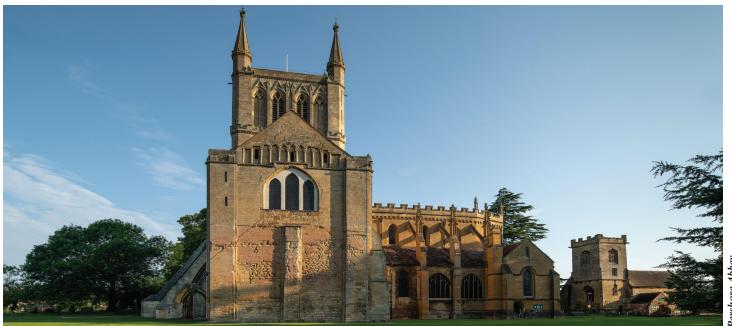
# Pershore Times

A free monthly newspaper for Pershore and surrounding villages





Tune already, half the year nearly gone! The I weather has been glorious and nature has seemed to move faster than usual. We are continually playing catch up in the garden! We live in a lovely part of England; the countryside is outstanding and the scenery glorious. This idyllic situation clashes with lots of challenges in the world at the moment. We hear so many people complaining. but we still have so much to be thankful for! The UK is a fantastic place in which to live and leads the world in so many ways.

a great man said, 'Any fool can see what's wrong, look at all the things that are right!'. We hear people talking about

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education, hygiene, the variety

and quality of food, travel, communications, and so it goes on and on, the list is endless. We are a multi-national country with a Commonwealth of nearly two billion people. One of the greatest innovators and exporters, with the sixth largest economy in the world. We outstrip many much larger countries including Russia. We have led the way so many times and we are respected throughout the world. Let's take heart from this, believe all will be well, think positive. The Brits always get it right, in the

The cricket season is well underway and we look forward to some great matches against the West Indies and in the County Championships at New Road. Village cricket is very popular and Sunday afternoon at the Village Green is a traditional British summer pastime.



the 'good old days', in my It's very easy to criticise but as experience 'today's days' are the very best days ever! Everything is better! Health,



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I am writing this as the sunshine beams down and our team are delivering this year's hanging baskets - beautiful blooms to brighten up the High Street. As we enter a new Council year, I am delighted to announce that Cllr Julie Hemming was elected our Chair for the year ahead. Cllr Hemming was born in Pershore, has raised her family in Pershore and now serves the town she loves to call home in her position as Town Mayor. Cllr Hemmings consort is her husband, David, and they have both recently become grandparents for the very first time to a beautiful granddaughter. Cllr Melanie Adams has been elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the year ahead, with her husband, also David, as her consort.

## **Town Council News**

Mrs Charlie MacIntyre, Town Clerk



is Julie's absence, attending lots of town functions and events, as well as civic functions in the local area. Follow the chain to see where it appears next! If you are holding an event you would like the Mayor to be present at, please do email the Mayors PA on admin@pershore-tc.gov.uk Julie has selected the Pershore Wellbeing Hub as her charity of choice for this year and will be

organising many fundraising

events to support this vital

charity. Pershore Wellbeing

Hub, run by volunteers, delivers

person-centred support across the full range of services from simply listening, to help with paperwork, from helping you find new hobbies and friends, to enabling you to take more control of your own happiness. VE Day

Thank you to each and everyone who came to support the VE celebrations that the Town Council ran in conjunction with the Royal British Legion. The events, from the proclamation in Chapman Court, to celebratory refreshments in the Town Hall to the Beacon lighting in Abbey Park were a huge success, and



a special thanks goes to all who donated in one way or another; Pershore Hire Centre, Crafters Companion at The Valley, Evesham, The Town Crier -Robert Speight and The Spitfires, the most fabulous 1940s singing trio.





# Celebrating 450 years since Queen Elizabeth I's visit to Elmley Castle

The Big 450 Besstival

This year, Elmley Castle will joyously commemorate the 450th anniversary of the historic 3-day visit by Queen Elizabeth I in 1575. The grand celebration, aptly named "The Big 450 Besstival," is scheduled for the 28th and 29th of June and promises to be a splendid affair, honoring this significant moment in history with an array of events and festivities. Central to this Parish Council sponsored event is the community run Queen Elizabeth Inn. named after the visit, and rumoured to be where some of Queen Elizabeths large retinue might have stayed. A Royal Retrospective Queen Elizabeth I's visit to Elmley Castle in 1575 is a treasured chapter in the village's

rich history. The queen's presence was a testament to the region's prominence during the Elizabethan era. It was a time of grandeur, where the monarch's travels were marked with elaborate ceremonies and displays of loyalty from her subjects. The Big 450 Besstival

Celebrations -Saturday 28th June An Evening Concert Headlined by Magic Queen

The festivities will kick off at 18:00 on June 28th with an evening concert showcasing home-grown Worcestershire bands, Junction 7 and Kings of the Quarter Mile together with Europe's leading Queen tribute band, Magic Queen, headlining the concert.

Visitors can look forward to a fabulous music filled evening, together with a selection of sumptuous food stalls and extensive bar areas. Tickets are available at: www.thebig450besstival.co.uk Sunday 29th June -:

A Family Day of Heritage and *Festivity* 

The second day of the Besstival will be equally exciting, with a focus on family, community and celebration. Free of charge, there are a series of events starting from 12:00 that pay homage to the historical visit, including Elizabethan Dancing, Falconry, Archery, Maypole Dancing, Participants in Period Costume, and Morris Dancing, alongside Arts and Craft Stalls, Local Produce Stalls, The School Fete, Childrens Activities and

many many other attractions. A special commemorative service will be held at the village church, reflecting on the legacy of Queen Elizabeth I and her impact on Elmley Castle.

Join the Celebration

The Big 450 Besstival is open to all, inviting visitors from near and far to join in the celebration of Elmley Castle's rich history and the remarkable visit of Oueen Elizabeth I. It promises to be a weekend filled with heritage, festivity, and community spirit, honoring the past while looking towards a bright future. Mark your calendars for June 28th and 29th and come be a part of this historic celebration.

Elmley Castle awaits with open arms!!

# Chairman to shine spotlight on volunteers





L-R Past Chairman Cllr George Duffy, Cllr Mark Goodge, Chairman and Cllr Gregory Wilkins, Vice Chairman

Wychavon's new Chairman has pledged to shine a spotlight on the district's voluntary and community groups during his year in office.

Cllr Mark Goodge took on the chain at Wychavon's Annual Council meeting on 14 May and will serve for 12 months. His wife, Emma, is his consort for the year.

The former Mayor of Evesham is a district councillor for Bengeworth Ward, a town councillor and has also represented Evesham at county council level. Those who nominated him described Cllr Goodge as a 'champion of his residents' and 'someone who 'serves his residents with conviction.'

Cllr Goodge said: "It's an honour to wear the Chairman's chain and I look forward to getting out and about across the district. I want to shine a spotlight on the great work being done by voluntary and community groups across Wychavon, particularly those serving people with special needs or our disadvantaged

communities. I would love to pay them a visit and help spread their message.' Outgoing Chairman Cllr George Duffy has the honour of being Wychavon's youngest Chairman in 51 years, having taken on the role at just 27. He said: "It was a wonderful privilege serving as Wychavon's Chairman for the last 12 months. There were many highlights, including opening Cycling For All at Evesham VeloPark, re-signing the Armed Forces Covenant at Norton Barracks, joining the dig Wychavon funded at Hartlebury Castle as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, raising the flag to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, numerous festivals and of course being supported by my consort Peppa the dog." Cllr Gregory Wilkins was elected as Vice Chairman for the year.

Any organisation, community group or business that would like a visit from Wychavon's Chairman should email faith.quin@wychavon.gov.uk

# Wick Care Farm sponsored walk

Set in 270 acres of rural farmland near Pershore, Wick Care Farm CIC supports adults and young people to engage in farm-based activities to benefit their mental health. By combining nature, social interaction and purposeful activity with therapeutic support, our mission is to provide a supportive community to enable and empower individuals to thrive.

It's amazing to think that when we first opened our doors in 2014, there were fewer than 100 care farms in the UK. That number has since tripled, and it's wonderful to be a part of a unique and growing sector. Over the past decade, we've been privileged to witness the benefits of care farming in practice for dozens of people from all backgrounds and walks of life. For some, that is the joy of feeling safe, present and engaged in animal care or horticulture.

For others, it is the gradual blossoming of confidence and

self-worth in an environment where they belong. As a Community Interest Company (CIC), it is thanks to the wider Pershore community that we have been able to action our mission and support individuals with their mental health over the past decade. Our sponsored walk will fundraise towards the addition of a quiet room This dedicated space will provide clients, volunteers and staff with a calm environment to pause, reflect and recharge.

Please join us on Saturday 21st June for the walk or sponsor those taking up the challenge via:www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/harriet-sleight-3 Your generosity is always greatly appreciated.

Wick Care Farm Owletts Lane, Wick Pershore WR10 3PB www.wickcarefarm.co.uk



# Volunteering –



#### Making A Difference Together

Volunteering at Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre is a rewarding way to make a real difference - not just in the lives of others, but in your own too. Whether you're looking to give back, gain experience, or meet new people, we're here to help you find the right opportunity. The Benefits of Volunteering

- Make a positive impact in the lives of individuals across our community.

- Boost your confidence and self-esteem by taking on meaningful roles.

- Gain valuable work experience to enhance your career prospects.

- Receive training and develop new skills for both personal and professional growth.

- Share your existing skills and knowledge in a purposeful way.

- Meet new people from all walks of life and build lasting connections.

- Feel valued and appreciated as part of a supportive volunteer team. Social & Mental Health Benefits Volunteering isn't just about giving back - it's also about what you gain.

Engage with like-minded individuals, share your passions, and build genuine friendships. Regular social interaction helps improve communication skills and creates a support network that can be especially valuable during tough times.

Volunteering also offers a mental health boost, helping to reduce stress and improve overall wellbeing through meaningful social engagement.

A Wide Range of Volunteer Roles Some of our roles currently available include:

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- Passenger Assistants
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# Pershore Mill – part 1

Reading an article on the great fire in Pershore in 1976 when the Mill was burnt down, and, looking at pictures of the flames above the rooftops of the mill got me thinking of my childhood when I played at the old bridge with my brother, Simon. I tried to remember the old mill before the fire.It was just there, a not too beautiful but very imposing building. I had never really noticed the Mill House next to it. After the fire the house stood out so much more now that the old mill was no longer towering over it.

Questions came flooding in: How long had Pershore had a mill and, who, over its history had run the Mill?

A mill appears in the Domesday Book in 1086 which was run by the monks at the Abbey. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners owned it until the 1930's. It was built to grind local grown corn. The corn arrived from the local farms on barges and left that way. Daphne Law, the daughter of the owners of the Green Door Café, can remember in the 40's to 60's the Mill delivering flour for her mother to bake into bread for the shop

and café.

It seems that another interesting fact is that the flour made at Pershore Mill was especially used for making wafers for icecreams!

When in the 1700-1800's canals were built the River Avon was made navigable to link with the canal system and this was a great benefit to the mill owner. By the side of the mill was a

By the side of the mill was a Watergate which had to close to raise the water level to let the boats pass and the mill owners could charge a fee.

Sue Price History and Heritage Society



# VE Day – 80th Anniversary





#### **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

The Royal British Legion in Collaboration with Pershore Town Council celebrated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with the rest of the Country. The day started off at 0900hrs with the raising of the Flag at Wychavon Council offices. This was attended by Wychavon Chairman, George Duffy, who raised the flag, also DL Major General Mark Armstrong with members of Wychavon and the Royal British Legion.

At 1100hrs the Town Crier read the Decree in Chapman Court with a good turn out of Pershore Residents and Veterans.

Pershore residents were then invited to the Town Hall for refreshments and the opportunity to reminisce and socialise. There was a great turnout and it was really good to see the some of the Schools attending.

Whilst this was happening key members of the Royal British Legion with the Mayor and DL Major General Mark Armstrong went across the Abbey where Revd Canon Clair Lording said a prayer and the DL laid a wreath in memory of all those that sacrificed their lives and never had the opportunity to celebrate Victory in Europe. In the evening we celebrated in

Abbey park, starting off with "The Spitfires", a trio of Ladies singing wartime favourites. Their first ever event and they

were fantastic. With well over 100 people in attendance the Mayor, Councillor Julie Hemming, then said a few words and went on to light the Beacon.

A perfect ending to a real celebration of Life whilst remembering those that sacrificed their lives for us. "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

On Friday, the 9th May, a 40's Dance was held at Pershore Football club to end off the week's celebrations. This was well attended and well enjoyed by all that were there. Live music was provided by "Tuxedo Junction" and people were encouraged to dress in 40's costume and really pulled all the stops out to do so. We had some dance lessons and we had re-enactors with some displays in attendance. "Rations" were provided to keep everyone going. We would like to thank all sponsors, especially Rachel Williams from Crafters Companion, and of course all the volunteers who make these events a success.

We would really encourage people to join the Royal British Legion to assist in keeping these memories alive. There is no need to having served in the Forces.

Anyone interested can contact the Chairman, Gerald Gregory, on mobile no. 07802 897088



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

Advertising Amendment to Controversial Bill

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP has backed an amendment to the controversial Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill to ensure that potential providers are not able to advertise services. She has been working with the Bill's sponsor Kim Leadbeater MP, to add a clause to the legislation controlling how potential services are marketed across television, radio and digital media. The Bill is expected to return for further debate in the House of Commons on May 16 and Dame Harriett plans to attend the debate and speak on her proposed amendment. Dame Harriett said: "Although I am fundamentally opposed to the Bill, I have been working with the Bill's supporters to ensure that measures are in place to prevent adverts for assisted dying services appearing on television next to life insurance and holiday adverts. The amendment will ensure that advertising of voluntary assisted dying services are not allowed across traditional and digital media



outlets. I still plan to vote against the Bill when it returns to the House of Commons but if MPs choose to approve this legislation, I wanted to make sure that we don't face the nightmare scenario of our daytime TV screens full of troubling adverts offering assisted suicide. I remain hopeful that this Bill is the trigger to an important national conversation about how we fund and deliver much better palliative care, and I repeat my public support for the amazing work our hospices do helping patients and their loved ones through terminal illness."

# Flower Club



There was a change for members of Pershore Flower Club on the evening of Wednesday 21st May at Bishampton Village Hall when we first of all enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee with a biscuit and then welcomed Janelle Quitman from Fownhope in Herefordshire. Janelle was born in Australia where she learnt all about bee-keeping when staying with her grandparents. She questioned her grandfather constantly about the life of a honey bee and the production of the honeycomb



and then the honey. Years later she came to the UK and worked for the Covent Garden wholesale market. She lived in a top floor flat. She created a garden on the flat roof and of course had to have bees. She was the only beekeeper in London.

Dressed in a yellow beekeeping suit with small black boots and of course the necessary headdress which she removed before starting her talk entitled "Making a beeline for the Garden Gate". She entertained

# Cafe for those living with dementia in Pershore



Every month Pershore Civic Centre hosts a social event which can make all the difference to the lives of those living with dementia and their loved ones. Age UK Wyvern runs a dementia café in the centre offering support, activities, a chance to socialise and an all-important cup of tea or coffee to those affected by the disease.

Pershore Dementia Café is free to anyone with a diagnosis of dementia and their carers. It runs from 10.30am to 12.30pm on the third Tuesday of every month at Pershore Civic Centre on Queen Elizabeth Drive. Activities range from music to quizzes or arts and crafts, but people are also welcome simply to sit and chat. It can be a fantastic opportunity to meet people in the same situation. Dementia cafes can only run thanks to the goodwill of volunteers helping create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The café is run by a co-ordinator, but helpers are essential to make attendees feel welcome and to ensure

everything runs smoothly. Volunteers might find themselves greeting new members, bringing round drinks, chatting to attendees or helping with activities. Unfortunately, Pershore's Dementia Café urgently needs more volunteers to maintain its essential service to the community.

Kelly Reeves, Age UK's Dementia Service Manager, made this request, "Volunteers really are at the heart of the service that we provide. Pershore Dementia Café can only thrive with the support of volunteers willing to lend a hand for a couple of hours a month. If anyone in the local area would like to help out, we would love to hear from them. We offer all training needed and you can become part of our wider volunteer network."

If anyone would like to find out more about volunteering with Age UK Wyvern please contact Kelly Reeves on 01905 724294 or email dementia-wellbeingservice@ageukwyvern.org

us for almost an hour with an enthralling description of the life of a European Honey Bee and of the Queen, the workers and the drones (the males) whose only job is to mate with the Queen! The workers carry out all the 'housework', all the collection of pollen and the manufacture of the honeycomb and the honey. We were warned of the arrival of the Asian Hornet which has come from China and which is black and smaller than the European hornet but which is the enemy and needs to be destroyed. We were all mesmerised by

Janelle's fascinating information and many pots of her honey were purchased along with most attractive wax candles which she herself had made.

Our next Club meeting is on Wednesday, the 18th June when Lucy Ellis from Bratton in Wiltshire will give her demonstration entitled "Picture This". We meet at 7.30 p.m. at Bishampton Village Hall and all visitors are welcome. Further details from pershoreflowerclub@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook.

# June Events at community run The Queen Elizabeth Inn

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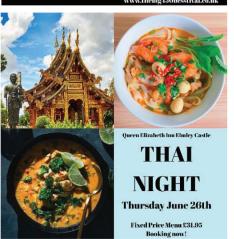
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The Queen Elizabeth Inn

Tim Hickson

# Magazine

# Pershore, Apton, Powick, Kempsey & Whittington Times

# 'Eye-catchers'

This was the term used in the C18th for objects in the landscape - usually man-made - which catch our attention. In Croome Park, Lancelot (Capability) Brown arranged for several to be included in the views he designed, for the 6th Earl, in the second half of the 1700s

However, some are natural. Whenever I come home from a trip abroad or from another part of the UK, I know I am nearly there when I catch sight of the Malverns. At Croome, before George William Coventry became the 6th Earl, a cedar tree had been planted to the west of the Court. When Brown came he deliberately included that tree as something to look at from the Long Gallery. Go to have a look. (As I sometimes say to visitors, the Malverns were also in the right place so he did not have to move them!) Arriving at what is now the National Trust property of Croome, passing through Reception and then emerging from the Shrubbery Walk, we suddenly see that magnificent view across the Severn Valley to the Malverns. Our eyes are caught be the appearance of the Court below and, if on a sunlit morning, to the right, by the sight of Pirton Castle. This apparent piece of an old castle was built in the late 1700s simply as something to catch your attention. Sometimes referred to as 'follies', these were appearing all over the world at that time. As you may have read in an earlier article from Nicola

Hewitt, the 9th Earl bred

several Grand National-

winning racehorses. If he had guests at Croome Court, he would take them to Pirton Castle so they could climb the staircase inside to gain a good view of these horses in training. However, continuing down to the Court, and then looking back, you see the church you passed. The original church was down near the Court but Brown and the Earl must have wanted an unobstructed view of the splendid new building. So, the old church was dismantled and as much as possible of the structure re-used. (Go into the Basement and look at the Boys' School boot room.) The new church was clearly meant to have a striking appearance - to be an eye-catcher. Often, by now, trees have grown to hide what would once have been clearly visible from the Court such as Dunstall Castle.

Curiously, whilst marked on all the maps I have, only the 1930s one gives this building a name. Travelling on the A4104 from Pershore to Upton, once past Woodmancote there is a sharp bend to the left followed immediately by a road on the right to Kinnersley. Take that road and you will reach the Castle. Back at the Court, just to the east, up on the bank is the Rotunda, once visible from the main building. Further away to the west, off the road from Kinnersley towards High Green, on Cubs Moor, is the Panorama Tower, which can be seen from the M5. It was said that this was built so the 6th Earl and his guests could view his estate from its gallery. Every so often this is open to visitors.



Croome Court

Towards the end of his life, the 6th Earl decided he needed a spectacular tower high up above Broadway. 'Capability' Brown and Robert Adam had both died so he invited an up-and-coming architect, James Wyatt, to design and build it. Completed just after the Earl died, this is now Broadway Tower, quite an eye-

catcher! For those of us in the Vale of Evesham, Parson's Folly or Bredon Tower, constructed on the top of Bredon Hill is interesting. It, too, was built in the C18th, for the owner of Kemerton House, John Parsons, M.P., as a summer house for picnics with a view. However, its height, 19ft, also makes the top 1 000ft above sea level, the height of a mountain. Some may remember the Hugh Grant film, The Man who went up a Hill and came down a Mountain in which a Welsh hill had a cairn of stones built on its summit to make the top 1 000ft above sea level. Finally, I have been told that if you go to the top of Pershore's Mount Pleasant, Abberley clock tower can be seen, though whether it would catch your eye I leave for the reader to discover.



Broadway Tower



Parson's Folly







Pirton Castle Rotunda Panorama Tower

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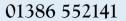
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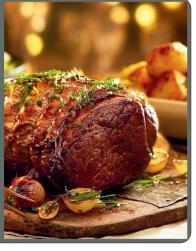


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## Reg Moule

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If you would like Reg to visit your group please email reg.moule@gmail.com for further details and to check availability.

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# **Farming**

A BBC programme was broadcast on the radio recently outlining some of the differences the farming industry has with the policies being pursued by the present Government. One of the points put across was that it did seem to some senior negotiators representing the agricultural industry that many of those with high influence within the Government, even at ministerial level, had only a low understanding of how the farming industry operates. UK based agriculture is hugely important to this country, supplying the majority of the foodstuffs (as well as many other goods) consumed here. But it does have one important difference between itself and nearly all other major UK industries: when the end product is sold the price received is set more by the buyer than the seller, and that can fluctuate widely, depending on trade world-wide. Selling at a price below production cost cannot be sustained for long, and so for many decades using grants and subsidies – the Government of the day has supported the farming industry in order to guarantee that supermarket and other outlet shelves remain well stocked with essential supplies at reasonable prices. The policy of supporting farm production continued when the UK was a member of the EU, where the need to give support guaranteeing supply was

#### Mike Page

recognised also, perhaps in part arising from very direct experience of the effect war would have on the reliability of supply. Things started falling apart after the UK decided to leave the EU and the UK Government of the day commenced developing its own support policies, based mostly on environmental support rather than simple production support. The new policies were radically different from what had gone before and over the few years since first introduced, and then found often to 'not work quite as they should', have been subject to many amendments. The plug was pulled finally on the so called Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) by the Labour Government this spring, with the promise of a reintroduction after suitable scrutiny and necessary changes have been made: Afraid to say 'suitable scrutiny' sounds very much like 'budgetary cutbacks' to me, but we will have to wait and see: I might be wrong, and hope I am. In the meantime, it is good to see sheep and cattle out on grassland and other grazings across the countryside as we move from Spring into Summer and this year round under much drier and more favourable conditions; this time it is more a pleasure to access the fields knowing most jobs can be done in near ideal conditions rather than the rain-soaked battlefields of last year, many not



permitting access for any purpose whatsoever. But even the cattle themselves pose a problem: cattle particularly produce large amounts of Methane which they belch out; and this is not simply bad manners on their part, but arises from their rather complex digestive process of rumination! Methane (which eventually downgrades naturally to CO2) contributes to Global Warming. There is research going on at the moment into raising more cattle from breeds that have been measured as having a lower Methane output, and on supplying them with a diet based on varieties of grasses and other vegetation known, or bred, to produce less Methane during the digestive process. More and more farming seem to be moving towards what we are 'allowed to do' rather than what we might choose to do: a far cry from the world of agriculture I entered after leaving school. To add to our

difficulties even further there are yet to be finalised aspects of the trading agreement reached just recently with the USA. We have been told that further details are yet to be negotiated, but it is difficult to see the US having backed away from its threatened tariff of 25% down to 10% giving any more ground: the farming industry in the UK is heavily dependent on some imported commodities, and much of that (such as soya beans) – a very important source of protein in manufactured animal feeds - is imported from the USA, giving the US Trump Government an ace card to play when pressing for any amendments to trade they want to see. Plenty of troubles on the horizon and I am reminded of a saying I first heard many years ago: "If it wasn't for bad luck, I wouldn't have any luck at all." but perhaps this year the weather will not be part of that and so far so good at least on that score. There is an optimist in me somewhere!

## A sun bed for slow worms

Karen Rose

This month I've been scattering squares of old roofing felt around Stoulton Community Woodlands; it may look like I'm littering but I'm making sun beds for slow worms. These lovely woodlands have open glades and meadow edges which are perfect for these sun loving reptiles.

Late Spring is the time when slow worms get ready to breed and when you're most likely to see them. Despite their name, slowworms are neither worms, nor particularly slow. The slowworm is a leg-less lizard (Anguis fragilis), not a worm or a snake, and like all cold blooded reptiles they rely on the warmth of the sun and of surrounding surfaces to keep warm. That means they are

often to be found underneath old tin sheets or thick vegetation, where they warm themselves before disappearing underground. Old roofing felt provides a perfect sun bed for them to bask on and lie under. You may find them too in your garden since a warm compost heap is a favourite place for them to hide. If you do see them don't worry, they are harmless and unlikely to be a nuisance, preferring to eat your slugs and snails and to hide from trouble. If disturbed they will most likely disappear underground, but they do have an amazing trick if caught. First they will defecate foul smelling poo, hoping to put off the predator, and, if that doesn't work, they simply shed their





Photo by Charlie Bennet Karen Rose A biodiversity officer for Wychavon District Council

# The Walled Gardens at Croome Court – A living legacy in full bloom!



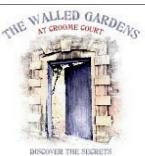
As The Walled Gardens at Croome Court proudly mark twenty-five years of restoration, the celebrations continue with renewed energy and reflection. Following the unveiling of the new water garden by Harriett Baldwin MP in May, the team behind this extraordinary project has been heartened by the surge of public interest and support. Visitors from across the region have flocked to see the transformation first-hand, walking in the footsteps of history brought vividly back to life. Chris and Karen Cronin's ongoing commitment to the restoration of one of Britain's largest Georgian walled gardens has not only revived a lost landscape but also created a space where heritage and horticulture intertwine. Their journey, which began with little more than overgrown wilderness and derelict buildings, has become a nationally recognised example of visionary conservation, executed entirely through private means and unrelenting personal

The gardens are more than just a beautiful place to visit; they tell a story of perseverance and discovery. Every path, wall, and planting bed carry echoes of the past. Once home to exotic fruits, intricate glasshouses, and Capability Brown's sweeping design. Today, thanks to the Cronins' sensitive restoration and the invaluable support of National Trust volunteers, these elements are once again flourishing, offering a unique insight into Georgian horticultural heritage. New additions, including the water garden and the striking Mosaic Garden, reflect the evolution of the project. They represent not just restored beauty, but new creative interpretations that honour the past while embracing the future. As the garden matures, it continues to reveal hidden features and inspire future possibilities, ensuring that the work is never truly finished, but always growing. With regular weekend openings from April to September, the Walled Gardens welcome

visitors to explore, reflect, and enjoy this living legacy. Whether returning after many years or discovering the site for the first time, guests are invited to witness the results of a quarter-century of devotion. Group tours by arrangement offer a more in-depth look at the site's history and horticultural techniques. In a world where so much heritage has been lost, The Walled Gardens at Croome Court stand proudly as a symbol of what passion and perseverance can achieve.



Harriet Baldwin MP at The Walled Gardens at Croome Court



Visit The Walled Gardens at Croome Court, where history and restoration come to life.

Once forgotten and overgrown, these remarkable Georgian gardens have been lovingly restored by Chris and Karen Cronin since 2000.





Nestled within the Croome Court estate, near Pershore, the gardens are open every Saturday and Sunday from April to September, including Bank Holidays. Opening hours are 11 am to 5 pm, with the last entry at 4 pm.

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

All proceeds support the ongoing restoration of this historic landscape. Exclusive group tours outside regular hours are available for parties of 15 or more. For enquiries, email <a href="mailto:info@croomewalledgardens.com">info@croomewalledgardens.com</a>. Discover a hidden gem and explore centuries of history in bloom.

Website: <a href="www.croomewalledgardens.com">www.croomewalledgardens.com</a>
Facebook: The Walled Gardens at Croome Court
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# Inspiration from the RHS Malvern Spring Show

The RHS Malvern Spring Festival is a treasure trove of inspiration for gardeners. With its stunning show gardens, expert advice, and innovative planting ideas, it offers countless ways to transform your own outdoor space. Whether you have a sprawling country garden or a compact urban retreat, the principles showcased at Malvern can be adapted to suit your needs. *Bringing Show Garden Ideas Home* 

One of the most exciting aspects of the festival is the Show Gardens, where designers push the boundaries of creativity and sustainability. While these gardens are often grand in scale, their core ideas can be translated into smaller, more personal spaces. Here's how you can incorporate some of the standout themes from Malvern into your own garden: Layered Planting for Year-Round Interest

Many of the gardens at Malvern feature tiered planting, combining trees, shrubs, perennials and ground cover to create depth and texture.

To achieve this in your own garden, start with structural plants like small trees or shrubs for seasonal colour.

Incorporate perennials and ground cover to fill gaps and provide continuous interest. Plants such as Geums and Heuchera make a lovely combination.

Sustainable Gardening Practices Sustainability is a key theme at Malvern and all RHS shows, with many gardens showcasing eco-friendly techniques. You can adopt these practices by:

- Using reclaimed materials for pathways and seating.
- Installing a rain garden to manage water runoff.
- Choosing native plants that support local wildlife and require less maintenance.

Red Campion is a wildflower and was used extensively throughout the show. *Creating a Tranquil Retreat* 

Several gardens at Malvern focus on well-being and relaxation, incorporating elements that encourage mindfulness and connection with nature.

To bring this into your own space: Introduce seating areas surrounded by calming plants like Lavender for sunny gardens and ferns for shady spaces. Use water features to add soothing sounds and



designate a quiet corner for reading, meditation, or simply enjoying the outdoors. *Adapting Malvern's Themes to Different Garden Sizes*Not everyone has the luxury of a large garden, but the ideas from Malvern can be scaled to fit any space.

Small Gardens & Courtyards

If you have a compact gard

- If you have a compact garden, focus on vertical planting and multi-functional spaces.
- Use climbing plants like clematis and wisteria to add flowers and greenery without taking up ground space.
- Opt for raised beds to maximize planting areas.
- Incorporate foldable furniture to create flexible seating options. *Urban Gardens & Balconies*Even the smallest outdoor spaces can benefit from Malverninspired ideas:
- Grow herbs and vegetables in containers for a practical and beautiful display.





Nikki Hollier
nikki@borderinabox.com
@borderinabox
www.borderinabox.com

- Use mirrors to create the illusion of depth. However, be careful where they are placed as they can confuse birds who may fly into the mirror and damage it and hurt themselves too.
- Choose pollinator-friendly plants to support biodiversity in city environments. Create 'green roofs' and use them on pergolas and sheds.



# June gardening tips Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester

#### Early June

Mulches help to conserve water but the soil must be moist before they are applied. Sow quick growing hardy annuals e.g. clarkia, Virginia stocks for late colour in dull spots. When watering concentrate on climbers on walls, container and basket plants, newly planted items, dahlias, sweet peas, leafy veg. crops, celery and fruit bushes.

Dig up bare centred alpine plants and divide them, re-planting the young pieces from around the edge. If you use nematodes to control vine weevil grubs buy them online or mail order. They are also available at some garden centres through the Agralan company. June is one of the worst months for pest and disease attacks, so check plants regularly. If using a trigger spray product remember to shake it first and there are lots of safer "organic" treatments available now.

#### Mid June

Make sure plants in tubs and baskets are fed regularly, as well as watered. Many climbing plants can be increased by layering at this time of year.

Mow the lawn to leave the grass 2.5cm (1in) tall. Makes grass more drought resistant. Treat established lawns with a lawn weed killer but not if there is a drought.

Dead head rhododendrons after flowering to encourage new growth. If you need more fish in your pond this is an ideal time to introduce them but goldfish can be detrimental in a wildlife pond.

When picking strawberries always remove any rotting fruit, otherwise problems increase.

Watch out for cabbage white butterflies around your brassica plants. If you do not like to use chemical sprays, try Grazers G3 organic caterpillar repellent. They also make good repellents for slugs and lily beetles too.

Sow radicchio now for winter salads. Choose a good coloured variety like pallo rossa.

Sow salad crops regularly, in small amounts, sowing the second

row as the first emerges. Tomatoes can be planted outdoors. Select a sheltered site and support the plants. Take cuttings from dianthus (pinks). They root easily nowin a shady spot.

Lettuce will not germinate in hot weather. Sowing in moist drills in late evening helps.

Shade the greenhouse, ventilate it well and spray water over the floor to raise humidity.

Take softwood cuttings from shrubs. Remove 7.5 cm (3in) of shoot tips. Root in pots of gritty compost, placed in polythene bags, in a shady spot.

#### Late June

Lift and divide flag iris after flowering. Re-plant young growths, keeping rhizomes above soil level.

Prune back side shoots on cytissus (broom) after flowering to keep plants neat.
Deadhead roses regularly to prolong flowering.
Remove any "suckers" as soon as they appear.



Watch out for algae / blanketweed in pools. The introduction of a product based on barley straw can provide an organic control measure. Feed tomato plants regularly from when first fruits begin to form, using tomato food.

Take out one third of the older branches on deciduous shrubs, like Philadelphus, Weigela and Deutzia after flowering.
Put cymbidium orchids outside in a sheltered, shady spot until late autumn. Keep them well watered and fed over this period.
If pollen beetles infest your cut

If pollen beetles infest your cut sweet peas, put them in water in a shed for a while. The beetles will fly into the window attracted by the light.

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# Are Solar panels still a worthwhile investment?



Maybe that was a pertinent question fourteen years ago, when 2020SolarPV started supplying and fitting systems to local businesses and homes throughout the midlands, but time and experience has proved that if you are looking for a way of saving on your bills, generating your own electricity and reducing your carbon footprint, solar is still a worthwhile investment.

Despite the initial costs, a typical three-bedroom house with a 4kW solar panel system can save you between £400 to £800 annually on electricity bills. Solar panels help reduce your impact on the environment, and under the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) scheme, households in Great Britain get paid for excess solar energy they export back to the grid, while it's not as generous as the previous feed-in tariff scheme, it can still work out well for most homeowners. Of course other developments in recent years has increased

demand for solar, for example, heat pumps, electric vehicle charging, batteries to time-shift excess energy, as well as smarter technology have all helped improve the pay-back on investment by harvesting more energy and increase independence from the grid. This coupled with spiralling energy costs and more recent price drops for owning solar has created a 'perfect storm' for consumers and business owners.

Technology has come a long way in the last 14 years of course, and whilst there are many cheap and cheerful options available, we pride ourselves on using the safest and most up to date products and systems available, you can never take too much care when you are dealing with peoples homes, hopefully the care and attention we deliver to our customers is backed up by the highly favourable reviews we receive via Which Trusted Trader.





# Can plants be over pollinated?

Martyn Cracknell

Pollination is the transfer of pollen grains from the anther of a flower to the moist surface of the stigma of the same flower or a different flower of the same species. Honey bees are of particular importance for pollination of fruit trees and Spring flowering plants, because there are few other adult insects around at that time. However they are fair weather creatures and only work if the temperature is above about 10 °C, and it is neither windy nor rainy. This year the extended period of dry warm days and frost-free nights has resulted in extremely good conditions for pollination. Each pollen grain deposited on a receptive stigma, grows a slender tube which delivers a male nucleus to a female egg cell and if they fuse, they will form a seed. Meanwhile a plant hormone called Auxin is secreted by the pollen and this causes many changes in the flower. Scent and nectar production cease, the petals may change colour and then wither and the wall of the ovary in which the seeds are growing will start to swell to form a fruit.

The supply of auxin is soon exhausted and if there are no seeds developing, the small fruitlets will drop off. In apples this generally occurs about mid June and is colloquially known as the' June drop.'

However if embryonic seeds are developing they will produce additional auxin and the fruitlet will remain and grow. An apple has five chambers in its ovary each with two seeds and to produce a uniform round fruit there must be one or two seeds in each chamber. If a chamber has no seed in it, the ovary wall adjacent to it will not grow, resulting in a lop-sided fruit. Good pollination therefore affects both the quantity and the quality of fruit, but can you have too much of a good thing? If a tree has an excessive fruit set it is likely that none of the fruit will grow to full size, resulting in a very large crop of very small fruit. The problem extends into the following year as the auxin from all the developing fruitlets will suppress flower bud formation for the next year, so the tree will only have modest blossom and a few fruits.



Excess fruitlets should be rubbed out, leaving just one or two fruitlets per cluster

This is biennial bearing. To achieve a good crop of quality fruit every year, good pollination is required, followed by a June drop, and then manual fruit thinning to reduce the number of fruitlets.. It may be rather tedious and impossible for large trees, but in a garden context it is well worthwhile. Annual pruning also helps to ensure a consistent harvest, year on year. People sometimes wonder if the flavour of fruit is influenced by the source of the pollen brought

to the tree by bees. Would crab apple pollen make fruit sour? The part eaten, i.e. the flesh of the apple, is entirely derived from the ovary wall which is exclusively from the tree which bears the fruit, so it will always be true to type. However each seed in the fruit has genes from both pollen and the parent tree. Every apple pip is therefore a new variety, but it would take about six years to grow it to fruiting size to see if it is any good.

# Village Life

It's May in our village with great weather unless you're a gardener or farmer and hankering after a spell of rain. There's of course every chance that by the time this is printed we'll be regretting those rain dances and wishing for a bit more sunshine – especially as we all know that Wimbledon weeks normally bring plenty of the wet stuff!

The main May event in our village has been a get together to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Commemorating the heroism of the generation who paved the way for our current way of life. In common with most communities we no longer have residents who have direct experience of serving during the war years. However, many of us have memories, either of the impact of the war on our early lives or passed-on from our parents or other family. In many cases very poignant, and in our case, these were shared with a book of memories and loaned artefacts giving an insight into the suffering and experiences, made available for all to see and absorb. Our event started with a replay

of Winston Churchill's radio broadcast announcing the end of the war in Europe. It was a surprisingly long speech (by todays 'sound-bite' standard) and the assembled crowd listened in silence while reflecting on the impact it must have had 80 years ago on the 8th May. Not a pin was heard to drop! We continued the 1945 theme with sing-along versions of Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again' (or 'Whale Meat Again' as my parents would have insisted) followed by a spirited 'Pack Up Your Troubles'. Not sure we did either full justice, but more than a mere nod to 1945, especially as many of us had donned period dress for the occasion. The Land Girls and flight crew made a spectacular appearance! Party bags of period sweets (rationing was lifted for the day!) and fish and chips served from cones made from 1940's newspaper (well, almost - this is the 2020's after all!) provided welcome refreshment. The day continued with period games and dance lessons, before fast-forwarding to the 1980's and beyond for a touch of Karaoke. Not surprisingly

it's very difficult to source suitable tracks for 1940's classics without words so instead we skipped forward. Probably just as well as the standard of singing would likely have horrified any veterans who were listening! Best of all, the beer was the equivalent of sixpence a pint – oh no, that was an illusion brought on by too much sun but still fantastic value as always and among the best bitters in the land! I know for sure my Mum and Dad would have approved and would have wanted to help us mark the occasion in style.

John Driscoll

A wonderful day and a great way for our community to commemorate the end of World War Two. A day with many conversations and shared memories that hit upon a good mix of celebration and reflection, honouring our heroic and stoic ancestors without who we would not be enjoying the many freedoms we now take for granted. What a generation! Now, we hopefully have a great summer ahead of us and is too much to ask for a few good overnight showers leaving us to enjoy sunny days? Fingers crossed, chin-chin as my Mum would have said!





Soloist Chris Goodman

Conductor Dan Watson **Leader Graham Longfils** 

# SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025 2.30pm Pershore Abbey

WR101BL

Ethel Smyth - Overture: The Wreckers

Vaughan Williams - English Folk Song Suite

Coleridge-Taylor - Petite Suite de Concert

**Finzi - Five Bagatelles for Clarinet and Strings** 

Coates - The Three Elizabeths, Suite for Orchestra

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# INSIDE A



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## Book Review

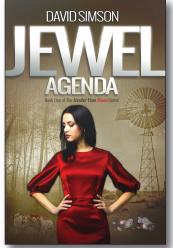
Richard Catford

Jewel Agenda by David Simson

Reviewed by Richard Catford Local author David Simson (Drakes Broughton) has written and published a 400-page fiction of a double murder in a remote, forested part of Northern France. The murder scene, with one survivor is discovered by a lone British motor cyclist. The victims and survivor are also British, the perpetrators Australian and the interplay between French, British and Australian investigators (including embassy officials) is well researched and convincing. Indeed, the whole plot, and it is a complex one, is meticulously and methodically detailed. Back-stories of the main characters, their personal journey to the heinous crime are a strong feature of this novel. Victims, survivors, criminals and investigating officers are all included in these explanations, including descriptions of the locations involved in the plot. If you like authenticity and detail this is the book for you. David Simson's style, the descriptions and back-stories, often resonates with Fredrick Forsyth and Dan Brown's work. The real strength of this novel is not only in the detailed descriptions of the locations

but in the relationships between

the characters involved. There



is rivalry and suspicion within both criminal and investigation teams. This story has the potential to make a very good basis for a serial TV Drama. However, if you can't wait for such a TV drama to emerge but you relish the detail of a complex chase, David's book would provide solace whilst on your sunbed this summer, or perhaps a distraction whilst travelling to distant places. The conclusion of this tale is not for this review to deliver but is enough to say further publications in the future will extend the suspense.

David Simson's website: www.jewelbooks.co.uk and Jewel Agenda on Facebook will provide more details. Email:

davidsimson@rocketmail.com

"You are only young once, but you can be immature for a lifetime"

John P. Grier



## Ailsa's Kitchen Ailsa Craddock

June heralds the Summer Solstice on the 21st and is often referred to as the first day of summer, and yet celebrations across the Northern Hemisphere at this time of year carry the name Midsummer, which is pretty confusing. Midsummer and the summer solstice are used interchangeably, but they refer to different things.

The solstice is the beginning of the astronomical summer that has been celebrated since ancient times as the longest day of the year, whereas Midsummer now refers to numerous celebrations that are held over the solstice period, between June 19th and June 24th, with both pagan and Christian origins. Midsummer, as in the religious observances traditional in many countries, occurs close to the June or Summer Solstice. With celebrations originating in ancient times as a festival for the summer solstice, this could be where the name comes from. Bonfires were lit up to ward off evil spirits as the Sun turned southward. If you only had the Sun to measure time and dictate your hours of light, the longest day would feel like a mid-point before you make the descent back into winter. Follow the next few recipes and you will have the perfect Summer Solstice Dinner. Fingers crossed for the sunshine and moonshine!

#### Salmon Rolls with Asparagus and Butter Sauce

Asparagus spears 4 thin salmon fillets Juice of a lemon 2 small shallots, finely chopped 6 peppercorns 120 ml white wine 4 tablespoons double cream 200g butter, cut into small cubes fresh parsley

Steam the asparagus for 6 - 8 minutes till tender, refresh under cold running water. Lay on top of the salmon fillet and roll up. Place on a rack over a pan of boiling water, sprinkle with lemon juice, cover and steam for 3 - 4 minutes till tender.

Sauce:

Put the shallot, peppercorns and wine into a small saucepan and heat gently until the wine is reduced to a tablespoonful. Strain and return to the pan. Add the cream and bring to the boil then lower the heat. Add the butter to the sauce in small pieces, whisking all the time. DO NOT ALLOW THE SAUCE

TO BOIL AS IT WILL SEPARATE! Season to taste, add a little parsley and serve with the salmon roll. some new potatoes, Tenderstem broccoli and/or spinach. Anything with basil immediately

transports me to summer and the Mediterranean - if I could bottle its' smell, I would - sun, warmth and taste in one little green plant! Chicken, Pepper & Basil Traybake

2 tbsp olive oil 4 chicken thigh cutlets, bone in Salt and pepper, to season 2 red onions, peeled and cut into wedges

3 - 4 cloves garlic, peeled and lightly crushed Red pepper, cut into thick slices Yellow pepper, cut into thick slices 3 - 6 anchovies, chopped (optional) 200ml cup chicken stock

A pinch of sugar Loosely packed basil leaves, torn A splash of balsamic vinegar

Heat your oven to 200C. Take a large baking dish or frying pan that can be placed on a stovetop as well as into the



oven and heat over a high heat. Add the olive oil, season the chicken thigh with salt and pepper and fry, skin side down, until golden brown. Turn the chicken and add the onions, garlic and peppers around the chicken. Scatter with the anchovies (if using) and pour over the stock. Season very well with salt, pepper and a good pinch of sugar and transfer to the oven for 30 to 35 minutes, until the chicken is just cooked though. Scatter with the torn basil leaves and serve immediately, with a splash of balsamic vinegar. A side salad and some little Jersey potatoes would be perfect alongside. And now for the first strawberries what else stands for summer? Strawberry & Mascarpone Gelato Strawberry and mascarpone is a classic mix and this is also one of the easiest ice cream recipes you could possibly make. 300g strawberries,

hulled and chopped 2 tbsp elderflower cordial

150g golden caster sugar

500g mascarpone 100g white chocolate, roughly chopped 200g strawberries, hulled and quartered 1 tbsp elderflower cordial 2 tbsp golden caster sugar Put the chopped strawberries in a bowl. Add the cordial and sprinkle over the sugar. Set aside to macerate for up to 1 hour. Beat the mascarpone and white chocolate together, then fold through the strawberry mixture. Put in a cling film-lined, straightsided freezer-proof box (about 1 litre) and freeze overnight. For the soft strawberries, put the berries and cordial in a bowl, then sprinkle with sugar. Set aside for 15 minutes. Slice the ice cream and spoon over the strawberries to serve. Meteorologically, we're nearly a month into summer. Astronomically, the summer has only just begun.

But, of course, it won't really feel like summer in Britain until we start complaining it's too hot!

# Philharmonic Orchestra

On Saturday 14th June at 2.30, the Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra will present a feast of popular Summer Music by British composers, in Pershore Abbey. Dan Watson conducts the WPO in a programme including Vaughan Williams' Folk Song Suite, Coates' Three Elizabeths Suite and is joined by Chris Goodman for a performance of Finzi's Five Bagatelles for clarinet and strings.

The programme also includes Ethel Smyth's Overture the Wreckers and Coleridge-Taylor's Petit Suite de Concert. Both these lesser known works

are delightful and deserve more frequent performance. Chris Goodman studied at the Royal College of Music, London where he won several prizes and was selected to perform as part of the Rising Stars series at Cadogan Hall and at Castleton Festival USA under the baton of late conductor Lorin Maazel. He has performed all the major clarinet concerto repertoire with orchestras in the UK, China and USA. Chris maintains a busy freelance orchestral career and has played with many British orchestras including London Symphony Orchestra,

Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic & Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestras, Royal Northern Sinfonia, English National Opera, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Manchester Camerata.

Come and join at Pershore Abbey!

Tickets £15 (Under 16s free) available from Tourist Offices Worcester/Pershore\*/Malvern (\*cash only) or worcesterphilharmonicorchestra. ticketsource.co.uk



# Romy's Uni Life

#### Summer is Coming

My second year at university has come to an end and my word was it eventful! My exams have finally finished, and I now have about a month to stay here in Liverpool before returning home for the summer holiday. I was extremely exhausted after my exams because they were back to back 24-hour exams, meaning that I didn't have a lot of time inbetween to catch up on energy. I'm grateful that my literature module exam was before my language module exam because I needed more brain power to analyse Shakespeare. Even writing this article may not make total sense because my brain is still recovering. With my exams, I really enjoyed making the notes and mind mapping my ideas however when it comes to writing the exam, my brain seems to struggle with coming up with the right wording.

There is a lot that I need to do in the next couple of weeks. I am trying to organise my life more and get in better shape both physically and mentally. As much as I have looked into

possible career paths for me, I haven't found anything yet that I am set on. This means that I need to keep looking and just try out different things. Work experience is a great way to try out potential professions and that is what I intend to do. Taking a break from studies will be great to clear my mind and reduce my stress levels. Despite this, I do not want to take too big of a break from work because I will most likely forget how to do certain things and then this will inevitably

lead to a more complicated start

to third year. I am excited to

have a relax and have fun over summer because it is probably the last time I can do so before I enter the adult world. There will be no more student summer holidays, but only finding a job to explore and live on. I have a university trip coming up that I am extremely excited for. We are going to the Lake District for a few days to explore the history of literature. I have told quite a few people and they have all said to try the

gingerbread there because it is

one of the best places to get it.

This I intend to do and will rate

it in my next article.

Romy Kemp Liverpool University



# CANCER RESEARCH

## Writings & Paintings of Susan Catford

The book contains every article, poem and painting, that Susan produced for the Pershore Times. The articles are of a very high quality, each one is different and a joy to read. Produced in a limited edition of 250 copies

#### All proceeds donated to Cancer Research UK Ltd

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## 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

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

Beat It

Trainers: on. Headphones: on. Let's go! There's only so much time I can spend revising in my room. Too many notes and quotes! My brain has turned to mushy peas. Time for a reboot, time for a run!

Golden hour glows over Oxford. My route takes me along Walton Road, past the bakeries and coffee shops of Little Clarendon Street, and up Woodstock Road, where a huge queue of bow ties and high heels eagerly anticipates the Somerville College ball. Late spring has transformed Banbury Road into a great green tunnel of birdsong and bright flowers.

Late spring also heralds exam season. The change of mood around town is palpable. The subject of exams creeps and pokes its way into almost every conversation. Students in black gowns billow on bicycles through the streets.

Chalkboards outside the King's Arms now read: 'Good luck to students writing exams!' In my case, I'll be typing them. Mine is the second year of English students to sit a typed exam. Gone are the days of my teachers whipping out their red

pens, circling entire paragraphs of my inky, illegible handwriting and putting a "?" next to them. The examiners will be able to read everything perfectly now. With any luck, they'll like what they see. As I run, my heart hammers. My legs throb. I gasp and try not to inhale a falling catkin. But a breeze is streaming over my face and my brain doesn't feel quite so mushy anymore. The bold, zinging synthesiser of Michael Jackson's 'Beat It' rings through my headphones and spurs me onwards. In this very funny period of term time, a period of information-overload, of headaches and stomach-jitters, it's important to get outside and keep moving. This is it, the final countdown, the big push. Three years, nine terms, two thousand coffees, and one grey hair later, I've reached the end of my course. There's just one more hurdle – well, technically, there are four - left to leap over. We can beat them, fellow reader. Haven't we been through thick and thin together? Besides, it'll all be over in a blink of an -

I open my eyes. I'm sitting on the floor of the Exam Schools marquee. An ocean of English students stirs and rises around me. Some are pacing, reciting quotes to themselves as though they're practicing incantations. Others stand in circles and talk with their arms crossed. Nor are we allowed to sit these exams in our shorts and t-shirts. Nothing says feeling cool and comfortable on a baking, May afternoon like wearing a suit and a commoner's gown. The gown's extra flappy bits (not their official name) do add extra flourish to my walk, though. Leaning forward, I catch the pungent whiff of the carnation in my breast pocket. It's traditional for students to wear a carnation on their lapel when they sit exams. Today's is white. I'll wear a pink one for the next two exams, then a red one for the last hurrah. Apparently, the colour change is supposed to symbolise the blood being drained out of us as we battle on, but I'm not

sure if that's true. The conversations lull as we

are summoned into the Exam Schools. I step beneath the sandstone archway and venture down a pillared corridor with a vaulted ceiling, black and white tiles, and busts of stern-faced men wearing frilly wigs. My insides jitter. The days of sitting mock exams in the school sports hall feel like a



lifetime ago. I find my seat no. 95 – at the end of a rightangled hall called the North School. Although it's a typed exam, we can't use our own laptops; the uni has provided everyone with a mac book ('jammy' doesn't even begin to describe it), so I log in and wait with my mouse hovering over the 'Start Test' button. 14:27, 14:28, 14:29 ... I de-robe out of my gown and jacket to free up my arms, preparing to thunder away at the keys. We can do this. I know we can.

.. 14:30. "You may begin." C'mon, fellow reader. Let's beat it.

# Evie's Teenage Focus Evie Aubin Oxford Brookes University

I am both filled with sorrow and overjoyed to tell you all that I have officially finished my first year at university. After I handed in my final assignment of the year, I had three weeks at university before I went home. And I spent that time surrounded by my friends doing everything we hadn't had a chance to do yet. As well as this, one of my friends had been able to bring her car up for the few final weeks which allowed us to find some amazing spaces which we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. I think my favourite would be the lake. It's a lovely little space called Hinksey lake, and whilst it does have an outdoor swimming pool right next to it, we found it much more enjoyable to sit in the pontoon on the lake. The space itself is absolutely beautiful, it sits in the middle of a park and as mentioned before it does

have an outdoor swimming pool close by as well. The park has a few other smaller lakes but none of them you are able to swim in. Once we got to the lake, we found a few groups of people already on the pontoon; it was quite full, but nonetheless we found some space, put down our blanket and enjoyed a day in the sun. In addition to the other people there, there was also the cutest family of ducks that kept on swimming around us, and one of the baby ducklings even tried to nibble at my foot whilst it was in the water! I think some of my favourite memories though will come from the last two days that I was at university. Two days before I left, we spent the day shopping, and once we got back, we all made some funny PowerPoints that we showed each other that night. I did mine on what I thought everyone be if they

were a Taylor Swift album (surprising to nobody I'm sure), Gen made a PowerPoint on what dinosaur we would all be, Grace made one on all the male celebrities that she hates and why, and Liv made one on what type of star wars character we would be. All in all it was very good and absolutely hilarious, especially once we had a couple of drinks. On my last day we finally got around to punting, and I will tell you now, it's a lot harder than it looks. In the morning we went to the botanical gardens and finished by getting a coffee by the river and watching other people punting. Some made it look so easy, and others were struggling; at one point we even watched someone get stuck in a tree! We laughed at the time, and then a couple of hours later we were stuck in the exact same tree. Karma I suppose. But by some miracle



we managed to get the boat back to the people we hired it from, all of us somewhat dry and unscathed. After that we went out for dinner at the Alchemist, it was amazing and I would definitely recommend going if you are ever in Oxford. We spent the rest of the night hanging out in the kitchen, we had a few tears before we went to bed; and even more when I left the next day. But in the end, I got home, officially surviving my first year at university and cannot wait for the next; and so, until next time, toodles!

# Recoup, Regroup, Recover | Out of Alignment?

#### Angela Johns

I'm sitting in the garden on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon. My hands and forearms are covered in scratches and my nails are grubby and ruined. Yes, I've been gardening. It's a hazardous job. I have had a wonderful weekend of reading books with the rising sun, bike rides, socialising and a beer at the allotment with the setting sun - that perfect mixture of relaxing and activity, solitude and mingling. As far as I know, all my loved ones are safe and I can just sit in the moment. And I am remembering a touching moment from yesterday. On moving a plant pot in my conservatory I found a bumblebee that seemed barely alive, all tucked in on itself and covered in spiderweb. From my phone case I pulled a loyalty card from Coffee Culture (in Malvern, thoroughly recommend) and scooped her up. I deposited her in an outside plant pot and fetched a teaspoon of sugared water and held it next to her. She immediately lifted herself forward and her tiny tongue dipped into the mixture as she drank and drank and drank. After a pause she used her two front legs to scrape away at the web but it was a struggle. I used a dried blade of grass to help and, after we both rested a moment, she drank some more. We scraped some more, rested some more and finally she was revived and free enough to fly off. Not far mind. She soon touched down on the clover in the lawn near me then a few seconds later took off again, did a turn and flew right at me. In and out she darted around my face then all of a sudden, she was away up high and disappeared. It was like she had said, 'Thank



reclaiming her freedom. It was a heart-warming moment. Like the bee, we all have times when we just need a serendipitous break, a helping hand, even just a moment that stands between us and what's happening all around us. A space when we can coast for a bit, recoup, regroup, recover. If we don't listen to our minds or our spirit then our bodies will tell us when we need it. We might have an ache or our skin flares up, and if we still don't listen, we may even get knocked sideways with the lurgy. I have had cause just lately to be reminded to look out for those messages, in fact I wrote a list of all possible messages my spirit and body might give me just so I can be mindful. And, of course, a list of all my day to day remedies which was wonderfully much longer. If I can't rest completely then I need something to pull out of the metaphorical bag to give me a helping hand until I can. I would love to hear what is in your bag.

Angela is a qualified Emotional Therapeutic Counsellor registered with the FETC/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

#### Emily Papirnik

Let nature bring you back!

There are days I wake up and just feel... off. Maybe you know the feeling too - unsettled, slightly disconnected, as if your rhythm has slipped just half a beat behind the world. You're not quite sure what's wrong, but you know something's out of alignment. When I feel that way, I know it's time to walk. To step outside and let nature take over. I know and understand that we're not designed to operate in constant productivity, noise, and stimulation. Our nervous systems, our emotions and our energy are deeply attuned to the natural world. When we lose that connection, everything can start to feel misaligned.

Nature Is My Healer Whenever I feel out of sorts, I return to nature. I walk through the trees, breathe in the quiet wisdom of the earth, and let myself be reminded of something deeper—something steadier. The natural world doesn't force anything. It trusts its timing, its seasons, its cycles.

I am learning to do the same. In nature, I don't have to fix anything. I just have to 'be', and somehow, through the birdsong, the wind, the scent of the blossom, my energy begins to soften. I don't rush. I don't push. I walk, I pause, I feel. And in that space, my rhythm returns.

The App: Me helping me Part of my work-and something I've poured my heart into-is developing an



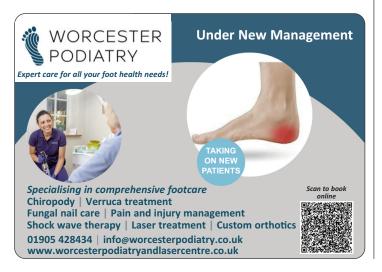
app that supports this reconnection. In the app, I use energy practices that are inspired by and woven into the rhythms of nature. These aren't just meditations; they're invitations to realign with the natural world's intelligence. Practices you can do sitting by a window, under a tree, or even just visualising the earth beneath your feet. These simple but powerful techniques are designed to calm your nervous system, ground your energy, and bring you back into harmony—with yourself, and with life.

Perfect Timing

Nature reminds me every day: there is no rush. There is only now. Leaves fall when they're ready. Flowers bloom in their own time. You are no different. If you're feeling out of rhythm, know this-there's nothing wrong with you. You're simply being invited back to your own natural state of balance. So take a breath. Step outside. Feel your feet on the ground. Let the wind clear your thoughts. Let the sky open you

You don't need to do it all. You just need to return.

And nature will meet you there.





# Healthy Heart Tip: How to eat a healthy balanced diet



Is there a secret formula for maintaining a balanced diet? With the constant influx of conflicting advice and diets, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the information.

What is a balanced diet? We often hear the terms "balance" and "moderation", yet many of us struggle to find that sweet spot. A healthy balanced diet is one that includes a variety of nutrient-rich foods in the right proportions, providing the body with essential macronutrients such as carbohydrates, proteins, fats and micronutrients like vitamins and minerals to support overall health, energy, and wellbeing. It emphasises moderation, variety and portion control to maintain long-term

health and prevent disease. What are macro and micronutrients?

When it comes to eating healthy, understanding the role of nutrients in our diet can help us make informed choices about what we put on our plates.

There are different categories of macronutrients. Macronutrients include carbohydrates, proteins, and fats and are the building blocks of our diet. They provide us with the energy to fuel our daily activities, support growth, and keep our bodies functioning properly.

Carbohydrates are the main source of energy for your body and are most associated with foods like pasta, rice, potatoes, bread, and cereal. But they are

also found in other foods such as fruits and vegetables, sugarsweetened foods and drinks such as cookies and fizzy drinks. There are two types of carbohydrates – simple and complex. Simple carbohydrates generally include refined. 'white' food like white bread, pasta and rice; these break down quickly into energy. Complex carbohydrates should make up the bulk of your intake as they release energy more slowly and these include wholegrains like brown rice and wholewheat bread, beans, lentils and vegetables. Fats are the body's second source of energy, and these are used up when we have depleted our carbohydrate stores or when we are consuming a very low-carbohydrate diet. Consuming fat is essential, without fats you wouldn't be able to absorb vitamins A, D, E and K, which are fat soluble and can only be digested when there is fat present. Fats also provide essential fatty acids that the body can't make itself; these help your body to regulate the immune and central nervous systems as well as help with skin health, brain function and heart health. Choose hearthealthy fat sources such as those coming from nuts, seeds, oily

fish, avocados and olive oil. Protein is the body's last resort for energy, used when carbohydrate and fat stores are depleted. It helps to repair and rebuild muscle after exercise, it also supports overall health. Protein is essential for the growth and maintenance of tissues, keeping bones, muscles, tendons, ligaments, and skin strong and healthy. It supports the immune system by forming antibodies to fight infections and helps keep you feeling fuller for longer. Healthy, high-protein foods include lean meats, fish, eggs and reduced-fat dairy. We can also obtain protein from plant-based sources like chickpeas, lentils, beans, nuts, seeds and tofu. It's a good idea to include both animal and plant-based options." Micronutrients include vitamins and minerals and are needed in smaller amounts than macronutrients, but they are just as important for maintaining overall health, supporting immune function, bone health, energy production, cognitive health and much more. The key to ensuring we consume enough micronutrients is to eat a variety of foods.

Heart Research UK

# What are your children doing online?

The School holidays just around the corner and children will have more spare time on their hands.

What's almost certain is that during the school holidays, they'll be going online much more than in term time ... for entertainment, keeping in contact and chatting with their mates, gaming, and the multitude of other things kids use the Internet for.

With all the additional time spent doing more online, how can you be sure that the young people in your family are safe from the issues they can encounter every day? The Internet lets children

connect with friends and learn new things. But there are also dangers to going online, and children can be particularly vulnerable.

Talking to your children is one of the best ways to keep them safe online. By understanding the risks and keeping yourself

up to date on the latest technology, websites and social networks you can help your child enjoy the Internet safely and securely.

To help protect your children online:

- Keep computers, phones and games consoles in family rooms where you can monitor activity
- Install parental control software or activate parental controls through your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to prevent access to inappropriate content
- 'friend' or 'follow' your child on social networks, so you can see how they're using
- Check age restrictions for websites or social networks to make sure your children are allowed to join
- Advise your child not to post personal information, or any images they wouldn't want everyone to see.

- Check their social media accounts' privacy settings, so their posts are only seen by friends and their location isn't tracked
- Avoid using webcams, unless talking to close friends or family, and consider covering it when not in use
- Monitor how your children use the Internet and watch for any secretive behaviour
- Encourage your child to be open about what they do online, and who they're talking
- Insist you go with them if they wish to meet online friends face to face
- Ensure the games your children play online are age appropriate

Source: Metropolitan Police

Please feel free to share these messages with any vulnerable friends, relatives or neighbours.



If you've fallen for a scam, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via actionfraud.police.uk

Scam Text messages can be forwarded to 7726 to help phone providers take early action and block numbers that generate spam on their networks.

Scam mobile calls can also be forwarded to 7726, followed by the word "CALL", then the scam phone number

Forward fake emails received report@phishing.gov.uk

For further information visit: www.actionfraud.police.uk

www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk

West Mercia Police

## Imperial War Museum's VE Day 80th Anniversary 1000 piece jigsaw



This puzzle honours the incredible day of victory, hope and freedom - marking the end of six long years of war.

Featuring a unique montage of troops, iconic headlines, and scenes of celebration, it's a heartfelt tribute to those who fought for our freedom and the joyous moments that followed.

# Available from: Hughes & Company

Design House, 8 Church Street Pershore WR10 1DT Tel: 01386 803803 Email: print@hughes.company

# Introducing ... "Your story-your song"

In a world where memories are fleeting and moments rush by, there's something timeless about a song. Music captures emotion in ways few things can-and now, it can capture your story, in your own song.

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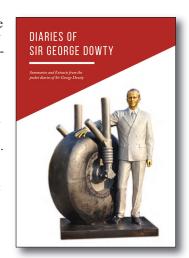




# Sir George Dowty book release invitation

The initial response to the release of the Sir George Dowty Diary book has been most enthusiastic .both here and overseas. It is a most fitting accompaniment to his statue erected a year ago. Few 20th century industrialists have received such international recognition - it reflects the magnitude of his achievements. The formal release of the book is to take place on the 9th June at the Graeme Hick Pavilion at the Worcestershire County Cricket Club . Rhodesian born Graeme played his entire domestic career of over twenty years exclusively for Worcestershire.

Worcestershire.
The event commences at 10am in the presence of many distinguished guests and is to be followed by refreshments.
The diaries from 1919 to 1975 will be on display including the fully restored 1953 edition.
The setting is most appropriate given that Sir George Dowty was Worcestershire born, educated and apprenticed in



Worcester and President of the Worcestershire County Cricket Club during their championship winning sides of 1964 and 1965. The Dowty Group acquired Worcester based mining engineers Meco in the late 1960s.

To reserve a place at this iconic occasion email: willmundy331@icloud.com

# What is happening to PIID's Carol Draper FCCA

A P11D is the document given to employees at the end of the tax year that details the taxable value of employment benefits they have received from their employers during the year. Common benefits are company vehicles, health insurance, gym membership and low interest loans but there is a vast array of other things which HMRC class as taxable benefits. It is probably fair to say that many employees who receive P11Ds are confused by the forms themselves, the figures that are included on those forms and the implications they can have for tax. At the same time employers can also find the job of preparing P11Ds onerous.

Benefits reported on P11Ds will always generate a tax liability that HMRC will collect by amending an individual's tax code. This means tax is collected in arrears as a benefit for the 24-25 tax year, will not be reported on a P11D until July 2025 and the tax code may only be amended for the 26-27 tax year.

In an attempt to simplify the system and to collect tax in real time, it has been mandated that all benefits in kind will be reported through payroll rather than P11Ds. Payrolling means the annual value of benefits



provided is calculated and an adjustment made to the employee's salary to reflect the value of benefit received. This means there is no alteration to tax codes as a result of the benefits, but tax is paid on the benefit at the time it is received.

In January 2024 it was announced this would happen from April 2026, although this has now been delayed until April 2027 meaning that July 2027 will be the last time that all benefits in kind can be reported on a P11D. There is however no need to wait as all benefits, other than employer provided accommodation and interest free or low interest loans can be payrolled now. If you are an employer and would like to find out more about payrolling benefits and the changes to P11Ds speak to your accountant.

Carol Draper FCCA Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd

"In victory, you deserve champagne; in defeat, you need it!"

Napoleon Bonaparte



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# Protect your State Retirement Pension



Under the new state pension system, when you retire you will need at least 35 years of National Insurance contributions or credits to qualify for the State Pension of £230.25 a week in the 2025-26 tax year. You can claim the new State Pension if you're: a man born on or after 6 April 1951, or a woman born on or after 6 April 1953.

But if there are gaps in your NI record, perhaps from being out of work, only working part-time and not paying NI you may not get the full amount. If you don't have the full 35 years of NI contributions or credits, you will get a pro rata smaller amount of state pension.

If you are in this situation what can you do?

If you have not yet reached state pension age, the most important thing to do first is to check your individual state pension forecast online:

www.gov.uk/check-state-pension
This should tell you what you
are expected to receive on
reaching pension age, and if
there are gaps in your record. It
should also tell you how much
more you could get if you are
able to make up the shortfall.
You may be able to do this by
paying Class 3 voluntary
contributions which can be
backdated for six years.
The cost of doing this varies

depending upon the tax year they were originally due. For example, the cost to fill in a gap in your NI record for the full 2022-23 tax year is £824.20, while the cost for 2023-24 is

This one-off payment can add up to 1/35th of the full rate to your eventual state pension based on current rules which can build up over time and be financially beneficial when you retire depending on your own particular situation and whether you have other taxable income. It is also worth remembering that there are many situations where you could get NI credits or might have been eligible for them such as when you're claiming benefits because you're ill or unemployed. For example, if you receive Universal Credit, you get Class 3 credits automatically.



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## The Fossils Cricket Team 1995 - 2025



On tour in Bude

It all started in the winter of 1994/5 when I attended the Malvern Wells Cricket Club dinner at the County Ground. I overheard a distant relative of mine, who was then in his 60s, talking about how league cricket had stopped older players from playing because the general feeling was 'win at all cost'.I casually asked him why he didn't start an over 50s team, then he could still play friendly matches? I didn't give it another thought until just before I left for home, two chaps came up to me and said that when I started an over 50s side, they would play. I said that I just thought it would be a good idea - not that I'd start it myself. The very next day, Les White, who had also been at the dinner, rang and said that he also would play. A few days later whilst walking up the Shambles in Worcester, another chap asked when I was going to start an over 50s team and I gave him the same answer. But by this time the seed was sown. So one morning, I told Margaret that I was going to form an older blokes' team, but I couldn't think what to call it. Margaret's response was that because we were a lot of old fossils, why not call it 'The Fossils'? And The Fossils was born. My initial objective was to play one or two games a year, but this soon became six in the first year and subsequently rose to fifty. We also had some excellent tours. For almost 20 years, I did all the admin work, from finding grounds and players, selecting teams, arranging tours and helping Margaret organise teas. All this as well as being captain of the team, finding

teams to play against, buying kit and score books. One year I made over a thousand telephone calls with no mobile or text messages in those days. Plus I was running my own business, Willow Print, full time. In time, we became a very good side, often scoring over 200 runs and one of our stars, John Shepherd, scored 1,000 runs three years running. He also scored seven centuries for the Fossils. I did so much for the team that one player called me a dictator which I probably was at the time. At the same time I was also running my own business but it was always Fossils before business in my mind. However, in 2019 I had a quadruple heart bypass so I decided to garner some help just in case I had to give up altogether. Brian Norfolk, Paul Thompson, Derek Ebbage and Martin Woodward took a lot of the load off my shoulders, arranging mid-week fixtures, selecting teams and taking on all the other administration work. The first game the Fossils played was at my old club, Rushwick on June 15th, 1995. Roy Booth, the ex-Worcestershire wicket keeper was President and he put a side out to play us. We batted first and made 160 for 8. Geoff White scored 47, I made 39 and Len Walker 31. Dave Adams took 5 for 26 for the

President's XI
When they batted, the President's
XI recovered from 99 for 5 to
172 for 5 winning by 5 wickets,
mainly thanks to an amazing
century from their opener, Neil
Homer. It was a great game and
after that everyone wanted more
games to be arranged so I

Other notable players for the Fossils included Colin Groves, Bob Rogers and Geoff White who scored the first century in 1996. Dick Champion was the first bowler to take five wickets

arranged them!

for us in 1995 and Martin Mudway's 8 for 41 in 1999 is the most wickets taken in a match so far.

I've been honoured to receive two awards - one from the MCCC

John L Reynolds (J.R.)

for Services to Cricket and an 'OSCA' from the Worcester Cricket Board again for services to cricket since 1957. In 2012, Peter Jewell invited me to play for his Old England Invitation XI against an Australian seniors XI. The game took place on the Worcestershire County Cricket Ground. Our side was a mixture of old county cricketers, including Wayne Larkins, Roger Tolchard and Neil Radford, and local amateurs. I was invited to open the bowling for the England XI and it was an excellent day. What's more, we beat the Australians! Peter Tudge was our Vice Captain for 20 years and many fine local cricketers have played and enjoyed the Fossils since 1995. During the 2015 season, a record 59 different players turned out.

I never thought that at the age of 83 I would still be playing cricket and I'm very proud that I started the Fossil cricket team as without them I doubt I'd have been playing in 2024. Finally, I must thank my wife, Margaret for supporting me over 60 years at whatever team I have played for. Without her, none of it would have been possible.



Celebrating 10yrs of The Fossils at Rushwick v Ray Julian's XI



## A view from the Middle

After documenting my excitement at the start the cricket season last month, I am pleased to repeat I played and won my first game of season this week. The weather was unseasonably warm and it was a chastening reminder that the years are catching up with me. Although I take great pride and pleasure in the fact that cricket is a sport which can be played by people of a great range of age and ability (or disability), I may have to accept that I'm not as sprightly as I was as a teenager and that my body may not turn or bend or slide in the same way as before. Outside of the sporting arena, I

have been enjoying the weather with cultural visits to Bristol and Birmingham and the recent Art Week exhibition in Oxford. It is remarkable how artists are able to express themselves in one particular way and then leave it up to the audience to react to it in an entirely different one. I spoke to one abstract artist who had composed a painting based on a vase of flowers but, in my mind's eye, I saw a woman in a bright headdress looking to the right. It's always an interesting experience to consider things from other people's perspective.

In addition to the arty trips, I also took a journey to the seaside!

It is a little annoying that Pershore is so far from the coast although dogs and their walkers seem to enjoy the tiny 'beach' down at the wetlands. My hope, now that the weather has improved and people are spending more time outdoors, is that everyone will treat that environment, and others, as well as each other with care and respect.

Unfortunately, I have great trepidation about walking at Tiddesley Woods now, following a couple of incidents of walkers who refused to keep their dogs on a lead and were unable to stop them chasing me. And I heard recently about a sheep farmer who lost some ewes due to a dog chasing them in their own home field. It doesn't take



much to clip a dog onto a lead in those circumferences and, if someone is not prepared to do that, maybe they should reconsider dog ownership altogether. Having said that, there are so many responsible dog owners around - and I often greet them before their humans when walking. It's always a pleasure to amble around the countryside locally and I'm looking forward to doing more of it in the evenings this summer. Let's count our lucky stars.

# Thoughts from the Snug...

"You are not allowed to use common sense anymore" or "Common sense is uncommon". These two refrains frequently erupt as cries of frustration, usually about politicians or their political policies; decisions that seem to fly in the face of tradition, normality and basic common sense.

The 'Nanny State' and 'woke thinking' is the curse of most governments. Politicians seemed surprised when their economic policies too often lose the good will of the electorate. Winston Churchill once said, "For a government to try and tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."

That is common sense. So why has this government recently raised National Insurance? Hardly helpful to encouraging business growth. Why give away the UK's coastal fishing rights to Europe; it's yet another nail in the coffin of British fishing industry. It is obvious our waters will be plundered over the next decade. Why not allow British fishermen larger quotas and sell our fish to Europe? Common sense.

Cutting the winter fuel allowance for OAPs is another vote looser that seemed to surprise politicians at the recent May elections. A big mistake.

The inheritance tax on familyowned farms is bound to change

#### It's common sense!

the whole nature of farm management and very likely food production. Farming is a lifelong commitment for families. Why risk tampering with the traditions that kept the faming society and food productivity stable?

The dramatic increase in 20 MPH speed limits in several inappropriate locations, but especially in Wales, is hugely unpopular. Perhaps some adaptions were needed but not on the scale we now suffer.

The exodus from private schools caused by imposing Vat will put additional strain on the inadequately funded state system. Will our existing schools cope with the influx of children

300 new homes to share in your Newspapers. Thank you, Steve Kirby

I have written a short poem 'Nature's Loss', regarding Tiddesley Wood and the proposed

expecting a place? Common sense tells us, NO! Overcrowding is inevitable, it will take years to build extra classrooms and facilities, All school children will be affected adversely by this policy. It is not just politicians that leave us irritated and annoyed. The rise in bureaucracy and the woke thinking that is invading so many aspects of life. The editor would love to hear of any other examples of the defiance of common sense. Think of: Health and Safety, labelling, parking, TV programming and so on. They need to be shared. Cheers!

Buddy Bach

## Letter to Editor

#### Nature's Loss

I'm gonna miss, my walks When they shut the paths To keep the people out And mute the distant laughs Of happy kids, enjoying family fun On there nature trails Beneath the woodland sun I'm gonna shed a tear When the diggers call Watching the warblers flee As the tree tops fall And those builders In there bright hard hats Destroying Nature's habitats I'm gonna hate the wait At the traffic lights And the havs Working nights

Up and down
Loud and slow
Back and forth, too and fro
I'm gonna curse the dust
When the wind blows wild
In the face of a pensioner
Or a school bound child
Waiting for the bus
That doesn't show
Delayed in the chaos

Of the traffic flow
I'm gonna shake me head
Reading the local press
"Developer fined"
"It's a concrete mess"
300 new homes

300 new homes
A brand new estate
We'll be cueing for our coffee

Outside number 8

I'm gonna make me own meals Even creme brulee There's no point ringing For a take away I won't get through I'll drive down in a hurry They'll be nowhere to park I'll make me own chicken curry I'm gonna miss my walks When they shut the paths To keep the people out And mute the distant laughs Of happy walkers From the neighbourhood At one with nature In Tiddesley Wood

Steve Kirby

## Whats on

#### To advertise your event here!

email: news@hughes.company

Tel: 01386 803803

#### Save the Children **Plant Sale**

Saturday 7th June

10:00 until 12:00 -

St Marys Church, Kempsey Sale of plants, herbs and greeting cards. Refreshments available Any donations of plants, cuttings or

seeds welcome on the day.

Norton Garden Club Invite vou to a

## **PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY 7th JUNE** 1-4 pm

St James the Great Church

Norton Juxta Kempsey WR5 2PS

Advice on plants and plant care from Retired Royal Horticultural Society Consultant

> TEA, COFFEE and HOMEMADE CAKE

All proceeds to St James' Church



Back by popular request!!

Saturday 7th June 2025 Date:

(2-4pm)

Location: Defford Village Hall

**Entertainment:** 

Pershore Ukelele Group (2-3pm) Princesses Elsa & Anna from Frozen Barbecue

Donations welcome for:

raffle prizes, tombola, gifts and bottles, cakes, plants, books, white elephant stall etc.

For further information, contact: Pearl on 07879 623807 or Helen on 07528 386467





#### Tuesday 17th June at 2pm Speaker Chris O'Grady -

"Keep the Sea on the left...remember to turn right at Land's End!"

Tuesday 15th June at 2pm

All welcome, including non-members For more details, contact Sally Whyte Speaker Coordinator on email: u3apershoresally@gmail.com www.pershore.u3asite.uk

Tales of a haphazard trek around the edge of our 'sceptred isle', walking the entire coast of England and Wales "Healthy Ageing - is it possible & how?" With Professor Janet Lord, who has researched and published extensively on this topic, renowned both academically and in popular culture Meetings held at Number 8, High Street, Pershore











# Passports, Macbeth & lots of animals

Brian Johnson-Thomas

So here we are in Flaming June with lots of us looking forward to a few all to brief days holiday somewhere sunny. For that to happen we need, above all else, a passport. These days a Passport is a little booklet issued by a government which states your nationality, birthday and other personal information. But that's not how it started. Originally a Passport was issued by the country you were GOING to and was an authorisation to enter. Pass-the-port if you like. Indeed many famous people fell foul of that little detail, like Lady Hamilton, Nelson's notorious bit -on -the -side who was so unpopular after his death that she had to flee Britain for France. However she only got as far as Calais and was refused entry to the rest of France, so she died there in 1815. Oscar Wilde also fell foul of the civil servants in Calais but he did eventually make it to Paris where he died in 1900. This goes to show that it doesn't do to get on the wrong side of the jobsworths in Border Controls anywhere as a lot of Britons have found out recently. We used to issue British passports which, when renewed, were valid for ten years from the original expiry date - so that the passport would last more than ten years. This is arguably not on in terms of internationally agreed practice and many folk have found themselves being refused entry to Europe as a result. Not only that but if you do as I used to do, for example,



and fly from Birmingham via
Air France, LKM or Lufthansa
via their hub airports to the rest
of the world then you can also
fall foul of this interpretation of
the rule. This is because when
you're in transit some countries
regard you as being in their land
and others regard you being
Airside as being in limbo. So if
you're flying via Schipol then
you're entering the Netherlands
but if you're transiting Munich
then, no, you're not in Germany.
Daft, isn't it?

The solution, alas, if you have one of the affected passports is just to bite the bullet and get a new one. Don't try and wing it because it probably won't work and, more to the point, if your passport's not in order then you won't qualify for compensation from the airline and your travel

insurance won't pay out either. Now to nicer topics, in a few days' time the annual Royal Three Counties Show opens on Friday 13th at the Malvern Showground. As well as thousands of animals in almost infinite variety it's also a good venue for some retail therapy especially so this year with the creation of the Royal Parade, a shopping area made up of luxury country wear retailers as well as what the organisers describe as "the finest independent makers of accessories ".

Booking in advance means that you can save some money to splurge elsewhere, ring: 0344 338 5400 between 9am and 530 pm to buy them. I was interested to hear from the Royal Shakespeare Company about their collaborative venture

into the world of video games. A game called Lili, inspired by Shakespear's play Macbeth, has just been premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. Look out for it, hopefully in time for Christmas. Also in Stratford the Swan Theatre will be presenting a play called "The Constant Wife" by Laura Wade which is based on the play by W. Somerset Maugham and uns from Friday the 20th until the 2nd of August. Ring the Box Office on: 01789 331111 to book tickets. Don't forget that the Opera season is now under way at Longborough, near Moreton in Marsh and runs until August. See www.lfo.com for details. Now it's back to the garden... Don't those hedges grow fast at this time of year?

# Wahnfried: The Birth of the Wagner Cult



This new opera with music by Avner Dorman has just seen its' UK premiere as the opening offering of this years' Longborough FestivaL It's a challenging work which examines the way in which Wagner's family sought to favourably massage the composers reputation in the years following his death and thus deals candidly with such issues as the then prevailing mood of anti-Semitism plus a

deep cultural abhorrence of homosexuality. The sparkling libretto by Lutz Hubner and Sarah Nemitz perfectly complements the music thus providing a challenging evening's entertainment. "Challenging" because the cast includes not just Kaiser Wilhelm but also a young Adolf Hitler and even the notorious Russian anarchist Mikhail Bakunin as well as assorted members of the Wagner clan. As the plot develops, we see just how Wagner's reputation is being massaged with incidents less favourable to the family's narrative being skilfully excised from the record to arrive at a more acceptable

The production epitomises the

high production values we have come to expect from Longborough but it was especially thrilling to see even more effective use being made of the Longborough Community Chorus whilst I felt that Meeta Raval, playing Anna Chamberlain, showed a nice understanding of the distinction between bathos and pathos. The plot is quite convoluted, as one might expect, and I don 't want to give too much away as I hope this this note will encourage you to see for yourself. There are still three performances this month, on

the 10th, 12th and 14th

See www.lfo.com or ring the
Box Office on 01451 830292

*Try and go!* 







#### **Come & Sing and Concert**

Songs from the Stage - from Verdi to Lloyd-Webber via Gilbert & Sullivan - Conducted by Jonathan Brown with soloists from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

#### Saturday 28 June from 12.30pm

Great Malvern Priory, Church Street, Malvern WR14 2AY
Come & Sing - £20 for visiting singers (under 21s free)
(includes music hire, programme and tea between rehearsal and concert)
Evening concert at 7pm - £15 (under 21s free) Drinks will be available in the interval
For more details, visit: malvernfestivalchorus.co.uk

For more details, visit: malvernfestivalchorus.co.uk or contact Barbara Moss on 01684 564366
For Come & Sing reservations and Concert tickets: www.trybooking.com/uk/ESPQ







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Volunteer Mentors required to provide 1-1 mentoring and therapeutic support to children and young people in schools and the community who are facing social and emotional difficulties impacting on themselves and their motivation to learn.

If you have excellent communication skills; are a good listener; reliable; non-judgemental; have an interest in the next generation; can relate to children and young people and can commit to a minimum of 6 months volunteering, 1-2 hours a week, apply for this role. Life experiences a must!

As a safer recruiter, two character references and an Enhanced DBS check are required. Travel expenses paid. Training and ongoing training and support from a dedicated team.

Email us: enquiries@mentorlink.org.uk Call us: 01299 822336 www.mentorlink.org.uk find us on Instagram and Facebook Reg Charity No. 1169026

#### **SEVERN MOTOR YACHT CLUB**



# Part-time Chef/Cook required

We are looking for a self-employed part-time Freelance Chef/Cook to join our team at Severn Motor Yacht Club

Initially the role will require availability on Friday and Saturday evenings with potential to include Sunday Lunch as demand improves

We would like our menu to reflect the quality of food served in good public houses

Hours per shift would be 12.30pm to 10pm (Restaurant service hours are 5pm to 8.30pm)

Working hours is £160 per shift overtime would be paid accordingly. Responsibilities: Create and set the menu. Order supplies and ingredients as needed. Additional benefit is that you would have the option to use our kitchen and restaurant during the weekdays to cater for your own catering plans

Please contact Barry Read, Hon Secretary email:severnmotoryachctclub@gmail.com

# Jazz News

With this month's band, Dixiemix, the clue is in the name; expect a hearty serving of Dixieland jazz but with many flavourings of their own from this popular East Anglian band. Dixieland was a nickname, originating in the nineteenth century, for the Louisiana area and it is popularly suggested that the name derives from a ten dollar note issued by the Bank of Louisiana, and bearing a prominent "DIX." Louisiana was, at the time, home to a large French speaking population. Around the time of the American civil war the name was used in the northern USA as a derogatory term for the southern states in general but as an expression of patriotism by the population of those states. A more sinister explanation is that it derives from "Dixie's Land" after the estate of slaveowner and trader, Jonathan Dixie. Nowadays the word is used with some reservation because of the connotation with that unfortunate period in US history but the paradox is that without slavery we probably wouldn't have had

In the world of jazz, Dixieland is a development of that happy, toe tapping music that spread northwards from its origins in New Orleans in the early twentieth century and, although recognised as essentially a product of black culture, it seems a little ironical that the very first jazz record made was by "The Original Dixieland Jazz



Band", a group of white musicians.

By the 1920s jazz was firmly established in Chicago by the likes of King Oliver and Louis Armstrong, and young white musicians seized on the music and developed their own style with guitar replacing the banjo and sometimes adding saxophone to the traditional line up. The music was rowdy, sometimes a little ragged, certainly alcohol fuelled but captured the very essence of the period when all aspects of life were infused with the spirit of jazz and in a "speakeasy" you could possibly be in the company of members of the Capone, Dillinger, or Moran mobs.

Perhaps the most "Dixieland" of all jazz was this period when

Eddie Condon, Red McKenzie, Wild Bill Davison and all played the background music for flappers, gangsters, prohibition, and all that constituted the "jazz age". We probably won't have

flappers at the club this month, no gangsters (that we know of), and alcohol will be available, but the music will be an authentic blast from the past firmly established for the future.

# **Dixiemix**Wednesday 25th June

Doors open at 7.00pm music at 8 In the Function Room, Pershore Football Club Admission £12.50 to include a raffle ticket

Book in advance and pay on arrival email: club@pershorejazz.org.uk tel: 01527 66692 find us on Facebook

## Music Matters

"I know a girl who thinks of ghosts, she'll make you breakfast, she'll make you toast" wise words from Wayne Coyne in the song She Don't Use Jelly. But what do the lyrics mean, or what the song is about? It could be about someone Wayne met or global warming or is it about the Maoist doctrine of the state capturing power through armed insurgency? Maybe it's all these things, maybe none of them, or maybe it doesn't really matter. It's just a great song and sometimes it's easy to think too deeply about music and forget that it's supposed to be fun, meant to be entertainment. 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams, Lemon Jellys record 'Nice Weather for Ducks', and Bill

Withers 'Lovely Day', when you listen to tunes like this, it's impossible not to smile, they make your day a little brighter. Music is amazing because it can be many things to different people, but we should all find time in our lives for the simple fun of a track that makes your step a little lighter and the sunshine a bit brighter. Even Bob Dylan had fun with 'Bob Dylan's 115th Dream'

#### Notable new albums

10 by Sault
Sault are an elusive musical
group, and this latest release was
dropped with little warning. A
true summer vibe, this album
keeps the enigma flowing

A Complicated Woman by Self Esteem

Strong, warm, wild and free, full of joy but with strong messages underneath

A Study of Losses by Beirut

Written for a Swedish circus, this is a transcendental journey with consistently good songs from start to finish.

Still Blooming by Jeff Goldblum & the Mildred Snitzer Orchestra

As well as a fabulous character actor, Jeff Goldblum is also an accomplished Jazz pianist. This an album to put on a Sunday evening with a glass of something nice... smooth

#### Add to playlist

Steve Ide

Here's the Thing by Fontaines DC

Jetplane by Sorry

Woman by Little Simz

Uptight (everything's alright) by Stevie Wonder



#### XXII

# Coffee Break

# Crossword 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 10 10 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 29 29 29 29 29 20

#### Across

- I Source (6)
- 5 An absolute riot (6)
- 8 Whisky cask material (3)
- 9 Dexterous (6)
- 10 Like some jobs and information (6)
- 11 Perfectly vertical (5)
- 13 Did cats frolic? They can't stop(7)
- 14 Breathe with difficulty (6)
- 17 Be a benefactor (2,4)
- 20 Less sorrowful (7)
- 22 Infernal writer? (5)
- 25 Militaristic city-state (6)
- 26 Wood finish, in marquetry (6)
- 27 Stage (3)
- 28 Let out (6)
- 29 Canadian pole-vault star --- Newman (6)

#### Down

- 2 Annual flyer with a famous nose (7)
- 3 Cake figurine (5)
- 4 Marginal inscription (4)
- 5 Lost traction (7)
- 6 Ruined rug isn't going to ruin (7)
- 7 Examine the books (5)
- 12 "Well, that's show --- !" (3)
- 15 British and Roman, for example (7)
- 16 May birthstone (7)
- 18 Eccentric (3)
- 19 It'll never get off the ground in Africa (7)
- 21 More than enough (5)
- 23 Soothe (5)
- 24 Latvian capital (4)

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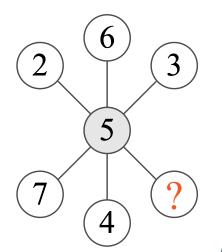
#### Wordsearch

Н Α G Ν S O T K S Ε R Т R Ε Ν S D Н E M 0 В S S M S D D E R 0 T Ζ MQ

AA MILNE **HOMER AESOP KAFKA** ANN B. ROSS **KEATS BUCHAN LUCIAN BUNYAN MARLOW BYRON PASTERNAK CAMUS PLATO DANTE PROUST DIDEROT SARTRE GRIMM SHELLEY HARDY** WAUGH

#### Brainteaser

What is the missing number?



## Poets' Corner

#### XLV

If it chance your eye offend you, Pluck it out, lad, and be sound: 'Twill hurt, but here are salves to friend you, And many a balsam grows on ground.

And if your hand or foot offend you, Cut it off, lad, and be whole; But play the man, stand up and end you, When your sickness is your soul.

#### XLVI

Bring, in this timeless grave to throw, No cypress, sombre on the snow; Snap not from the bitter yew His leaves that live December through; Break no rosemary, bright with rime And sparkling to the cruel clime; Nor plod the winter land to look For willows in the icy brook To cast them leafless round him: bring No spray that ever buds in spring. But if the Christmas field has kept Awns the last gleaner overstept, Or shrivelled flax, whose flower is blue A single season, never two; Or if one haulm whose year is o'er Shivers on the upland frore, Oh, bring from hill and stream and plain Whatever will not flower again, To give him comfort: he and those Shall bide eternal bedfellows Where low upon the couch he lies

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

- 1) More than half of the United States entire coastline is situated in which state?
- 2) Which Brazilian rainforest produces over 20% of the world's oxygen supply?
- 3) Which city is the only city in the world to be located on two separate continents?
- 4) What is the world's smallest island with country status?
- 5) The Kola Superdeep Borehole, the deepest hole ever drilled by man, reached a depth of over 12km but in which country was it located?
- 6) Angel Falls is the world's highest waterfall. In which country is it located?
- 7) Superior is the largest lake in which continent?
- 8) The Great Bear lake pans over 12,000 square miles. In which country is it located?
- 9) Which continent is the world's second-smallest by size but also has the second-largest population?
- 10) What is the capital city of the Republic of Ireland?

- 11) The river Plate has which capital city on it's banks? 12) Which, as of 2015, is the largest city in the Americas?
- 13) In which country is the worlds highest waterfall?
- 14) Which lake holds by far the largest volume of water in the
- 15) The M1 motorway is how many miles long? a) 175 b) 186 c) 193
- 16) Which city in Bulgaria on the River Vladaiska, also has the River Perlovska and the River Iskar flowing along it's outskirts?
- 17) How many National Parks are there in Wales?
- 18) Oakham is the county town of which small county?
- 19) The UK towns of Bootle and Birkenhead sit on which river?
- 20) Baku is the capital city of which eastern European country?
- Which national park became Britain's first in 1951?

20) Azerbaijan 21) Peak District

Paulo 13) Venezuela 14) Loch Ness 15) c) 193 16) Sophia 17) 3 18) Rutland 19) Mersey 6) Venezuela 7) North America 8) Canada 9) Europe 10) Dublin 11) Buenos Aires 12) Sao Answers: I) Alaska 2) Amazon 3) Istanbul, Turkey 4) Pitcairn Island in Polynesia 5) Russia

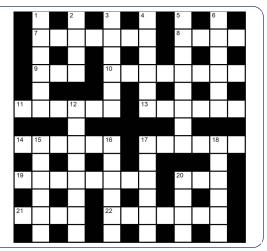
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June Brainteaser 8, The average of 8 and 2 is equal to the middle number 5.

### Anagram Crossword

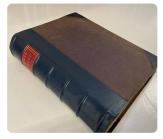
Whence he never shall arise.

Across	Down
7 Mingled (7)	I Pro tem (6)
8 Alto (1,3)	2 Laos (4)
9 Tow (3)	3 Briefs (6)
10 Reserved (8)	4 Savage (6)
11 Wakers (6)	5 Admirers (8)
13 Phaser (6)	6 Poseur (4,2)
14 No rime (6)	12 Sweatier (2,2,4)
17 Denies (2,4)	15 Nearer (6)
19 Backward (8)	16 Go near (6)
20 Deb (3)	17 Likely (6)
21 Emir (4)	18 Denude (6)
22 Angered (7)	20 Bars (4)



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Copy Deadline for July Issue - 23rd June 2025

## Vale Seniors' Individual Trophy Competitions



L-R Larry Taylor, John Eastoe, Bryn Keast (Seniors Captain), Ian Macrae & Brian Bunn

After another wet winter and loss of golfing days, it's been a busy start to this season with Jeremy Shakespeare defending his Seniors Winter Singles Knock out title beating Phil David in the final.

The Bill Kelly Cup On 31st March, 72 members of the Seniors' Section of The Vale Golf & Country Club contested the Stableford format in three Divisions for the Bill Kelly Cup, the first trophy competition of this year, the winner being John Eastoe.

Division One	
1st Phil Davis	37 points
2nd Rob Sharp	36 points
3rd Ian Macrae	36 points
Division 2	•
1st John Eastoe	39 points
2nd Brian Bunn	38 points
3rd Will Reading	37 points
Division 3	•
1st Rob Brownsdon	37 points
Geoff Wilson	37 points
Graham Whitehead	35 points

The Kirkpatrick & Winnie Cups A glorious sunny morning saw 65 players competing for the two cups on 7th April. The winner of the Stableford competition for

the Kirkpatrick Cup was Larry Taylor with 44 points. The winner of the Winnie Cup with the lowest gross score was Ian Macrae shooting an 84. Nearest the pin on 5th hole was Martin Foley.

The John McKeown Salver On Monday 14th April 57 senior players turned out for the John McKeown Salver, a net stroke play competition played in three Divisions; the winner was Brian Bunn with a net 70. Division One

1st Brian Brumhead 71 2nd Mike Malone 3rd Rob Sharp Division 2 1st Brian Bunn 2nd Mark Haywood 73 3rd Mick Lewis

Division 3 1st Chris Filus 2nd John Carr 3rd Carlo Martinelli 74 Nearest the pin on 5th hole was Carlo Martinelli.

The Vale Seniors Section 2025 Future Events

Pairs Open -Wednesday 2nd July 2025

Team Texas Open -Wednesday 17th September 2025

For further information please see on Golf Empire or contact David Hamilton, the Opens Secretary via email: davie5@ live.co.uk or call on 07712 165249

## Spot & Shop - May Winners

- 1) Kate Edgar
- 2) Gill Wylde
- 3) Chris Tandy
- 4) Jill Hopkins

This

month's

anagram

ASTON BIND

SQUABBIEST

- 5) Stella Willams
- 6) Sarah Kenwright
- 7) Dawn Perkins

Last month's answer: Pershore Choral

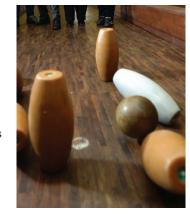
# West Worcestershire Conservative Skittles League

This skittles league, with the rather grand title, operates in and around Pershore. Today it has nothing to do with the Conservative party, but back in the sixties when it was formed, all players had to be a member of the Conservative Party. That does not apply today!! Presentation Night was recently held at the Sports Club in Pershore where team trophies were handed out to Eckington, Allesborough and Wick. Individual trophies were presented to players from several teams including Pinvin and Bredons Norton and a married couple from Eckington, Lesley and Mike Woods, won the Mixed Pairs King Pin Competition. A new trophy this year, in memory of Allen Young, was won by Ken Smout during an evening when money was raised for St. Richard's Hospice.

At the moment the league consists of seven teams which play at Bar 57, the Sports Club in Defford Road, The Coach &

Horses at Pinvin and the Railway Inn at Ripple. A match has eight players, playing eight legs and teams play home matches on the night of their choice. The evening starts at 7.30pm and is usually over by 10pm.

New teams are always welcome so if you would like to join this league for the 2025/2026 season starting in September please contact the organiser, Sue Young, on 07856 791142



M	COMPETITION TIME!
SPOT	Take a look at the anagram
E	The answer is the name of a business that is
CHADI	advertising in the Pershore Times this month

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 -

|ar of home-made marmalade/jam

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

Pershore Times closing date: 27th June 2025

Answer:

Name:

Telephone/email:

Return to: Hughes & Company/Pershore Times 8 Church Street, Pershore Worcestershire WRIO IDT



#### **Brickyard Lane, Drakes Broughton**

A DETACHED BUNGALOW
Stunning lounge with 'floor to ceiling' apex window and wood-burner, breakfast kitchen, three double bedrooms, landscaped rear garden
Tenure: Freehold EPC: C Council Tax: F
£700,000



#### **Old Glebe Pastures, Peopleton**

FOUR/FIVE BEDROOM DETACHED
Impressive lounge with bi-fold doors into the garden and exposed brick inglenook, good sized private garden, double garage, quiet cul-de-sac location
Tenure Freehold EPC D Council Tax F
£675,000



#### **Lapwings, Drakes Broughton**

FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED WITH DOUBLE GARAGE
A fabulous family home built in 2018 with rooms that
flow seamlessly. A lovely feeling of light and space.
Double garage. Under NHBC guarantee until 2028
Tenure Freehold EPC B Council Tax F
£650,000



#### Main Street, Bishampton

THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW
Beautifully renovated with rear views to the Malvern
Hills. Garden with an insulated summer house with
power and light. Detached garage, in and out driveway.
Tenure Freehold EPC: C Council Tax: E
£600,000

Pershore 23 High Street 01386 556506



#### Evesham 1 Port Street 01386 556506



#### **Pool Close, Little Comberton**

FIVE BEDROOM DETACHED

South westerly rear garden. Garage converted to create additional bedroom/study plus ground floor bathroom. Cul-de-sac location. Solar panels which provide a FIT until 2032. Tenure Freehold EPC B CouncilTax E £550,000



#### Ryelands, Wyre Piddle

FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED

A beautifully presented family home in a cul-de-sac location. Westerly facing rear garden, which feel very private

Tenure Freehold EPC D Council Tax E

OIEO £400,000

# June & July What's on

#### Sun 1st June Think & Drink Charity Quiz Claude Choules, 7:00pm

Mon 2nd June

**Griff & Friends Jam Session** Pershore Football Club, 7:30pm

Mon 2nd- Sat 7th June Legally Blonde the Musical PODS, Number 8, 7:30pm

**Tues 3rd June Death Café** 

The Angel Inn Hotel, 3.pm-5pm

Wed 4th June **Board Gaming Night** The Pickled Plum, 7:00pm

Thu 5th June Pershore Heritage & **History Society Talk** 

'The Story of Worcestershire's Smallest Village & The Shelsey Walsh Hill Climb', Library 7:00pm

Fri 6th June **Sunshine Sippers** 

Pauls of Pershore, 7:30-9:30pm

Sat 7th lune **Pershore Street Market** Broad Street, 9:00am - 2:00pm

**Pershore Open Gardens** Pershore Town, 1pm – 5pm

Sun 8th June Pershore Open Gardens Pershore Town, Ipm – 5pm

Fri 13th June Friday Film Club, Pershore Library, 2.00pm

Sat 14th June Worcester Philharmonic **Orchestra Summer Concert** 

Pershore Abbey, 2.30pm

Foyer Folk -Julie July Acoustic Band Number 8, 8pm

Lolly Parton, Live Music The Star Inn, 7pm

**Cheese and Wine** Paul's of Pershore, 7:30–9:30pm

**Tues 17th June** Folk Night

Sports & Social Club, 7:00pm u3a monthly meeting

'Keep the sea on the left, remember to turn right at Lands' End...,' talk at Number 8, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Fri 20th June **David Briggs Organ Recital** 

Pershore Abbey, 7:30-9:30pm

Sat 21st June The Elgar Chorale of **Worcester Concert** 

Pershore Abbey, 7:00pm

Sun 22nd June Fun at the Abbey Abbey Park, from 10:30am

Wed 25th June Pershore Craft & Chat St Andrews, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Wed 25th June Pershore Jazz - Dixie Mix Pershore Football Club, 7:00pm

Thu 26th June -**Sun 6th July** (Provisional dates) **Confetti Flower Fields** Wick, Booking Essential.

Sat 28th June

Epic Landscapes Concert -Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Pershore Abbey, 6:30pm

July Events

Wed 2nd July **Board Gaming Nights** The Pickled Plum, 7:00pm

Thurs 3rd July Pershore Heritage and History Society Talk -

'An Archdeacon's view on the buildings which have influenced him', Pershore Library, 7:00pm

Sat 5th July **Pershore Street Market** 

Broad Street, 9:00am - 2:00pm

**Pershore Midsummer Brass** Pershore Abbey, St Andrew's Gardens, Rivers Leisure Centre & the Angel Hotel, 10am -10pm

**Brass and Bubbles** Paul's of Pershore, 7:30pm -9:30pm

Sun 6th July Think and Drink Quiz Night

Claude Choules, 7pm Mon 7th July

Griff & Friends Jam Session Pershore Football Club, 7.30pm



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



#### Cinema Listings

Twiggy (12A)

Mon 9 June - 11.00am; Tue 10 Jun - 7.30pm 1hr 34 mins Tickets £9.00

**Drop (15)** 

Fri 13 Jun - 7.30pm; Sat 14 Jun - 7.30pm 1hr 34 mins Tickets £9.00

Stelios (12A)

Mon 16 Jun - 11.00am & Tue 17 Jun - 7.30pm 2hrs 12 mins Tickets £9.00

The Salt Path (12A)

Fri 20 Jun - 2.00pm; Mon 23 Jun - 11.00am; Tue 24 Jun - 7.30pm; Wed 25 Jun - 7.30pm 1hr 50 mins Tickets £9.00

Mickey 17 (15)

Fri 20 Jun - 7.30pm 2hrs 17 mins Tickets £9.00

Holy Cow (15)

Thu 26 Jun - 7.30pm Ihr 32 mins Tickets £9.00

The Phoenician Scheme (15) Fri 27 Jun - 7.30pm; Sat 28 Jun -

7.30pm; Tue 1 Jul - 7.30pm Ihr 41 mins Tickets £9.00

Hallow Road (15)

Fri 4 Jul - 7.30pm; Sat 5 Jul - 7.30pm Ihr 20mins Tickets £9.00

The Last Showgirl (15)

Tue 8 Jul - 7.30pm; Sat 12 Jul - 7.30pm Ihr 29 mins Tickets £9.00

The Friend (15)

Fri II Jul - 7.30pm; Mon I4 Jul -11.00am; Tue 15 Jul - 7.30pm 2hrs 3 mins Tickets £9.00



#### **Event Listings**

Pershore Operatic & **Dramatic Society presents** Legally Blonde The Musical Monday 2 - Saturday 7 June, 7.30pm Tickets: Mon £14. Tue - Thu £16, Fri & Sat £18

Play on Words Theatre **Company presents Prostitutes Marry in May** Thursday 12 June - 7.30pm Ihr 15 mins inc. interval Tickets: £13

Fleetwood Machine: Celebrating the Music of Fleetwood Mac

Saturday 21 June - 7.30pm Ihr 50mins (inc interval) Tickets: £20

The Bookshop Band Wednesday 23 July - 7.30pm Ihr 40mins (inc interval) Tickets: £15

Pershore Jazz on a Summer's Day

Saturday 9 August - 2.00pm Performance sessions run from 2.00 - 10.30pm, with a break 5.00 - 7.30pm Tickets: £55 (admission to all sessions)



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 IBG www.number8.org



Coming up in a packed three days, over the main Festival weekend 27th-29th June at Ecgwin's Club, Evesham (unless specified otherwise):

- WWII at Blenheim Palace -Evacuees and Espionage. Antonia Keaney, Palace Social Historian - Living the Dream with author Ruth Hogan.
- How Words Get Good: The Story of making a Book. Rebecca Lee, editorial manager at Penguin Random House
- Festival Quiz Night -Teams of 4. Raphael's Restaurant, Evesham WR11 4BP. Pre-booking essential.

- Dining with Great Writers: Samuel Pepys on Food. Speaker Judith Headley takes us into Pepys' culinary world.
- A Shropshire Lad -A 'biography of a book'. Local historian Linda Hart with readings by Max Hunt.
- An Afternoon with Sue Moorcroft- Sunday Times and international bestselling author of women's fiction.
- Every Picture Tells a Story with wildlife photographer Doug Allen.
- An Afternoon with author Jo Thomas.
- The Great Train Robbery -Revisited with Ian Boskett at The Henrician, Evesham WR11 4QH

For more information, visit: eveshamfestivalofwords.org

#### In memoriam

#### ETHERIDGE. Judith Grace

Passed away peacefully on 22nd May 2025, aged 89years. A much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Judy will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at Pershore Abbey on Thursday 5th June 2025 at 3pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for Pershore Abbey PCC may be left at the service or sent to Pershore Abbey Benefice Office.

#### Lloyd. Joan Dora

Passed away peacefully at home on 14th May 2025, aged 101 years. Much loved wife of the late Les, devoted mother to Patrica, Lionel, Kevin, Jennifer, Janet and the late June, a loving grandmother, great grandmother and great grandmother. Mrs Lloyd will be very sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral service at Pershore Abbey on Tuesday 3rd June at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Marie Curie may be left at the service, or made online.

#### HARGREAVES. Elizabeth Ann

Passed away peacefully on 11th May 2025, aged 76 years. Devoted mum of Steven, Samantha, Sharon and James, mother in law to Zoe and Clive, a much loved nan. Ann will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at Pershore Abbey on Wednesday 4th June at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Cancer Research UK may be left at the service, or made online. Please wear smart casual clothing at Ann's request.

#### BRACE. Osta Catherine Carrick "Cath"

Passed away peacefully on May 8th 2025, aged 89 years. A much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Cath will be missed by all who knew her. Funeral service took place at St John The Baptist Church, Feckenham on Thursday 22nd May. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Prostate Cancer UK can be made online.

#### GLOVER. Daphne Helen née Wickham

Passed away peacefully on 8th May 2025, aged 86 years. Daphne will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. The funeral service will take place at Pershore Abbey on Friday 30th May at 2pm, followed by a burial. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway Preservation Co. Ltd may be left in the collection box at the service or made.

#### ROCK. Grace

Passed away peacefully on 7th May 2025, aged 85 years. Much loved wife of the late Les, mother of Tony, Bridget and Catherine, grandmother to Kate, Harriet, David, Rebecca, Ethan and Jake, great grandmother to Roah and Cassia. Funeral service at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Friday May 30th at 12noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Versus Arthritis may be left in the collection tube at the service, or made online.

E Hill & Son Funeral Directors, Pershore WR10 1HZ or via www.ehillandson.co.uk Tel: 01386 552141

#### **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: pershoredeathcafe@gmail.com

www.deathcafe.com



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from 4<sup>th</sup> May @£2 per child



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# PERSHORE RUG3Y



# 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

# Christadelphians

'We believe... Jesus is the son of God and son of man.'

When a young Jewish woman was visited by an angel, God's plan to save mankind from sin and death became clear. It was to be through a man with a unique relationship to God himself.

Mary was the woman and she was told:

The holy spirit will come upon you, and the power of the highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that holy one who is to be born will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1 v 35) Having divine parentage on his father's side and human through his mother, Jesus Christ was like us and faced the

same challenges we all do. He frequently referred to himself as 'the son of man' as well as 'the son of God'.

His extraordinary charisma and power, and his message and actions, has inspired thousands. Jesus spoke words directly from God and behaved in complete harmony with them. He explained: He who has seen me has seen the Father (John 14 v 9) but emphasised that he remained very much subject to God. Jesus never sinned. He conquered all the temptations he encountered, he submitted himself to God's will, and showed how anyone has opportunity to receive salvation.

#### Interested in learning more about the Bible?

Pershore Christadelphians invite you to a talk explaining why

'We believe Jesus in the son of God and son of man'

On: 2<sup>nd</sup> June @ 10am, God willing

and why

#### 'We believe Jesus will soon return from heaven'

On: 7th July @ 10am, God willing

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



Jesus demonstrated how people can live as children of God. He asks us to follow his example in faith and obedience. Although he lived on this earth as a mortal man, Jesus was raised in glory and power and is at the right hand of God until the day when he will return as king of the world.

# Rotary News

Pershore Rotary proudly recognises the contributions made by one of its members with the awarding of a Paul Harris Fellowship. The award recognises an individual's continuing effort and commitment in supporting the community whether locally, nationally or internationally. For her many years leading the Pershore Foodbank, children's activities at the Abbey and service to Wick Parish Council, President Peter Gardner presented Lynne Raymer with the award saying, "Lynne has been an invaluable support to the club in recent years and volunteered to help with many key roles." Replying, Lynne said, "I have always believed that Rotarians should not only volunteer through Rotary, but where possible in their local community." Lynne led Pershore Foodbank for eight years and served on Wick Parish Council for twelve years. Lynne was presented with her award at the club's President's Night on Wednesday 30th April at Feli's Bar & Restaurant.

Congratulations Lynne.

May is Rotary's Youth Service month, so we are spotlighting on Facebook five amazing opportunities available to students of various ages;

- RotaKids clubs in primary schools empower children to have fun, make friends and help their communities by running activities and supporting global causes all while building confidence, teamwork and a sense of purpose.
- Interact clubs at High School are for young people who want to lead, volunteer and connect. From local projects to global awareness, Interact helps young people grow their leadership skills while having fun and meeting new friends. An example of an excellent Interact club can be found at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, who are doing fantastic work in their community.
- Rotaract is for young adults who are passionate about change. Whether in university or their local community, Rotaractors lead service projects, connect globally and develop as professionals.

- Rotary Youth Exchange - if you dream of studying abroad, this opportunity immerses young people in a new culture, where they can learn a new language and represent their country as a youth ambassador. Each year, 300 students travel to and from the UK with the help of Rotary. - RYLA unlocks leadership potential through its immersive camps which help young people grow their leadership and communication skills, tackle real-world challenges and meet like-minded future leaders. Further information on all these and other Rotary projects can be obtained from the club Secretary at secretary@pershorerotary.club

secretary@pershorerotary.club
Another project is the Rotary
Youth World Affairs Seminar to
be held at Carroll University,
Waukesha, Wisconsin, USA
from 21st to 27th June 2025.
We are delighted to announce
that Jorja Woolston, a student at
Pershore High School, has won
a place on this prestigious
program where students from
around the globe will debate
"Peacebuilding: Creating

Richard Lees



Lasting Change". Since 1976 the Rotary Youth World Affairs Seminar has provided a unique forum where 40,000 future leaders from 30 different countries have debated some of the most complex global problems in the stimulating environment of Carroll University, Wisconsin.

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 at secretary@pershorerotary.club

PWI INSPIRING WOMEN 1916 1916 1916 1916 1916 1916

For Pershore WIs April meeting Jenny Douglas came to talk to us about the work done by Sight Concern. She explained that they are rebranding as Sensory Matters and they offer help for any form of sensory deprivation. We learnt of the many pieces of equipment that are available to assist with all aspects of daily living.

May's meeting saw our AGM with the committee and officers returned for another year.

As it was VE Day we joined the celebration and lighting of the beacon on the Abbey Park, before enjoying a competition of favourite British puds.

The June meeting will be Phil Collins, 'Fun on a G string'. Intrigued?

Come and join us on Thursday.

Come and join us on Thursday 12th June.

IMPORTANT NEWS
We have changed our venue,
Pershore WI will now meet in
the committee room at the
Civic Centre. The date and time
remain the same, the second
Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.

The craft group will meet in the library at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month. Ladies if you are new to area and would like to meet a friendly group of very friendly ladies, please contact us via the face book page or email pershorewi@gmail.com, or just turn up at the next meeting. You will be made very welcome.

Angie Bilboe

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## Pershore Men's 1st XV in National Plate Final

Pershore Rugby Men's 1 st XV have made the final of the Papa John's Counties three North National Plate competition after a well-earned victory over Meden Vale at home – 40 v 20. Following victories over Bedford Queens(a) 67-7 and Sileby Vikings(h) 36-24, Pershore hosted the semi-final of The Papa John's North Plate on a sun-drenched afternoon at Piddle Park.

A strong start from Meden Vale kept Pershore on the back foot for the first 20 minutes, with a 0-12 lead, from 2 tries, one converted. Pershore managed to get into the match with some possession and fought back to 7-12, Cameron Wood with a try, Ben Crouch converting. An exchange of penalties brought the scores to 10-15, with Pershore then grabbing the advantage with a well-worked

try for Harry Westby, 17-15, Crouch again converting, to settle the home crowd's nerves. The crunch point of the game came just before half time with another Crouch penalty, followed by Wood barrelling through numerous tackles to go over under the posts, with Crouch converting for 27-15 at the break.

This gave Pershore the edge after the interval and further tries from Martin Hope and Tom Westby, along with another Crouch penalty, eased Pershore ahead to a 40-15 lead, that they would not relinquish. With the clock running down, Meden Vale barged over for a well-deserved consolation try, 40-20, the scoreline perhaps not rewarding the team from Mansfield's effort.

However, it was Pershore that celebrated at the final whistle,



and will progress to the finals day, in Doncaster, against local side Wheatley Hills. Papa John's Counties North Plate Final Saturday 17th May 2025, 11am at Castle Park Stadium,
Doncaster DN2 5QB
If you're interested in finding
out more about Pershore
Rugby, please email:
enquiries.pershore@gmail.com

# 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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