with friendliness and charm, giving everyone a few moments of his time – including me. I shook his hand and thanked him for everything he'd done. Then I asked if he could channel General Melchett from *Blackadder* and give us a "Baayyyy!!!" He chuckled, threw back his head and bellowed "Baayyyy!!!" Somehow, I only have one term left at uni. (Insert *shiver* here.) I'll miss opportunities like these, ones that left me fizzing with excitement, bouncing with disbelief and joy on the journey home. More than anything, though, I'll miss the notable faces of the friends I've made over my three years. A far greater opportunity, one that is far from over! I'll see them again – as I'll see you again, fellow reader, very soon.

Romy's Uni Life

Romy Kemp Liverpool University

Warmer Weather

Waking up to bright light through my uni blinds is a wonderful change from the pitter patter of rain which I am used to in Liverpool. With blue sky and a cool breeze, rather than the bitter wind of the winter months, I haven't had to wrap up as much for my days in university. It is turning into cardigan weather instead of thick coats and umbrellas. The Easter break is approaching quickly, and I cannot wait! I have quite a busy April and I am looking forward to enjoying being at home and seeing friends. I am going on holiday with my parents to Cornwall for my dad's birthday and am looking forward to the beach and sunshine (hopefully). I have always been more of a

winter person however I think living in Liverpool has made me yearn for sunshine and warmth - I have had enough of the bitter wind, rain and frost in Liverpool to last a lifetime. My mum's birthday was a couple of weeks ago and thankfully it aligned with my Reading Week (where I have no lectures in the week, just helpful talks) so I went home from Wednesday to Sunday. My mum and I went out to lunch together with my aunty and did a bit of shopping. My family went out for dinner for my mum's birthday too, we went to The Jockey and had a lovely meal (I had chickpea curry which was divine)! I also made a cake which was pretty good too. Overall, I think she had a lovely day! A couple of weeks ago it was my nana's funeral which we

attended in Slough. The service was done wonderfully and although it was incredibly sad, it was the nicest sendoff we could've given her and I am forever happy about that. I wrote a poem for her which helped me come to terms with her passing, but it also allowed me to commemorate the woman she was and the memories I have of her that will never be forgotten. It is coming up to that time in the semester where essays are due in, and consultations are necessary to improve the work that students are submitting. It is overwhelming at times to keep up with not only the meaning of the books you have to read but also the context and resources about the topics you choose to write about. I have also been looking into potential jobs after



university but so far, I haven't landed on anything specific - there are so many jobs out there, but it all depends on what stands out to you. I also have no idea where and if I want to move after university is finished. There is so much to think about and not a lot of time to come up with all the answers you need.

Closing the gender pain gap:

Louise Anderson MSc, MSc, BSc, BA, BSc Hons

A New Approach That's Working for Women

For too long, women experiencing chronic pain have been left in the dark—facing delays in diagnosis, misattributed symptoms, and a healthcare system that hasn't always listened. But change is happening, and a clinic in Pershore is leading the way. Louise Anderson, a consultant pain psychologist and occupational therapist, runs Cognisance Pain Management in Pershore. She sees women every week who've spent years looking for answers. But instead of simply focusing on the frustration, her clinic focuses on what can be done—and the results are encouraging. "I've seen huge improvements in quality of life, emotional wellbeing, and day-to-day functioning," Anderson says. "When women feel heard, supported, and are given the right tools, they start to take back control from their pain." Anderson's work reflects a growing body of evidence that supports the use of psychological approaches—like pain reprocessing therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), mindfulness, and pain education—as part of chronic pain treatment, especially for

women. These strategies don't suggest the pain is "all in the mind," but rather help manage the way pain is processed by the nervous system, reducing its intensity and impact. Research shows that women often experience chronic pain differently to men, both physically and emotionally. Tailored psychological support acknowledges this and helps women navigate not just the pain itself, but the emotional toll that can come with it—such as anxiety, low mood, and isolation. Importantly, Anderson's approach is about partnership. "I work with each person to understand their story, their needs, and their goals," she explains. "It's not about fixing someone. It's about helping them live well with their condition." While challenges like the gender pain gap still exist, the success of clinics like Cognisance shows that progress is possible—and happening now. With more awareness, better training, and evidence-based treatments, women are finally getting the recognition and support they've long deserved. "I am not just managing pain," Anderson says. "I am helping people reclaim their lives."

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow"
Audrey Hepburn

LOUISE ANDERSON

(MBPs, MSc, MSc, BSc, BA, BSc Hons)
Consultant Pain Psychologist and HCPC Registered Occupational Therapist



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Sympathetic to Parasympathetic

Emily Papirnik

How I help people make the change . . .

The autonomic nervous system (ANS) consists of two primary branches: The sympathetic nervous system (SNS), responsible for the 'fight or flight' response, and the parasympathetic nervous system (PNS), which governs 'rest and digest' activities. Chronic activation of the SNS can lead to stress-related disorders, making the transition to PNS dominance essential for relaxation and healing. At Intention Therapy, various therapies and skills are employed to facilitate this shift, promoting overall well-being. *Emotional Freedom Technique* EFT, often referred to as 'tapping', involves stimulating specific meridian points on the body while voicing particular concerns. This method aims to release emotional blockages, thereby reducing stress and anxiety. By addressing these emotional barriers, EFT encourages the activation of the PNS, fostering a state of calm and balance. *Massage Therapies* Intention Therapy offers a range of massage treatments, including pregnancy, holistic, sports, and remedial massages. Massage therapy is known to alleviate muscle tension and enhance circulation, which can lead to reduced SNS activity. The tactile stimulation during massage sessions promotes relaxation, aiding the body's transition to parasympathetic dominance. *Energy Healing* Energy healing practices, such as 5th Dimension Earth Certified Healing and Reiki, focus on balancing the body's energy fields. These therapies aim to harmonise the body's vibrational frequencies, facilitating relaxation and stress reduction. By restoring energetic equilibrium, energy healing supports the activation of the PNS, contributing to

mental and physical tranquillity. *Talking Therapy* Engaging in talking therapies provides clients with a platform to explore their thoughts and emotions. This process can lead to new perspectives and emotional release, reducing stress levels. As stress diminishes, the PNS becomes more active, promoting a state of relaxation and improved mental clarity. *Weighted Blankets and Lap pads for both children and adults* The gentle pressure from the blanket mimics deep pressure touch, which has been shown to reduce anxiety and improve sleep quality. This sensory input signals the body to shift from a state of heightened alertness to one of calm, enhancing parasympathetic activity. *'Me Helping Me' App* The 'Me Helping Me' app offers a series of energy practices designed to empower users in their journey toward self-discovery and well-being. By encouraging a change in perspective and helping individuals manage their reactions, emotions, and thoughts, the app supports the activation of the PNS. Regular use of its features can lead to reduced stress and a balanced state of mind. *mehelpingme.com* By integrating these therapies and techniques, Intention Therapy provides a comprehensive approach to facilitate the shift from sympathetic to parasympathetic dominance. This holistic strategy not only addresses physical symptoms but also supports emotional and energetic well-being, fostering a balanced and harmonious state of health. *If you'd like some more tools to help your nervous system*

and want to try any of the above contact me at www.intentiontherapy.co.uk

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Victory in Europe Day

Germany officially surrendered on 7th May 1945 and the conflict was finally over!



Issue 80

May 2025

VE DAY

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NATION'S GREAT OUTBURST OF JOY ON VE-DAY

ROYAL FAMILY FOUR TIMES OUT ON PALACE BALCONY

Mr. CHURCHILL: 'NO GREATER DAY IN OUR HISTORY'

A GREAT NATIONAL OUTBURST OF RELIEF AT THE END OF NEARLY SIX YEARS OF WAR IN EUROPE WAS EPI TOMISED YESTERDAY, VE-DAY, BY TREMENDOUS SCENES OF REJOICING IN LONDON, WHICH BEGAN IN THE AFTERNOON WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE END OF HOSTILITIES AND CONTINUED FAR INTO THE NIGHT.

Four times in four hours, in response to the enthusiasm of huge crowds, the King and Queen, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret stepped out on to the balcony of Buckingham Palace. On one occasion they were accompanied by Mr. Churchill, who later declared: "In all our long history we have never seen a greater day."

Of the vast numbers of people who set out from home in the morning, tens of thousands made their way toward Buckingham Palace.

EYE-WITNESS DESCRIBES SURRENDER SCENE

GERMAN FLEET TO GO TO ALLIED PORTS

ADMIRALTY ORDER

The Admiralty announced yesterday that the following orders have been issued for the surrender of the German Fleet: All German and German-controlled warships, auxiliaries, merchant ships and other craft at sea are being ordered to report their position in plain language to the nearest Allied wireless telegraphy station, and are being given orders to proceed to such Allied ports as directed. They will remain in such ports as they may be directed.

All warships, auxiliaries, merchant ships and other craft in harbour are being ordered to remain in harbour.

U-boats at sea are being ordered to surface, to fly a black flag or pennant and to report their position in plain language to nearest Allied wireless telegraphy station. They will then proceed on the surface to such port as they may be directed.

All warships and merchant ships, whether in port or at sea, are being instructed to crane all weapons fore and aft. Breechings will be removed from guns, and torpedoes will be craned out. In harbour, all ammunition, explosives, torpedoes, warheads and all portable weapons are being ordered to be craned out.

JOYOUS CROWDS HAIL THE KING AT PALACE

MR. CHURCHILL'S V SIGN FROM BALCONY

British family instinct inspired tens of thousands of men and women to go to the London home of their King and Queen on VE-Day yesterday to share with them the joy of peace in Europe. A vast crowd was assembled outside Buckingham Palace throughout the day, a joyous and colourful crowd whose enthusiasm rose to a crescendo of patriotic fervour at the occasional appearances on the balcony of the smiling King and Queen and the Princesses.

Three times during the afternoon, after Mr. Churchill's broadcast, and Princess Margaret came to the balcony in response to the roars of the crowd.

On their third appearance the Prime Minister joined the Royal party. Mr. Churchill, who stood between the King and Queen, waved his cigar to the great assembly and gave the Victory sign. The cheers continued for at least five minutes.

GATES CLOSED "We Want the King"

The changing of the Guard, the arrival of war horses for an inspection, Mr. Churchill's arrival, for crowd, were early episodes that stirred the emotions of the happy crowd.

People stood packed tightly on the pavements and in the roadway outside the Palace, and the roadway was closed.

GERMANS FIGHT RUSSIANS TO LAST MOMENT

DRESDEN FALLS

The Germans, whose surrender was due to come into effect this morning at one minute past midnight, were fighting to the last moment against the Red Army.

A Stalin Order received in London last night, about four hours before the official "Cease fire," announced that Marshal Konev's troops had captured Dresden, the capital of Saxony. It was the only major German city that had not been occupied by the Allies.

Earlier a Stalin Order announced the capture by Gen. Yermachenko's troops of Olomouc in Moravia, 130 miles south-east of Prague.

PRAGUE "CEASE FIRE"

The Czechoslovak National Council announced on Prague radio shortly after midnight that Czech representatives were leaving for Czechoslovakia.

50,000 CROWD GREET THE PREMIER

8th May 1945 – Victory in Europe Day (VE DAY) – is a day etched in the memory of everyone who witnessed it. After nearly six years of war Germany officially surrendered on 7 May 1945 and the conflict was finally over. The unconditional surrender came after Adolf Hitler took his own life on 30 April as the Allies surrounded Berlin and was authorised by his successor Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz. News that the war in Europe had ended did not come as a surprise and had been anticipated back in Britain for some time as the Allies

advanced on Germany. Across the western world, millions rejoiced, relieved that years of conflict and incredible hardship were finally coming to an end. Up and down the country millions of people took to the streets as communities came together to celebrate the end of the European conflict with street parties, dancing and singing. Mass crowds gathered in Trafalgar Square and up the Mall to Buckingham Palace, where King George the VI, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret were joined by Prime Minister

Winston Churchill on the balcony of the palace before the jubilant crowds. Princess Elizabeth and her sister also later secretly joined the celebrations in the crowds outside the palace, with Princess Elizabeth, the future Queen, describing it as "one of the most memorable nights of my life". Despite the joy and celebration, it was a day of mixed emotions for some who mourned loved ones lost during the war, and for those who worried about friends and relatives still serving overseas. The conflict was over in Europe, but the war continued to wage in the Far East and

Pacific, with many troops redeployed to fight in the east instead of coming home. The end of the war in Japan came a few months later in August after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The impact of the Second World War endured long after VE Day. Millions of lives had been lost, homes and cities were destroyed and needed to be rebuilt, and people all over Europe had been displaced by the conflict. But after years of uncertainty and living in fear, it was one day that everyone came together to celebrate the start of new beginnings.

Flying Nightingales

John Driscoll

September 1944 and the Arnhem landings in Holland are not going well. Allied forces suffer heavy casualties and field medics are struggling to keep pace. The Womens Auxilliary Air Force (WAAF) are tasked with assisting with the repatriation of wounded servicemen from the front. 200 young nursing auxiliaries volunteer to serve on medical assistance flights, among them Leading Aircraft Woman (LACW) Gibbins – better known to me as Mum. The Flying Nightingales were born and until late 1945 they helped around 100,000 seriously injured men return to England where they could receive specialist treatment. The wounded included horrendous cases with severed limbs, major head injuries, burns and severe trauma. Daily duties for the Nightingales started with loading the medical and support hamper onto the plane. Converted Dakota freight planes were used and carried supplies, including ammunition, on the outbound flight so could not bear the Red Cross. They were therefore vulnerable to enemy attack. One nursing auxiliary accompanied the flight crew of four men to tend to the wounded on the return trip. They could administer morphine and oxygen, but evidently the most frequent request was for a cup of tea! In my Mum's words, they were mostly so relieved to be going back home they could put up with the lack of comfortable surroundings.

Each flight carried eighteen stretcher cases plus six sitting wounded. Some days involved two flights. Often the auxiliaries accompanied the wounded by road ambulance to their specialist hospital in England before returning to base and repeating the whole process.

Parachutes were provided for the outbound flight, though I'm not sure my Mum was ever trained to use one! For the return trip the Nursing Auxiliaries' chutes were locked away as they were expected to remain with their patients. As my Mum cheekily suggested, 'they could hardly wave cheerio to their charges and jump to safety leaving them to their fate!'. More than once the return flights were delayed overnight, necessitating an unscheduled stop-over in the combat zone. LACW Gibbins had a few stories to tell, but of course most of them remained unspoken.

The Flying Nightingales weren't totally unrewarded though. Admittedly their pay was only two thirds of what their male equivalents were paid, but they received a daily allowance in recognition of their unusual duties. They received eight old pence a day, which would buy a half pint of beer in 1944. Not very scientific, but that equates that to about £2.50 a day in current terms. Not a lot is it? Two of the volunteers were sadly lost in action. You can be forgiven for not having heard of the Flying Nightingales because they were

not officially recognised at the time. British government policy did not allow females to serve in combat zones, so their existence would have been a bit of an embarrassment. As a family we only knew very sketchy details as our mother rarely spoke of this episode in her life. To her, 'there was a war on so you just had to do your bit'. Anyway, she later confided that these were happy years for her, she thoroughly enjoyed what she was doing and felt a great sense of achievement.



Inside a converted Dakota converted to carry patients on stretchers or seated.

Fast-forward and in 2008 seven surviving Flying Nightingales were presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Military and Civilian Health Partnership. No medals were awarded at the end of the war because, well, they hadn't officially existed. Unfortunately LACW Gibbins was

overlooked for this award, but thanks to her daughter's eagle eyes her continued existence was highlighted and she received a Nightingale Award in 2009 at the age of 91. A moment of recognition which included a BBC News interview during which she recounted that the main reason she volunteered was because they were allowed to wear trousers while on duty – which she far preferred to the uniform skirts otherwise expected! Far too modest and no way was she prepared to accept that she and her chums had displayed amazing heroism for such minimal recognition. After all – 'there was a war on!'



Injured serviceman being loaded onto a Dakota somewhere close to enemy action.



LACW Gibbins with other members of air crew alongside a Dakota

Elgar in the Recording Studio *by Andrew Keener*



'Please play this tune as if you've never heard it before!' Thus, Elgar to the London Symphony Orchestra at the opening of London's Abbey Road Studios in November 1931, filmed by Pathé News. The tune in question is 'Land of Hope and Glory' from his first Pomp and Circumstance March, the film the only visual evidence we have of Elgar conducting. Yet he was no stranger to the recording studio, having first set foot there in 1914 to record 'not less than four of my own compositions' for the Gramophone Company's His Master's Voice label. For the next eleven years sessions would take place in cramped surroundings in London's City Road or at the company's studio in Hayes, the musicians clustered around the acoustical horn, double basses reinforced by tuba to add ballast to the faded sound. For Elgar, the gramophone was a resource to enlighten as well as entertain, a vital educational tool: 'The days when the Gramophone was held to be

nothing more than a scientific toy have gone by' he wrote. 'Now it takes its rightful position... in the world of music'. Little matter to him that his compositions on those early acoustical recordings he conducted were usually abridged in order to fit a long work on a limited number of four-minute 78 rpm sides. Then from 1926 when microphones entered the recording studio to the year before his death in 1934, Elgar was to commit to wax the vast majority of his orchestral works, recorded without cuts in vivid sound ahead of its time. London orchestral players, who held him in great admiration and affection, reported a conducting technique more inspirational than exact ('relish this tune, second violins, I wrote it especially for you'). But listen to the fire of his recording of the Prelude from The Kingdom or the 1927 account of his Second Symphony. On LP, CD or via streaming, the incandescence jumps from the original grooves.



The Gramophone Company in the person of his recording manager Fred Gaisberg returned the favour, keeping him supplied with the latest models on which to play his, and others' recordings. A favourite among the latter was Brahms' Third Symphony, which Elgar conducted when briefly principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra; what would one give to have a recording of this performance! One of Elgar's gramophones, still in working order, is to be seen in Elgar's birthplace cottage (The Firs in Lower Broadheath); a contemporaneous model which visitors can hear in action, is also on the premises. To hear these old discs played on a machine which Elgar would have known is to step back into a bygone, pioneering age.

Andrew Keener

Born in Barry, South Wales, Andrew Keener's musical awakening was encouraged by supportive parents and an inspirational music teacher at Barry Boys' Comprehensive

School. He gained a B. Mus from Edinburgh University before a brief spell as a music critic and journalist for The Gramophone, Hi-fi News & Record Review, The Guardian and Musical Times. He has been an independent recording producer since 1980, lucky enough to have worked in the studio on Elgar's music with such eminent Elgarians as Daniel Barenboim, Martyn Brabbins, Natalie Clein, Sir Andrew Davis, Sir Mark Elder, Vernon Handley, Steven Isserlis, Nigel Kennedy, Andrew Litton, Sir Charles Mackerras, Heinrich Schiff and Leonard Slatkin. His latest production is of Elgar part-songs by the Proteus Ensemble conducted by Stephen Shellard, recorded for the Avie label in Pershore Abbey with a CD booklet note written by his partner Peter Avis who contributed an article on Elgar and Bredon Hill in the November issue of Powick Times.



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National minimum wage and national living wage

The National Minimum Wage was introduced over 25 years ago and in 2016 the government introduced an initiative for the over 25s called National Living Wage. In 2021 the age limit for the National Living Wage reduced to 23 and from April 2024 the age limit reduced again to 21.

Whether reference is to the minimum or living wage is just a case of semantics as the effect is the same. You must be at least school leaving age to get the National Minimum Wage. Hourly rates of pay are then calculated according to your age and whether you are an apprentice.

There are increases to the set rates of pay every year in April, but April 2025 will see some of the biggest increases yet especially for those workers who are aged 20 and below. The absolute minimum rate for apprentices and workers aged up to 18 will be £7.55 per hour, for 18–20-year-olds £10 per hour and for those aged 21 and over £12.41 per hour.

While this is good news for employees, the impact on employers of the increases combined with the changes to employer's national insurance will be stark.

There are certain types of workers who are not entitled to the National Minimum or



National Living Wage so if you are not sure check HMRC for a definition of who is included. It is not a choice whether to pay the rates set, it is a legal obligation. If you are an employee and believe you are not being paid at the correct rate you have the right to raise this with your employer. If, after that you believe you are still being underpaid you can refer the matter to ACAS or to HMRC.

Issues reported to HMRC can lead to an enquiry for the employer. As any underpayments will be calculated at the minimum rates currently in place and penalties may also be applied, it is far better to ensure the right rates are being paid now. If you need help speak to your accountant or refer to the HMRC website.

*Carol Draper FCCA
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd*

"Spring adds new life and new joy to all that is"

Jessica Harrelson



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Spread the joy instead!

Angela Johns

My birthday month is here, along with several other family members. It's funny how family birthdays often group together. I can't explain why. If you have a theory, please do share! On another note, I have been thinking about customer service jobs and that they are not paid enough. At the sharp end of the vagaries of the general public's mood and temperament, customer service workers are required to carry on with equanimity. Regardless of being neither responsible for the decision makers' decisions, nor the customers' bad day, week, month or even year, it seems they have to take it on the chin. A prerequisite for the role for sure but also, at times, unfair. And counter-productive too – I wonder how long the passive aggressive telephony assistant keeps the finger on the hold button in quiet retaliation, increasing the frustration of the disrespectful caller. The trend in our society is that this bad behaviour on the part of the customer has gotten worse, noticeably in the last five years. Now there are notices as a reminder that abusive behaviour is unacceptable, and bodycams to record it as proof (or as deterrent). Do angry people know it refers to them, I wonder?

We can change society with education, campaigns, sacrifice, even rebellion. Well, my voice is not loud enough to teach, I'm too comfy in my zone to campaign, a bit too selfish to sacrifice and too much of a goody two shoes to rebel. But what I can do is look to myself and make changes there instead. I can look at my own frustration and anger, try to understand it

and direct it where it belongs. How many times have I been wronged at work and gone home to snap at a loved one? How often have I been taken for granted at home then been short with someone who is serving me? When have I felt the pinch of financial insecurity and been less than courteous when out and about shopping? Misplaced direction of anger is unfair. It damages society, community, family and relationships. Directing anger and frustration in the wrong place, at the wrong person just spreads the pain, multiplying the injustice. Instead of solving a problem, it creates new ones. Ultimately it brings no satisfaction or resolution, no personal growth. It would feel so much better to resolve it at the source and not pay it forward; to put it down, not carry it around; to explain myself and not draw the wrong attention to myself. There would be so much more room for joyous and enjoyable interactions. I might even find a source of connection and comfort I didn't realise was possible. Along with all the other feelings, there is joy inside us all. We can choose to spread that around whenever we can.

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

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Thomas Coventry & Edward Winslow

Nicola Hewitt

In a previous article Tim Hickson wrote about Edward Winslow and his links to the Mayflower and thanksgiving. There is another local with links to the Mayflower and Edward Winslow. Thomas Coventry, who became the 1st Baron of Allesborough, was born in 1578 and was educated at Baliol College, graduating from there in 1592 the same year that his father bought Croome Court in Worcestershire. He became a lawyer and rose up the ranks. In 1617 he became Solicitor General, then in 1621 Attorney General and then finally Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England in 1725. A position he would hold until his death. He was married twice, the first time to Sarah Sebright with whom he had a son and a daughter. After Sarah's death he married again in 1610 to Elizabeth Pitchford (née Aldersley), the lovely young, rich widow of William Pitchford of London a grocer/apothecary and member of the Grocer's Guild. They had four sons and four daughters. It's probably through Elizabeth that he worked with the Guilds acting as lawyers for them in various cases. He was the first lawyer to be invited to attend a Guild banquet and the first Lawyer in 1627 to be admitted to the Grocers Guild as one of its freemen. He also became part of the

Merchant Adventurers who through their subscriptions pay for the voyage of the Mayflower. Throughout his career he was involved with the production of charters, patents and administration of the various colonies and companies including the New England Company, Virginia Company and Massachusetts Company. In 1620, he prepared a patent of incorporation of the "adventurers of the Northern Colony". This patent became the Great Charter of New England, and the foundation of all grants made within its territory. In 1635, Edward Winslow was imprisoned in Fleet Prison, in London, for performing marriage ceremonies in New England without being an ordained minister. The pilgrims saw marriage as a civil affair rather than a church matter and so they were performed by a civil magistrate or leader and not a minister. Thomas interceded on Edward's behalf and had him released. It is thought that the Coventry's were close friends with the Winslow's and that Lady Coventry on hearing the news of Edward's imprisonment wrote to her husband to ask him to act. Edward would return the favour after the end of the civil war by vouching for the Coventry family when they were threatened for supporting the King. Whilst on the Mayflower, the



A drawing of Kerswell Farmhouse, Kempsey

pilgrims drew up the Mayflower Compact and signed it, Edward's is the 3rd signature. He also became the 3rd Governor of the colony and was Governor a further two times. Edward named his home in New England, Careswell. This was after his family's home in Kerswell Green. His grandfather and previous generations had been yeoman farmers there. In 1536, Richard Winslow had started to buy land in the Croome Manor, including what is now Kerswell Green Farmhouse, and farmland at Clerkenleap. Edward's father, also called Edward was part of the Droitwich Salt business and was held on suspicion of being involved in the gunpowder plot because he was renting salt vats from Robert Wintour but after interrogation he was released as it was proved to be just a business relationship. During his lifetime Edward wrote several books and pamphlets on

life in the colony and many of his letters survive. It is in one of these that we have a description of the colonists and natives coming together for a feast, which formed the basis of Thanksgiving. A letter dated 1640, records the death of Thomas Coventry and suggests Thomas has been a good friend to the colony and his death will hit them hard. Edward died in 1655, whilst travelling to Jamaica on a mission for Oliver Cromwell and was buried at sea. Unfortunately, Thomas left us another legacy, the Inland Revenue, but that's another story.

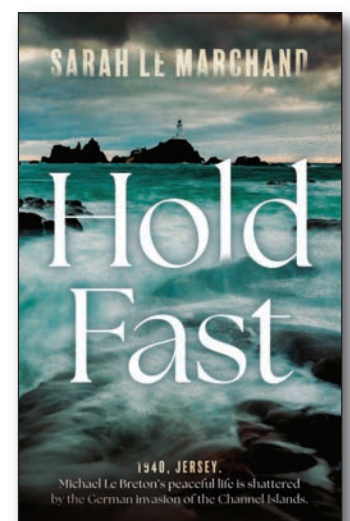


Channel Island history come alive in family-inspired historical novel



In 1940, Jersey teenager Michael Le Breton's peaceful life is shattered by the German invasion of the Channel Islands. His older brother, Jacques, draws him into the island's resistance efforts, but their family faces its greatest danger when they decide to hide Konstantin, an escaped Russian prisoner. Konstantin, one of many Eastern Europeans brought to Jersey as slave labour, is deeply scarred by his brutal experiences, making his relationship with the family tense and volatile. As Michael navigates these dangers, the situation becomes even more precarious when his twin sister, Amy, befriends a disillusioned German soldier. Michael is forced to confront the harsh realities of war. What unfolds changes his life forever.

After a long and fulfilling career teaching English, with a passion for a wide variety of literature, Sarah Le Marchand began her own writing journey by completing an MA in Creative Writing with the Open University. This is her first novel. Sarah explains: "I have a long-standing interest in the German Occupation of the Channel Islands. My mother was a teenager living with her large family in Jersey during the occupation. Some of my characters are based on members of the family and I was inspired by their stories of life during that time. I know the island well, though I was brought up in Yorkshire; my mother moved to Bristol after the war and trained as a nurse before marrying my father. All my mother's siblings



remained in Jersey and I spent much time there as a child, teenager and student. I met my Jersey husband there, so we have plenty of incentive to return as frequently as we can!" Find out more at <https://bookguild.co.uk/bookshop/historical/hold-fast> Price: £9.99

Way Out West



"just popping down to the Bank dear"

We've just had lunch in a pub where the French forces surrendered after their last attempt to invade us – not, as you might think, back in 1066 but as recently at 1797. Back then the French Revolution was in full swing and the zealots in Paris thought that the oppressed British peasants were ripe for revolt. So they sent an invasion force of some 1400 men to attack Bristol, but they missed and ended up in west Wales instead. They got ashore all right and took over a nearby farmhouse as a base – unfortunately there had recently been a shipwreck of a Portuguese vessel which had a cargo of wine, salvaged by the farmer and his mates, so the invaders proceeded to get royally drunk. The campaign degenerated into something more akin to Dad's Army than Napoleon's Grand Armée and the invaders surrendered in the nearby pub – the Royal Oak at Fishguard – where I've just eaten a Welsh Rarebit washed down with a pint of local bitter. Basing ourselves in a rather nice cottage in the tiny resort of

Aberporth we have enjoyed a few days exploring the coastal region from south of Aberystwyth to St. David's. The latter is, as you probably know, the smallest "city" in the UK. It's a city in the old sense because it has a cathedral but, although the population is less than 2,000, it was formally designated a city by our late Queen some thirty years ago. It's worth seeing the ruins of the Bishop's Palace, next to the Cathedral, which we're told is one of the best preserved examples of a mediaeval Bishop's Palace – but I'm not sure that the competition is that intense! Whatever, it's certainly worth the walk around. To be fair I was more impressed by a site on the way there – Castell Henllys, a recreated Iron Age village reconstructed on the exact site where our remote ancestors lived some 2,000 years ago. They also 'celebrate' the ancient Celtic feasts – so that if you want to mark Beltane, for example, you need to be there on May 4th to join in the pagan festivities. For details see: www.castellhenllys.com

Certainly the whole area is rich in history, as is reflected in the place names. For example, we had a nice lunch at the Ship Inn in the tiny bay of Tresaith. Now, in Welsh, Tre Saith means "Town of Seven" and this apparently is a reference to seven daughters of an Irish King who came ashore there back in the olden days. Why they chose to do so I don't know, but it makes a good story..... Nearer our own time we also enjoyed a visit to Llanerchaeron, a remarkably unaltered eighteenth century villa at the heart of a self sufficient estate with walled gardens, parkland and woodlands also there to be explored. The house is an early example of the work of the architect John Nash. Built in the 1790's the estate was designed to be self sufficient and the service courtyard still has a dairy, laundry and salting house to look around.

For more details see:

llanerchaeron@nationaltrust.org.uk

Talking of the National Trust, not far from here are the Roman era gold mines at Dolaucothi which were in production until the 1930's and where you can still have a go at panning for gold

Brian Johnson-Thomas

– but the result is not guaranteed! You can also book several tours including an underground trip (for which you must be at least one metre tall). *Details and bookings via:* dolaucothi@nationaltrust.org.uk So there's a lot to see and do quite apart from the traditional seaside entertainments which you can find at resorts like New Quay (where the poet Dylan Thomas lived for a while) and smaller spots along the verdant coast as well as quaint locations such as the preserved Georgian gem of Aberaeron with its' brightly coloured houses clustered around the town's internal harbour. Quite simply, it's a nice place to wander around. As indeed is the town of Cardigan, once one of the foremost ports in Britain, and still with an impressive mediaeval bridge and Cardigan Castle, spruced up as recently as 2017, and well worth the visit. Quite an eclectic range of shops and some nice eating places, altogether worth the stop. Which is just what I'm going to do – the sun is shining and it's nearly lunchtime. Time to seek out yet another pub with a stunning sea view. It's a rough job, but someone's got to do it.



A view from the middle

Spring has well and truly sprung and the countryside around Pershore is truly a delight to behold. The dawn chorus is loud and vocal and the depths of winter seems finally to have been shaken off. I have been fooled by a False Spring before but I feel as if this time it's for real. This time of year always gives me an extra bounce - or

'spring' if you prefer - and I hope that the warmer weather and brighter skies will bring readers a certain amount of cheer. New life is bursting out all over the place and I've even seen that the patter of tiny claws is soon expected at Pershore Abbey with the laying of peregrine eggs. Among all this rebirth and growth, I've attended the

funerals of two family friends in the last couple of weeks and, among the sadness, have been reminded of how important it is to remember the good memories of those we have lost even when we are shaken by their passing. One of them had what I shall describe as 'interesting' dress sense and the bright colours of spring flowers can certainly bring him to mind

while another always used to look for her late loved one in rainbows and other forms of natural beauty. My earnest wish is that we can all appreciate this beautiful time of year and share it with the people we love, even if - or, rather, especially if - they no longer walk the mortal plane with us.

Jazz News

Peter Farrall



The Day of Reflection on March 9th, promoted by the Government to remember all those who were lost to the evil Covid-19 virus in 2020 and later years, prompted many tears and heartaches for family, friends and neighbours who are no longer with us. The world of jazz suffered its share of tragedy with the loss of, not only legendary icons of the music, but lesser-known musicians who had provided enjoyment in their local clubs over the years. Here in Britain, we mourned Lord Anthony Colwyn (he was a real hereditary peer), trumpeter, band leader and crusader for jazz appreciation in the House, who died in 2024.

Saddest for Pershore Jazz was the death of friend and mentor Keith Nichols whose appearances at the Festivals on the College campus were a huge attraction for fans from all over the UK and abroad. His orchestras, assembled from the cream of Classic Jazz musicians, traditionally opened the proceedings on Friday evening and continued to fill the venues over the weekend. Keith was a world-renowned performer and educator of classic jazz from the 1920s and 30s and his chosen musicians considered it a great privilege to perform under his leadership. The first of our annual Jazz on a Summer's Day series in 2022 was dedicated to his memory.

The government's lock down regulations prevented a Jazz Festival in 2020 but our chairman Graham arranged with Pershore College to present a virtual, three-day mini event in the college auditorium under strict distancing rules and so we could still enjoy his band Shades of Jazz on line albeit locked away from the outside world with players separated by plastic sheeting. There is nothing like a live performance but thanks to Graham and the band for providing some welcome sunshine in the dark pandemic days. Recordings still available on the website pershorejazz.org.uk.

This same, very accomplished and entertaining band will be at Pershore Jazz Club this month, personnel including Rich Hughes on piano and Simon Smith bass, last seen at the Fugue and Groove club session in February.

Virtually (pun intended!) the same band as in 2020 but for Jim Douglas Guitar, now retired, and Martin Veasey on trombone instead of Dave Deakin. Gary Wood plays trumpet and sings, John Hallam on clarinet and saxes with the boss himself, Graham Smith, on drums.

Don't forget this year's Pershore Jazz on a Summer's Day on Saturday 9th August! Details on our website: pershorejazz.org.uk

Graham Smith's Shades of Jazz

Wednesday 30th March

Doors open at 7pm, music at 8

Function Room, Pershore Football Club

Admission £12.50 to include a raffle ticket

Book in advance and pay on arrival

club@pershorejazz.org.uk Tel: 01527 66692 find us on Facebook

Meet the owner of Worcester Podiatry



Committed to Excellence and Patient Care

Worcester Podiatry has entered an exciting new chapter under the leadership of its owner and Clinical Director, Patty Cairns. With a passion for podiatric excellence and a deep commitment to patient well-being, she is dedicated to providing outstanding care in a nurturing and supportive environment.

"Our ethos is simple," she explains. "We believe in delivering excellent care that not only treats foot and lower limb issues but also helps people live their best lives. Whether it's reducing pain, improving mobility, or offering preventative care, we want every patient to feel supported throughout their journey with us." Since taking over, exactly a year ago, Patty and her team have worked tirelessly to enhance the patient experience. This patient-first approach is reflected in the glowing feedback from patients, who highlight the importance of a welcoming atmosphere, professionalism, and clear communication. As one review describes, "From the moment I

walked in, I was greeted by a lovely and welcoming environment that felt clean and inviting. I was treated by Patricia, who was exceptionally professional and immediately put me at ease."

What truly sets Worcester Podiatry apart is its attention to detail and follow-up care. As the same review continues, "What impressed me further was the follow-up email I received shortly after my visit, summarising everything we had discussed during the appointment. This attention to detail and prompt communication truly underscored their commitment to patient care."

"We want every patient to feel reassured, listened to, and confident in their care," Patty adds. With this renewed vision, Worcester Podiatry continues to be a trusted clinic, offering expert care in a caring and supportive setting.

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Music Matters

Steve Ide

In February, 1,000 artists came together to release a 12-track album called "Is this what we want?" as a protest about the use of copywritten material being used to train artificial intelligence without licencing. Much doom and gloom has been written about AI killing music and many people are understandably nervous about the implications. However, there can be little doubt that AI is coming and that it will change music and arts in ways it is hard to predict. But will it kill the music industry? The death of music has been predicted many times, from the start of recorded music to home

taping, pirate music sites and most recently streaming sites, but it has survived them all. And it seems unlikely that AI will spell the demise of music. Sure, it will probably change how music is made and consumed, but a song made and performed by a person has a value that one by a computer will never have. The industry and artists will find ways to work alongside it, they will adapt and survive. So, while we wait for the next great leap forward, it seems likely that talented artists will be entertaining us with interesting and exciting music for a long time to come.

Notable new albums

Pinball wanderer by Andy Bell. The third solo album from the ex-Ride guitarist is a psychedelic journey worth taking. So, when the evening sun goes down, dive into this album and enjoy echoes of The Stone Roses alongside hypnotic grooves.

Cowards by Squid. A slightly freaky and dark album from the Brighton rockers. One to spend some time with, allow yourself to listen and absorb.

Mayhem by Lady Gaga. The pop princess is on top form with this record, she's got a new spell, and you should let yourself fall under it

Add to playlist

Squares
by The Beta Band

Love is an ocean
by The Midnight

To live and die in Levenland
by Jackie Leven

The clap hands song
by T Bird and the breaks

Makeba
by Jain



View from the Boundary

I had expected to wax lyrical on the successes of England in the Champions Trophy. However, what a disaster beaten by Afghanistan who, because of their troubles are not even resident in Afghanistan. The side is a rag tag and bob tail side this is put together to play cricket, there are more registered players in Worcestershire than Afghanistan. The Cricket season is upon us, and we will see if Worcestershire woes continue. The committee is no longer a committee of members. Not since John Elliott and Percy Price who, as chairman were members with a deep routed passion for Worcestershire. Now after the demise of one chairman for issues that have been kept under raps, we now have a chairman who lives in Berkshire!!! Enough said, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating. With the 100 being franchised it is strongly rumoured that the counties will be changed from 18 to either 14 or 12, either way with Worcestershire's performance both on the field and financially, they will be a casualty. On other sport it is a clear runaway for Liverpool in the Premier League. The FA cup is more open On to other matters and your letters to the editor from my last piece. The question arises again about capital punishment. My piece last month suggested that troublemakers in prison

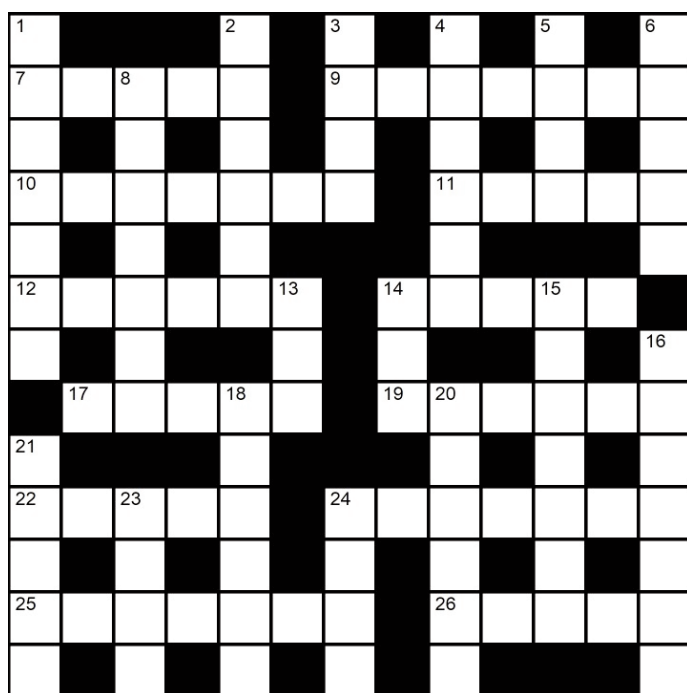
could go to Zimbabwe. Tis was somewhat tongue in cheek, but it seems to have some traction. A prisoner costs between £75 to £100 pounds per day. Chikurubi would be about £5-00 per day. Not only would this be a cost saving, but a huge deterrent. I had to see a client in a Midlands prison. He needed to sign some documents. However, documents could not be taken in as some paper had been impregnated with drugs and that some inmates were off their head. This raises the question of why drugs come into prison. This is a business and as such could be dealt with by a deterrent of Ten years imprisonment and potential sending a Prisoner to an overseas Prison. Perpetrators could be external drones, visitors and prison officers. They should also be subject to this sentence. Further to the comment of the death penalty. Two very recent cases were the Southport Attacker Axel Rudakubana Stabbed and killed three people. He had also been involved with some attempt previously to produce Risin and had Al-Qaeda manuals. More recently there is the case of Kyle Clifford who killed three innocent women. This then begs two questions. The first being should both these people be subject to capital punishment. If this was to be considered, then of course one must look at the burden of proof. No one wants to go back to the cases of Ruth Ellis and

the Bentley Brothers. All would in today's legal view, there were grounds for significant law changes and mitigation. Leaving aside aggravation and mitigation. The burden of proof should be changed from beyond reasonable doubt to beyond doubt. Another issue with Clifford is that fact that he refused to come into court to face the family of the murdered people. I am of the view that this is their right and where a defendant has to be forced into court for the delivery of the sentence. The defendant should be put into a soundproof dock where they are likely to be disruptive so the families can see the defendant sentenced. All this will of course raise a question of the ECHR. Great Britain should remove themselves from this convention and the executive and Parliament should create a Human Rights and Responsibility Act. There is another issue that is growing in Great Britain. There are at present circa 81 Sharia Law Courts making derisory decisions. This is subjugating women; it is fundamentally wrong. Our own courts are perfectly capable of dealing with matters under British law, Scottish and England & Wales law does very slightly so each Jurisdiction can deal with matter under their legislation. I am presently researching the insurance market especially for cars. There is a cabal growing regarding the price and the

companies right to scrap a car. My research will also look at why people of 75 should have loaded premiums. Some people at 20, 40 and 60 should not drive at all or should their premiums be loaded. For example, a 75-year-old ex-professional pilot retained his private flying licence. He has stringent medicals; he has a licence to fly aircraft significant aircraft with 10 or 20 passengers. He has his car insurance loaded because of age? Very lastly, we are about to embark on elections for the County Council. I implore you to look at the CV of each candidate, whilst they may be affiliated to a political party the Councillors do not make political decisions. The council has financial issues, therefore at a minimum the candidate must be able to understand a balance sheet of £500,000 and have specific experience. A lot of councillors have, whilst they have good intentions, have never really run anything and therefore the council is run by the officials and "Yes Minister" comes to mind This article raises significant questions, please write to the editor with your views and I am assured that they will be printed!



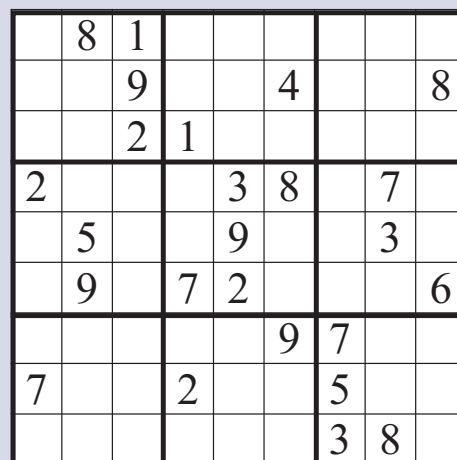
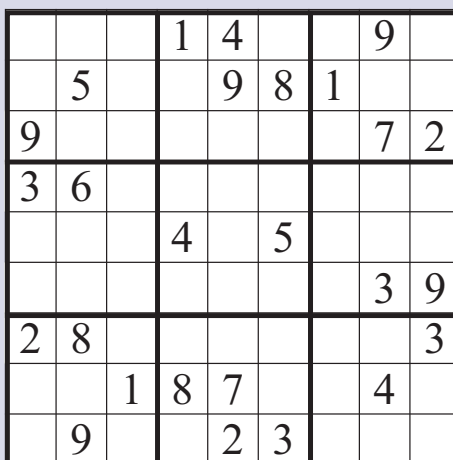
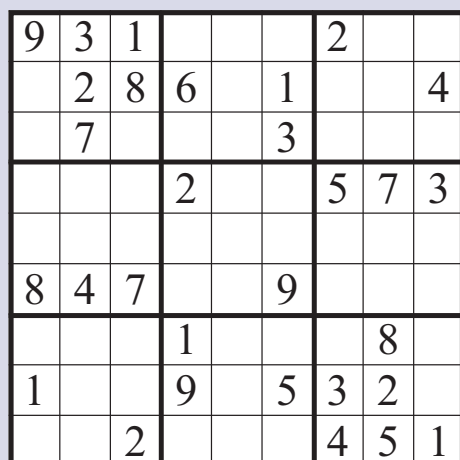
Crossword



Down

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 7 Indian class (5) | 1 Transparent overlay (7) |
| 9 Simian (3-4) | 2 Do over (6) |
| 10 At the apex (7) | 3 Engrossed (4) |
| 11 Affliction is cruel cut (5) | 4 Tie up rescue craft (6) |
| 12 Russian sleigh (6) | 5 Spine separator (4) |
| 14 Energetic (5) | 6 Earth (5) |
| 17 Tolerate (5) | 8 Champion (7) |
| 19 Rarely encountered (6) | 13 Facilitate (3) |
| 22 Get new guns (5) | 14 Ballet step (3) |
| 24 Lunges (7) | 15 Sun protector (7) |
| 25 No good (7) | 16 Income earned in the past (7) |
| 26 Simultaneous firing of artillery (5) | 18 Show song (6) |
| | 20 Pre-revival zombie (6) |
| | 21 Arrogant (5) |
| | 23 Blows away (4) |
| | 24 Cooking measure (4) |

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



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

ASEA
BETSY
CON
CROSS-
LEGGED
DEBT
DONE
EELS
EIGHTH
EMERGENCIES
ENRICH
GALE
GOOSE
GUT
HAIL
HEGEL
HICK
HUBS

ICE
INMOST
KIDDERS
LAG
LEO
LON
OMIT
RIP
ROD
SASS
SEQUEL
SEWN
SOW
SPIKED
STAY
SUIT
TEMPS
UNMET

Brain teaser

What starts with
a P, ends with an E and
has a million letters in it?

What are the next three letters in this puzzle?

WAT
NTL
???

Poets' Corner

XLIII The Immortal Part

When I meet the morning
beam,
Or lay me down at night to
dream,
I hear my bones within me say,
"Another night, another day."
"When shall this slough of
sense be cast,
This dust of thoughts be laid
at last,
The man of flesh and soul be
slain
And the man of bone remain?"
"This tongue that talks, these
lungs that shout,
These thews that hustle us
about,
This brain that fills the skull
with schemes,
And its humming hive of
dreams, -"
"These to-day are proud in
power
And lord it in their little hour:
The immortal bones obey
control
Of dying flesh and dying soul."
" 'Tis long till eve and morn
are gone:
Slow the endless night comes on,
And late to fulness grows the
birth
That shall last as long as earth."
"Wanderers eastward,
wanderers west,

Know you why you cannot rest?
'Tis that every mother's son
Travails with a skeleton."
"Lie down in the bed of dust;
Bear the fruit that bear you
must;
Bring the eternal seed to light,
And morn is all the same as
night."
"Rest you so from trouble sore,
Fear the heat o' the sun no
more,
Nor the snowing winter wild,
Now you labour not with child."
"Empty vessel, garment cast,
We that wore you long shall
last.
Another night, another day."
So my bones within me say.
Therefore they shall do my will
To-day while I am master still,
And flesh and soul, now both
are strong,
Shall hale the sullen slaves along,
Before this fire of sense decay,
This smoke of thought blow
clean away,
And leave with ancient night
alone
The steadfast and enduring
bone.

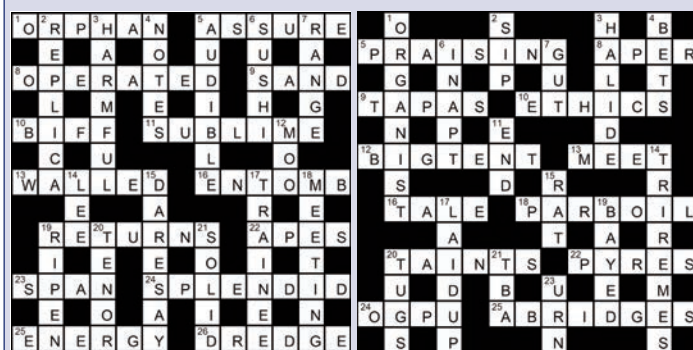
A. E. Housman 1859-1936

Quiz!

- 1) In what US state is the city Nashville?
- 2) What is the currency of Denmark?
- 3) What is the capital city of New Zealand?
- 4) Which American poet wrote the famous poem "The Raven"?
- 5) What is the capital city of Australia?
- 6) Who painted the Mona Lisa?
- 7) Which country is commonly referred to as the Land of the Rising Sun?
- 8) What is the primary ingredient in hummus?
- 9) Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?
- 10) Which gas do plants primarily absorb during photosynthesis?
- 11) What is the chemical symbol for silver?
- 12) What is the longest river in the world?
- 13) What is the capital city of Brazil?
- 14) Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?
- 15) What is the main ingredient in guacamole?
- 16) Who was the first person to step on the moon?
- 17) Which Tennis Grand Slam is played on a clay surface?
- 18) In which year did the Titanic sink?
- 19) Who wrote "To Kill a Mockingbird"?
- 20) What is the largest organ of the human body?

Answers: 1) 1) Tennessee. 2) Danish Krone (DKK). 3) Wellington. 4) Edgar Allan Poe. 5) Canberra. 6) Leonardo da Vinci. 7) Japan. 8) Chickpeas (or garbanzo beans). 9) Michelangelo. 10) Carbon dioxide (CO₂). 11) Ag. 12) The Nile River. 13) Brasilia. 14) Marie Curie. 15) Avocado. 16) Neil Armstrong. 17) The French Open (Roland Garros). 18) 1912. 19) Harper Lee. 20) The skin.

March Answers



April Brainteaser solution: Post Office and ITP

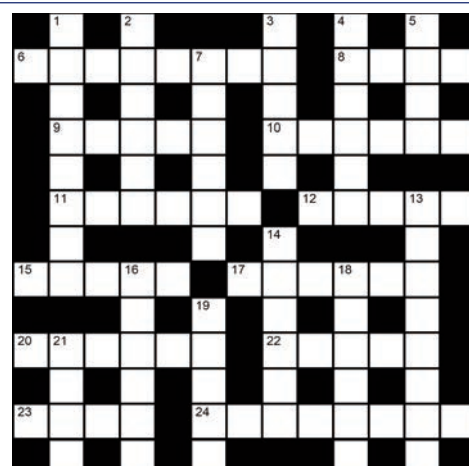
Anagram Crossword

Across

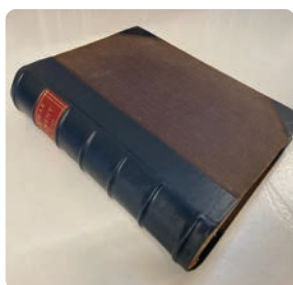
- 6 Well said (8)
- 8 Ents (4)
- 9 Arced (5)
- 10 Snoops (6)
- 11 Ousted (4,2)
- 12 Spark (5)
- 15 Those (5)
- 17 In that (4,2)
- 20 Decree (6)
- 22 Ghoul (5)
- 23 Eire (4)
- 24 Entailed (8)

Down

- 1 Pictures (8)
- 2 Melded (6)
- 3 Bales (5)
- 4 Aragon (6)
- 5 NATO (1,3)
- 7 Starve (6)
- 13 Thickens (8)
- 14 To live (6)
- 16 Reopen (6)
- 18 Solute (6)
- 19 Bayed (5)
- 21 Raze (4)



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Copy Deadline for

May Issue -

22nd April 2025

Volunteering - Making a difference together

Volunteering at Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre offers a unique opportunity to enrich not only the lives of others but also your own. Here are some incredible benefits you can gain from volunteering.

Volunteering can:

- Make a positive impact. Your efforts can significantly change the lives of individuals in your community.
- Boost self-esteem. Taking on a role in volunteering can enhance your confidence and wellbeing.
- Gain Work Experience that can benefit your career prospects.
- Receive high quality training and develop new skills.
- Use existing skills and

knowledge to make a difference in the local community.

- Meet new people and forge connections across diverse backgrounds.
 - Feel valued. Being part of a team fosters a sense of belonging and appreciation.
- Social benefits of volunteering
Volunteering is not just about giving back; it's also a fantastic way to build friendships. Meet like-minded people engaging and sharing interests and passions. Regular interaction through volunteering helps improve your communication abilities, helping to create lasting friendships that can serve as a support system during challenging times.



Volunteering can give you a mental health boost. Through social engagement, volunteering can help combat stress and aid in mental health recovery.

Join us at Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre and become a vital part of our community! We have several roles available, including:

- Social Car Scheme Drivers
- Minibus Drivers
- Passenger Assistants
- Transport Desk

- Administrators
 - Lunch Club Helpers
 - Befrienders
- Get involved today, together we can create a stronger, more connected community.

For more information or to sign up, please contact us:
01386 554299 Email: admin@pershirevolunteers.org.uk
1 Billing House,
Pershore WR10 1EY
www.pershorevolunteers.org.uk
Registered charity No.1166141



Pershore WI



The speaker for the February meeting was Chris O'Grady, he told us of his pilgrimage 'From Pershore to Rome'. He explained that he had spent a long time carefully thinking about this trip and planning his journey. He told us of the places he went and the people he met along the way. What came across was the generosity and kindness of the people he met and the lifelong friendships that were made. It was a very inspirational talk.

The Craft group spent a couple of hours repairing or remaking broken jewellery. We learnt how to fit clasps, use jump rings and knot covers. We made several necklaces and bracelets, some for our own use and many for the 'Shoe Box Appeal'. It was

such a productive evening that we hope to repeat it later in the year.

Every month we have a competition; we chose a winner by voting with 'pennies'. At the end of the year the Pennies, which are now pounds are given to our chosen charity. Last year the members choice was Pershore Bereavement and Carers Social group, and a cheque was presented to Viv Breed.

Rosemary Prosser was presented with the Competition Cup.

The next meeting is:
Thursday 10th April at 7.30pm
at Wulstans Hall, Priest Lane.
The speaker is Jenny Douglas, who is talking about 'Sight Concerns'. Please come along and say hello.

Spot & Shop - February Winners

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Bob Armstrong | 5) Sylvia Pouncett |
| 2) Gordon Phelps | 6) Marilyn Butterfield |
| 3) Angela Cousins | 7) Kim Brown |
| 4) Pauline Charlton | |

Last month's answer:
Pershore Heritage

**SPOT
&
SHOP!**

COMPETITION TIME!

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

Chance
to WIN
£50
CASH

This
month's
anagram
**DANK
FISH GROW**

This month's prizes!

1st - £50 cash

2nd - £25 cash

Donated by Hughes & Company

3rd £20 Food Voucher

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

Complete and return this form or email:
news@hughes.company for your chance to win!

Pershore Times closing date: 28th April 2025

Answer:

Name:

Telephone/email:

Return to: Hughes & Company/Pershore Times

8 Church Street, Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1DT



S B S

Steve's Barber Shop

3 Cowley's Way, Pershore WR10 1EU

Telephone 07811 014247

Little Comberton Fête

The village holds a street market in the month of May.
Everyone is hoping for a really lovely day.
The plans are all worked out, like a military exercise,
but things can all go wrong, right before your very eyes.

Will the weather hold, for rain will spoil the day,
If we all blow hard, can we blow the clouds away.
Some villagers could help for as far as we're aware,
A few of them are full, with nothing but hot air!

The bunting all put up and the pitches all marked out,
But have they got it right, there really is some doubt.
The wind is getting up, will the bunting stay,
Or will they find next morning, it all has blown away.

But next morning all is well, and the sun is shining bright,
There'd been no need to worry, all through the flipping night.
The stalls are setting up, the Classic Cars are here,
The church exhibition's all set up, and so are the barrels of beer!

The crowds are turning up, they are given their entry docket,
We are rather hoping too, they have money in their pocket.
The cream teas are being served, they really look a treat,
It seems there's loads to drink and even more to eat.

By David Parke, June 2019



Please join us for our annual fête on:

Saturday 24th May 2025 - 2pm to 5pm.

Manor Lane, Little Comberton WR10 3ER

For further information please take a look at our Facebook page:
<http://www.Facebook.com/LittleCombertonStreetMarket1>

April Gardens Opening

12th & 16th April

THE WALLED GARDEN -
Fort Royal, Worcester.
1pm - 5pm
Admission £5 Children free.
Tea, coffee & cake!



Saturday 26th April

THE ALPINE GARDEN
SOCIETY near Pershore.
If its expertise you need then,
this is the garden for you!!
Opening also on 17th May
Adults £4. Refreshments served.



Sunday 27th April

A garden designer's dream WHITLENGE, Hartlebury
This garden is packed with design ideas as it's run by local garden
designers! Admission £6.95 Children £2.95 open from 10am -
4.30pm with excellent tea rooms.



Also Sunday 27th April 2025 -

in Droitwich is HIRAETH -
A smaller urban garden but packed with colour!
At £4pp & free for children, this is very affordable!
Homemade teas are also served.
Opening times: 1.30pm - 4.30pm

I have moved!

Bridge Street Barbers

01386 382390

Angela Matthews
Owner

Walk-in Service

Open: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Now at: Shop No.1, 40 Bridge Street, Pershore WR10 1AT

Pershore Times

Collection Points:

Hughes & Co - CO-OP store - Tesco Express

Acorns - Fruit Salad - Upper Crust Bakery

Pershore Library - Riverside Fish Bar

St Richards Hospice Shop - Drakes Broughton Village Shop

Eckington Village Shop

Elmley Castle, The Queen Elizabeth

Peopleton Village Shop

Upton Snodsbury Post Office & Shop

Festival of Words 2025

Evesham Festival of Words 2025 got off to a cracking start with its first event of the year sold out. Held at Crophorne's Holland House, the event included a 2-course lunch, followed by a talk, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and the Atlantic Slave Trade by Festival favourite, Tony Conder. This was the first of six joint Festival/Holland House events this year and they include a diverse range of topics: Lost Women of Shakespeare; A.E. Housman and his Abiding Appeal; Eyam – The Plague Village; and Reasons for Treason: some truths behind the Gunpowder Plot of November 1605. Tickets for all these events can be booked via: www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org or direct with Holland House (www.hollandhouse.org). Events coming up in the next two months again reflect the variety

of the Festival programme. On Good Friday afternoon we link up with Raphaels at Hampton Ferry to support their Easter Charity weekend. Kath Ryan, also known as The Cake Lady, will be telling the amazing story of how Cakes4Casualties was born and very appropriately we finish with afternoon tea. As a complete contrast, on 14th May, we are repeating the 2024 sell-out talk by Galen Bartholomew, 'Mohandas K Gandhi – Seditious Middle Temple Lawyer or The Most Enlightened of all Political Men'. Later in May, Wednesday 21st, Bristol-based independent TV producer, David Parker, returns to the Festival for a talk entitled 'How We Made the Golden Age of Steam'. A must for all steam train lovers but David's talk will appeal to anyone who likes a good story.



PERSHORE CHORAL

SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2025 7.30PM
PERSHORE ABBEY

ANTHEMS ANCIENT & MODERN

TE DEUM AND BENEDICTUS
AVE MARIA AND AVE VERUM CORPUS
BY SIR EDWARD ELGAR

REQUIEM BY BOB CHILCOTT

ROSE JOHNSON SOPRANO JUSTIN JACOBS TENOR

CHARLES MATTHEWS ORGAN

CARLETON ETHERINGTON CONDUCTOR



BOX OFFICE
01905 770557

or
Pershore Town Hall
High Street, Pershore
(CASH ONLY SALES)

or
Online Ticket sales via
www.pershorechoral.co.uk

Tickets £12 & £18
Complimentary Programme.
Concessions Available

Pershore Choral invites you to visit its website: www.pershorechoral.co.uk

The Inner Wheel

Pershore Inspirational Women Event held at Peopleton Village Hall on Friday 7th March 2025. In celebration of International Women's Day on the 8th March. President Jan and the members of Pershore Inner Wheel organised an event with seven truly inspirational speakers. The presentations covered High Office, support for disabled children, personal journeys to success, penguins, setting up a new Medical School and Olympic gold medals! There was tea, coffee and cake plus a raffle of course, with attendees coming from many Inner Wheel Clubs in D10 and D6, members of WI plus friends, neighbours and family, in total 120 people attended, including a few men. Everyone left the event with a smile on their face after hearing such uplifting stories from our speakers.

His Majesty's Lord- Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Beatrice Grant who is the first female to hold the post in this county. Beatrice gave us an insight into the selection process and her aims while in office. This is not a role you can apply for; proposals are made and once a candidate is selected it is sent to the Prime Minister for approval and then finally to the Monarch. Very high office indeed.

Susan Birth, a local artist was chosen to decorate one of the 40 large penguins for the Great Waddle Trail 2024 in support of St Richard's Hospice. The process was kept secret and Susan's penguin named Blossom was one of the penguins that when auctioned helped raise a grand total of £330k for the charity.

Annie-Marie, the mother of a disabled daughter and son gave an emotional account of the help and support provided by 'soundabout', a national charity with branches throughout the country. Their mission is to 'use music, sound, and silence to create opportunities where Learning Disabled people with complex support needs thrive'

Becca Holdman, who works for the charity gave us an overview of who they help and support locally.

Freddie Barker, the Worcester Poet Laureate for 2024-2025 and is the youngest person to be chosen. She is a remarkable young woman who left school early because of health problems, but went on to attend university, having been accepted for her

talents rather than UCAS points. Her other skills include the production of plays and of course poetry. Freddie wrote a poem especially for International Women's Day. A truly inspirational individual. *Professor Sandra Nicholson*, Founding Dean Three Counties Medical School, talked to us about her background and aims for this graduate entry medical degree course. It is different from traditional courses and overview from the website tells us: The degree, MBChB (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) programme will prepare you to become a medical doctor. With further training you can practice in any specialist area, from General Practice and Public Health, to Psychiatry, Anaesthesia and Surgery. At Worcester, you'll spend much of your time learning medicine in the community alongside patients, as well as studying on campus. *Rebecca (Becky) Redfern*, the gold medal winning Paralympic breaststroke swimmer from Droitwich and a member of Worcester Swimming Club. She was diagnosed with the degenerative eye condition known as retinitis pigmentosa at age seven. The condition results in no peripheral vision and poor frontal vision. Becky, not one to let this stop her has gone on to win gold and silver medals in World, European and Olympic competition. The Olympic gold was achieved at last year's games in Paris – the pinnacle of her achievements to date. She has also taken a degree, had a son, who joined us for her presentation, and was awarded an MBE in In the 2024 King's Birthday Honours, for services to young people and to the community in Worcestershire. Becky brought her medals for us to admire, the Paris gold medal was especially impressive. Funds raised will go to Parkinson's UK and local Pershore charities. What a wonderful afternoon, it may have made many of us feel inadequate, but it was amazing to hear the many stories our speakers had to tell and the wonderful things they have achieved.



Diane Cartwright

Helping ourselves and others through craft



Pershore Craft and Chat, a group of local crafters who meet at St Andrew's Parish Centre, have been really busy over the past three months, not only completing their own art or craft projects, but also making things for a variety of charities and to raise money for them.

Just before Christmas we ran a small craft stall where we sold cards and homemade items. Not only was it a fabulous fun raiser as we raised an amazing £1045 for Dementia UK but the running of it brought individuals from all three groups together during the day; a wonderful team building event.

In the new year, we put out a plea for hats, gloves, scarves and socks, which were to be

sent to Ukraine. Those who could make them, busily crocheted and knitted away, and others donated a huge number of items too. In total we donated 234 garments – an incredible amount in the short time of the appeal. One on-going project has been making items for the neo-natal unit at Worcester Royal Hospital. Of late we have donated homemade items including: six baby blankets, 15 crocheted octopi and over 50 baby bonding squares. The unit have been delighted with our contributions, which we shall continue to make and collect throughout the year. Recently, our Monday groups were challenged to create artwork for an NHS wellbeing initiative. We were asked to

create pictures representing the nature and landscape of our local area, which will be digitalised and then displayed in local NHS buildings. In small groups we created large, collaged pieces representing: Pershore Abbey, a canal boat on the Avon, bluebells in Tiddesley Woods, snowdrops in Birlingham and the delphiniums of Wick Flower Farm. Once again, the collaboration involved in these works was delightful and really brought the group members together over a common goal. The groups were started simply to encourage people to get together over some simple art and craft – but it is fantastic that the groups have gone further than this and have reached out to help others less fortunate than themselves. Scientific research has proven

that getting hands on with a craft project for just 45 minutes reduces the levels of the stress hormone Cortisol. It has also been proven that helping others can promote physiological changes in the brain linked with happiness and experts say that performing acts of kindness boosts mood and ultimately makes you feel more optimistic and positive. So, crafting is not only a stress reliever but is also a mood enhancer – and our groups are definitely a great place to have a chat and meet others who enjoy crafting too.

Do get in touch by contacting Rachel, email: pershorecraftandchat@gmail.com We also have a Facebook page 'Pershore Craft and Chat' where you can see the groups in action.



Letters to Editor

Dear Editor,
I was delighted to see my article about our High Street published in the Pershore Times. However, I couldn't help but notice that the byline was

missing—leaving the credit to that prolific but elusive writer, "Anon." While Anon has certainly contributed much to literature over the centuries, I fear The Anonymous One is

now being unduly credited with a well-written and amusing local interest piece that was, in fact, penned by a well-known local author (ahem). In the spirit of accuracy—and to prevent Anon from getting an inflated ego—I would be most grateful if this oversight

could be corrected in future. After all, fair is fair, and even Anon would agree that intellectual property should be attributed to its rightful owner. Yours (definitely not anonymously),

Michael Chapman Pincher

Dear Editor,
Firstly, it is so refreshing that you call your magazine a "free speech" publication and invite comments! Even if people disagree with a specific opinion, and we are (currently!) all entitled to one, it is refreshing that you actively encourage debate. Last month I stated that we should wait and see what the Trump Administration would put on the table. Since then there have been numerous executive orders signed - some more frivolous than others.... Personally (and this is only my opinion!) I believe that the two most important changes are firstly the confirmation that

RFK Junior has been installed to lead America's Health and Human Services. He has been widely described by the main stream media as a "conspiracy theorist" (a term created by the CIA after the shooting of his famous uncle to discourage questioning of his death - which is now widely accepted to be at best suspicious). I have followed his work for some time and am certain that he is actually a man who believes that the American people have for many years been made sick by a combination of poor diet, bad advice and a less than honest pharmaceutical industry which cares more for profit than the health of Americans.

Perhaps we would be wise to heed his warnings before trying to discredit him. Secondly, the possibility that Donald Trump can, through negotiation with Vladimir Putin, bring about the end to the war in Ukraine is surely something to be applauded? I am certainly no expert in this, however, I have listened to many and varied opinions and read copious historical articles about it, which I would urge others to do as I suspect that many people who comment know little of the corrupt history of Ukraine and probably could not pin point it on a map. Personally, I believe that the needless death of so many

innocent souls (from both sides) in the meat grinder of a war which probably could have been avoided is utterly barbaric. I do not understand the wisdom of our own Prime Minister promising to fund the Ukrainian war effort for 100 years with tax payer's money and even offering to send our troops over to "keep the peace". The question one should always ask is "who benefits?". As we approach spring, the time of new birth and hope, I will be praying fervently that good will prevail over the evil that is undoubtedly at work in the world.

Peace and Love to all

Julie Reynolds

April What's on

Tue 1st April

Death Café

The Angel Inn Hotel, 3pm – 5pm

Wed 2nd April

Board Gaming Night

Pickled Plum Pub, 7pm

Thu 3rd April

French Language Café

Number 8, 6.30pm

French Film: The Tasting

Number 8, 7.30pm

Pershore Heritage and

History Society:

Talk on Worcester Shrub

Hill's 175th Anniversary

Pershore Library, 7pm

Sat 5th April

Broad Street Market

Broad Street, 9am – 2pm

Country Markets

Chapman Court

9.30am – 1.30pm

Sun 6th April

Think and Drink

Charity Quiz Night

Claude Choules, 7pm

Mon 7th April

Griff & Friends Jam Session

Pershore Football Club, 7.30pm

Thu 6th April

Learn to Sew or Knit

Pershore Library, 4pm - 5.30pm

Wed 9th April

Pershore Craft and Chat

St Andrews, 2pm

Fri 11th April

Friday Film Club

Pershore Library, 2pm

Iberian Peninsula

Wine Tasting

Paul's of Pershore, 7.30pm

Sat 12th April

Foyer Folk -

Songs of the Folk

Number 8 Foyer, 8pm

Sun 13th April

Boozy Bingo Night

Claude Choules

arrive 6pm - 7pm

Wed 16th April

Nick Sharratt's Picture

Book Drawalong

Number 8, 2pm

Folk Night

Pershore Sports and

Social Club, 7pm

Sat 19th April

Southern Hemisphere

Wine Tasting

Paul's of Pershore, 7.30pm

Sun 20th April

Pershore Carnival Duck

Race

Riverside Centre, 1pm

Wed 23rd April

Pershore Craft and Chat

St Andrews, 2pm

Fri 25th April

Friday Film Club

Pershore Library, 2pm

Wed 30th April

Pershore Jazz -Graham

Smith's Shades of Jazz

Pershore Football Club, 7pm

Regular Events

Every Sunday –

Weekly Quiz,

Pickled Plum Pub, 7pm

Every Wednesday &

Thursday

Pasta and Wine Night,

The Star Inn, booking required.

Cinema Listings

When Autumn Falls

(cert tbc)

Thu 17 Apr - 7.30pm;

Wed 23 Apr - 2.00pm

1hr 42 mins Tickets £9.00

Wicked Sing-Along (PG)

Sat 19 Apr - 2.00pm & 7.30pm

2hrs 41 mins Tickets £9.00

Mr. Burton (12A)

Fri 25 Apr - 2.00pm & 7.30pm;

Mon 28 Apr - 11.00am;

Tue 29 Apr - 7.30pm

2hrs 4 mins Tickets £9.00

How to Make Millions

Before Grandma Dies (12A)

Thu 1 May - 7.30pm

2hrs 6 mins Tickets £9.00

Oh My Goodness! (cert tbc)

Thu 8 May - 7.30pm;

Wed 14 May - 2.00pm

1hr 27 mins Tickets £9.00

Babygirl (18)

Sat 10 May - 7.30pm

1hr 55 mins Tickets £9.00

Four Mothers (15)

Mon 12 May - 11.00am; Tue 13

May - 7.30pm

Tickets £9.00 (£8.50) + 80p

per ticket if booked online

1hr 29mins

The Penguin Lessons (cert tbc)

Fri 16 May - 2.00pm &

7.30pm; Sat 17 May - 7.30pm;

Mon 19 May - 11.00am &

7.30pm (ST)

Tickets £9.00 (£8.50) + 80p
per ticket if booked online
1hr 50mins

The Return (cert tbc)

Fri 23 May - 2.00pm &

7.30pm; Sat 24 May - 7.30pm

Tickets £9.00 (£8.50) + 80p

per ticket if booked online

1hr 56mins

A Real Pain (15)

Tue 27 May - 7.30pm

Tickets £9.00 (£8.50) + 80p

per ticket if booked online

1hr 30mins

Event Listings

Six The Musical Live!

Sunday 6 April -

3.00pm & 7.00pm

1 hr 21mins

Tickets: £16, Child £10

Nick Sharratt's Picture

Book Drawalong

Wednesday 16 April - 2.00pm

1 hr 15 mins

Tickets: £12; Child £10

A Night with Janis Joplin

The Musical

Saturday 26 April - 7.00pm

2 hrs 20 mins, Tickets: £16

Lipstick on Your Collar

Friday 9 May - 7.30pm

2 hrs 30 mins (inc.interval)

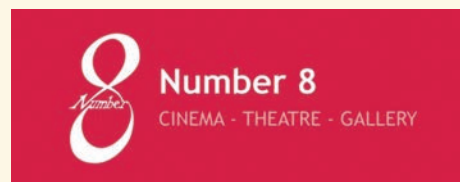
Tickets: £27

Bonnie & Clyde The Musical

Thursday 15 May - 7.00pm

2 hrs 30 mins,

Tickets: £16, Child £10



Box Office Opening Hours

In Person Bookings:

Mon - Sat 10am - 4pm & from 6pm on performance evenings

Telephone Bookings: Mon – Sat 4pm – 6pm

Box Office: 01386 555488 Email: enquiries@number8.org

High Street Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1BG

www.number8.org



For more information come in
and see us at the Visitor Information Centre
34 High Street, Pershore
or visit online at:
www.visitpershore.co.uk



Visit-Pershore

PERSHORE BROAD STREET MARKET

Local Produce



Artisan Goods

First Saturday of the month, 9am-2pm

EAR WAX REMOVAL

Consultation with video camera £20

One ear - including consultation £40

Two ears - including consultation £60

RHAD MSHAA ISABELA BAILEY

Ogles Pershore Pharmacy

Tel: 01386 710444

Mob: 07961 649288

Flower Club News



On Wednesday, the 19th March members of Pershore Flower Club, having enjoyed a cup of coffee or tea with a slice of home-made cake, welcomed Paula Routledge from Nottingham to give her flower demonstration. Paula is firstly a horticulturist and then trained by NAFAS; she is a RHS judge. She and her husband, previously a farmer, are very involved in local matters in Nottingham and are extremely busy growing their own flowers among other things. She tries to use home-grown flowers in her designs both for demonstrations and for commissions. She had been to King Charles' coronation – she brought THE HAT to Bishampton Village Hall and told us all about her time at Westminster Abbey. It was obviously a great honour to be there and a day to remember. For her first design she produced a large lion's head vase into which she used a plastic container (previously holding mincemeat!) wrapped in purple paper and filled with crunched up chicken wire. Into this she placed stems of cornus, fatsia leaves, curled and stapled aspidistra leaves together with tall stems of purple daphne, purple alliums, hellebores; a piece of advice to prevent the blooms from drooping – score stems gently and plunge into deep water. Finally she added shocking pink tulips. Next, Paula produced a metal crown with a cardboard hatbox in the centre. Into this she placed stems of salix tortuosa (twisted willow). She used phormium leaves folded over, fatsia leaves and stems of the green sweet William – Green Wicky) – and the crimson rose “Naomi” and then stems of yellow Craspedia (billy buttons). Then like magic, a similar floral crown appeared. Her third arrangement represented a meadow for which she did use two blocks of bio-foam in a long tray.

She used sprigs of various foliage such as skimmia, choisya, euonymus to form the base and then added tall stems of forsythia, yellow gerbera, miscanthus, anemones, yellow tulips and sprigs of golden rod and lastly one or two alliums. And again a second meadow was produced. For her final design, she produced another food container sitting inside an urn. She used sprigs from delicate eucalyptus trees and then bright pink lilies and stems of hellebores. Another interesting tip – pull phormium leaves through a pin holder to form a ‘horse's tail’ effect. These she added to the design with stems of a pink astilbe. She likes mixing pink and yellow so added yellow gerberas. We all much enjoyed her stories, her sense of humour and her artistic talent with the floral material.

We meet again on Wednesday, the 16th April when Kath Lee, who is a national demonstrator and a past chairman and past president of our Area and is also a member of our Club. We meet at 7.30p.m. at Bishampton Village Hall.

See us on Facebook and details can be obtained from Ann on 07974 973861

Are you a closet BANKSY, or a secret DAVID HOCKNEY, a budding Van Gogh? Or just a doodler? Do you know how many people come to Pershore for a day out.....LOTS!!!!!! By land and water - if not by air.

So the residents need to do all they can to KEEP PERSHORE PRETTY. It's not just the aesthetics, it helps maintain the lovely variety of commercial outlets that the town boasts.

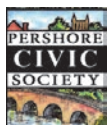
Pershore Place Board has given us flags and wall brackets, and now Pershore Civic Society is doing its bit.

We are looking for someone to improve the look of the BT boxes at the end of Broad Street.

Your ideas - large or small, detailed or simply suggestive - will be entered in a competition to be judged by Mr Sce, with the results to be announced at the 2025 Plum Festival.

Your work will be immortalised in the future of Pershore.

PERSHORE CIVIC SOCIETY
PERSHORE PLACEBOARD



CONTACT: SUE DOLMAN
dolman.themilestone@me.com: 07794210015



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INSIDE AND OUTSIDE



INSIDE

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- Decorating
- Loft insulation
- Shelving (maybe made to your design)
- General repairs (as simple as putting up curtain poles)

OUTSIDE

WE REALLY DO MEAN "NO JOB TOO SMALL"

All aspects of garden maintenance and clearance:

- Jet washing Drives and Pavements
- Lawns mowed, edged & laid
- Bushes trimmed/shaped
- Small trees pruned
- Borders weeded/planted/shaped
- Gravel laid
- Fencing erected/painted/replaced



Also, man with a van.

If you have a job, just give us a call we'll come and look for free, Sarah

We have a photograph portfolio of some of our previous work

Steve & Sarah on 07389 180862

Christadelphians

We believe the Jews are God's witnesses

The Bible is God's message to humanity, revealing how we can have a relationship with our Creator and offering hope for eternal life beyond our limited existence. This extraordinary book's authenticity is supported by the remarkable history of the Jewish people. God chose Abraham to be the father of many nations, promising him descendants who would inherit the land of Israel and bring salvation to all people. The Jewish nation, descended from Abraham, was entrusted with preserving God's revealed plan and

demonstrating how to live in relationship with Him. When the Jews followed God's laws, they thrived as a just and prosperous society. However, God warned that if they failed in their role, they would face consequences, including exile from their land. This prophecy was fulfilled when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in AD70, scattering the Jews worldwide. God foretold that the Jews would face persecution but would survive as a distinct people and eventually return to Israel. Against all odds, this prophecy was fulfilled with the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948.

Interested in learning more about the Bible?

Pershire Christadelphians invite you to a talk explaining why

'We believe the Jews are God's witnesses'

On: 4th May @ 10am, God willing

and why

'We believe we will be judged at Christ's return'

On: 1st June @ 10am, God willing

Both talks will be held at:
The Christadelphian Hall
40 Paddock Close
Pershore WR10 1HJ



Through the prophet Isaiah, God declared that the Jews would be witnesses to His existence and the continuation

of His plan for the world. Their extraordinary history serves as evidence for the truth of God's Word.

Rotary News

Rotary International celebrated its 120th birthday on 23rd February 2025. Formed by lawyer, Paul Harris and three friends in Chicago, USA, the group met to exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. Rotarians are known for addressing challenges in their communities and around the world. That commitment continues today through local Rotary clubs and 1.4 million members worldwide solving some of the most challenging problems. For many years, Rotary has worked in partnership with ShelterBox to deliver emergency aid to families displaced by conflict, such as in Gaza, Syria and Chad. ShelterBox has helped more than 130,000 people affected

by the war in Ukraine. People living in homes without heating or lighting have been provided with thermal clothing, solar lights, water carriers and stoves. You can learn more about these efforts at shelterbox.org. Sadly, too many people in our community continue to rely on Foodbanks. On 1 March, Pershore Rotary and Pershore Foodbank volunteers joined together at the Co-op to encourage shoppers to select and donate food items. Thanks to their generosity, several boxes were filled and converted into meals for distribution. The total weight of donations received was a magnificent 285kgs, representing 678 meals. A very big thank you to the Co-op, its shoppers and



Richard Lees



Foodbank volunteers for supporting those in need. Pershore Foodbank operates through a voucher system. If you or someone you know needs assistance, vouchers are available from a variety of local sources including GP surgeries, schools, Citizens Advice and churches. If you need help, contact Pershore Foodbank at pershore.foodbank.org.uk. The search is on to find a motivated student, aged 16 to 18, to attend the 2025 World Affairs Seminar at Carroll University, Wisconsin, USA. The event runs from 21 to 27 June 2025 and this year's theme is 'Peacebuilding: Creating Lasting Change'. This is a fantastic opportunity for a student interested in politics, international relations and global issues.

All travel costs are covered by

Rotary, with accommodation and tuition fees of £710 being self-funded or sponsored. It's expected that the student will gain valuable knowledge, experience and new friendships on a global scale.

The closing date for this year's World Affairs Seminar was 2nd April 2025.

Anyone interested in applying for 2026's event should contact Pershore Rotary at: secretary@pershorerotary.club

If you would like to work with us, we would love to hear from you. Follow us on Facebook, check out our website www.pershorerotary.club or email us at secretary@pershorerotary.club

Richard Lees

In memoriam

CUNNINGHAM. Anne Catherine

Passed away peacefully on 17th March 2025, aged 65 years. Beloved wife of Keith, devoted Mum to Becky, Rachel and Fiona, much loved nannie to Harry, Bonnie, Rosie, Sidney and Ralphie. Anne will be very sadly missed by all her family and friends. A service will be held at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Thursday 10th April 2025 at 11am. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for St Richard's Hospice, and The Roy Castle Lung Foundation may be left in the collection tube at the service or made online.

SHAW. June

Passed away peacefully at Austen Court Care Home on 16th March 2025, aged 92 years. Much loved wife of the late Bob, June will be very sadly missed by all her family and friends.

A service will be held at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Tuesday April 1st 2025 at 1pm. Donations, if desired, for The Midlands Air Ambulance Charity may be left in the collection tube at the service or made online.

STEADY. Frances Joan

Passed away peacefully at St Richard's Hospice on 24th February 2025, aged 77 years. Beloved wife of Jeff, much loved mum of Matthew and Andrew and a dear grandmother. Frances will be very sadly missed by all her family and friends. A service took place at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Thursday March 27th 2025, followed by a service at Pershore Abbey.

E Hill & Son Funeral Directors, Pershore WR10 1HZ

or via www.ehillandson.co.uk Tel: 01386 552141

**In memoriam notices are
Free of charge**

email: news@hughes.company

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PRIVATE HIRE TAXIS
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Call Luan: 07478 888685



Pershore Death Cafe

Death Cafes are a safe, supportive way of talking about death, dying, and our finite lives.

They are a facilitated discussion with no agenda.

They are not grief counselling.

**Each first Tuesday of the month
3:00pm - 5:00pm**

Everyone is welcome, please buy tea or coffee on your way through to the restaurant room at the back of the Angel Inn 9 High Street Pershore WR10 1AF.

For more information

email: pershoreddeathcafe@gmail.com | www.deathcafe.com



PLANT & CAKE SALE

**Saturday 10 May
10am – 12noon**

Earls Croome Village Hall

**Tea, coffee and homemade cakes
Bedding plants, tomato plants,
perennials, houseplants, etc**



Raising funds for Earls Croome Church





pershore carnival

Duck Race

Sunday 20th April
Pershore Riverside
Centre from 1pm

First Race 2pm

- Bouncy Castle
- Hook a Duck
- Chocolate Tombola
- Bottle Tombola
- Food Stalls
- Ice Creams

Lucky Duck tickets will be on sale at the Broad Street Market on 5th April, in Chapman Court on 12th April from Pershore Town Hall



Spring Walk

Sunday 27 April, 12 noon
Red Deer Farm, Earl's Croome, WR8 9DF

Join us for a guided walk (under an hour) through the wild flowers, followed by Ploughman's Lunch at Red Deer Farm
£12 (£6 children) cash or card accepted

Suitable for all ages - stout shoes or boots advisable
Dogs welcome on leads

More information from Margaret Herbert, 01386 751196

Raising funds for Earl's Croome Church



Wild Flowers Walk

JUNE 8TH 2025
LOWER MOOR PLAYING FIELD

Trinity Hospice Myeloma UK

PARTY IN THE PARK

DIANA'S DAY

Lower Moor Playing Field, WR10 2PH, 12:00 - 19:00

MUSIC FESTIVAL * FOOD * CLASSIC CARS * STALLS

LIVE LINEUP
MEMPHIS MIKE, ROUTE 33, MARK COOPER, ROCK CHOIR, RICHARD GOLD, AMERICAN CAR CLUB

FREE ENTRY

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Magic Print Fair - Saturday 28th June 2025

This summer, The Fold at Bransford are excited to host the very first Magic Print Fair in collaboration with Michelle of Magic Letterpress. The fair will feature print artists of all types: letterpress, riso, lino, screen and wood carvings; and print suppliers, selling ink, paper, equipment and more. The fair will be held on Saturday the 28th June 2025, and will run from 10am to 4pm. Entry is free, there is plenty of free parking, and the whole venue is dog friendly. The studios and café at the Fold will also be open, so it promises to be a fun day out for all the family. Come along to purchase one of a kind art for your home, posters, prints, cards, and stationery, from local artists and printers from further afield. Or if you are a printer yourself, come and stock up on materials and supplies, or network with fellow printers. Michelle has been a Letterpress Printer and Artist for five years, and moved into her studio at

The Fold last summer. She creates letterpress prints and cards with her vintage presses and type, and hosts letterpress workshops of all kinds. She hopes to get more people interested in the craft of letterpress, as it is on the red list of endangered heritage crafts, which means there are not enough people engaged in the craft to ensure its survival. Never heard of letterpress? Then do visit the Magic Print Fair in June, or if you can't make that date, pop by Michelle's studio to learn more.

If you are a print artist or supplier, and you would like a pitch, you can apply on the Fold website - www.thefold.org.uk/markets or you can email the fold for more information. reception@thefold.org.uk If you would like to purchase Michelle's work, you can visit magicletterpress.co.uk or visit her on Instagram - [@magic_letterpress](https://www.instagram.com/magic_letterpress).



Tuesday 15th April at 2pm

The Most Dissolute Man in London?

A talk by Dr Gillian White about William Cavendish, the first Duke of Devonshire and the building of Chatsworth

Tuesday 20th May at 2pm

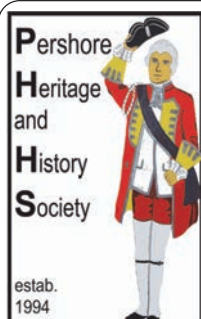
Forensic Psychology

It's not like CSI!

A talk by Professor Sarah Brown about forensic psychology and the impact of the media on our understanding of it.

All welcome, including non-members
Meetings held at Number 8, High Street, Pershore.

For more details, contact Sally Whyte Speaker Coordinator on email: u3apershoresally@gmail.com
www.pershore.u3asite.uk



Pershore Heritage & History Society

New Opening Times for 2025

Monday	- Closed
Tuesday	- 10:30am - 1:00pm
Wednesday	- 10:30am - 1:00pm
Thursday	- 10:30am - 2:30pm
Friday	- 10:30am - 2:30pm
Saturday	- 10:30am - 1:00pm

In 2024, we had over 500 visitors and have increased our opening times for 2025.

Can you help?

If you can or know anyone who could spare a couple of hours once a week, once a fortnight or even once a month, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact, John Payne,
email: johnphilippayne@rocketmail.com or
Sue Price, email: susanmariaprice@yahoo.co.uk

34 High Street, Pershore WR10 1DS - Tel: 01386 751101
(above the Town Hall & Tourist Information Centre)

BISH BOSH BASH

VILLAGE FETE + EVENING GIG
SAT 21ST JUNE - 1-4PM
BISHAMPTON VILLAGES HALL - WR10 2LY

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EVENING GIG - NO TOOLS REQUIRED - DOORS at 6PM



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Pershore Times



New Minis and Juniors Coach boosts rugby choices

A new coach is joining the Minis and Juniors coaching team at Pershore Rugby on Sunday mornings, from 4th May, which will boost the choice of types of rugby that children can play in Pershore.

Xander Ibrahim, age 20, has played rugby for thirteen years, trained to be a Touch referee, and is also a Pershore Beavers-team lead volunteer, and when the current Rugby Union season of children's fixtures and coaching has finished, he will deliver a six-week programme of Touch rugby taster sessions for junior-school-aged children from age six upwards.

The Touch programme will run on Sundays at 10.30am, starting on 4th May, up until the start of the school summer holidays and will comprise six weeks of one-hour sessions offering fun, transferable rugby skills, including catching and passing a ball, lines of running and teamwork. It will compliment the multi-sport programme taught

in junior schools, as well as the traditional Rugby Union, age-appropriate coaching for children that will resume at Pershore Rugby in September.

Andrew Breaker, who leads Pershore Rugby's Minis and Juniors section said: "We are keen to offer children and their parents a choice of all forms of rugby and Xander is helping us to achieve that. For seven-year-olds and under, we offer mixed Tag rugby, which is a popular choice. From age eight, children can choose to learn how to tackle and progress on from there onto further age-appropriate Rugby Union skills, like mauling and rucking and later kicking. For those that don't want that we offer Touch. Touch can be played by boys and girls together up to any age. And, as in traditional Rugby Union, there is a pathway too in Touch for children to play in regional and then national teams. Pershore Rugby is affiliated to the England Touch Association and several

of our young players have been, selected to play Touch for their country in their age group.

"We are a friendly, welcoming club, with a family atmosphere and we have a fabulous, safe environment for children to run about with other children and learn how to catch and pass a ball and, if they wish, play competitively in a team, in whatever form of rugby they like." All children's groups, including the highly popular Pups (aged 2-5) train on Sundays from 10.30am until 11.30am. The Pups have fun, play-sessions that don't necessarily involve a rugby ball, but teach motor skills, hand-eye coordination and how to make friends, and many have older brothers and sisters who take part in other rugby sessions at the club at the same time.

All children's groups at Pershore Rugby are coached within a framework of the core values of England Rugby - Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment,



Xander Ibrahim (centre) joins the Minis and Juniors coaching team at Pershore Rugby. L-R: Sam Fisher (aged 7), Alice Smith (aged 7), Robin Fisher (aged 4), Rose Smith (aged 7) and Seb Milisic (aged 8)

Discipline and Sportsmanship – which creates a culture and environment at the club that is special and enjoyable for everyone who plays and volunteers there.

For further information please contact Andrew Breaker on andrewb@gmail.co.uk or 07772 179327

Do you have a Lasting Power of Attorney & Will?

Sorting out your lasting power of attorney gives you complete peace of mind that should you become unable to look after your own affairs, someone you trust can. Without a lasting power of attorney in place even your spouse, partner or children will find it difficult and expensive to be granted permission to handle your affairs. We can make sure that the person taking charge over decisions regarding your health, welfare, property, and finances is the person you want and trust.

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