

Pershore Times



A free monthly newspaper for Pershore and surrounding villages

Issue 102

March 2025

FREE



The land at Orchard Farm which shares a boundary with Tiddesley Wood

The news that approval has been given to build 300 houses by Tiddesley Wood has left many people shocked! A feeling of dismay and disbelief! This cannot happen! The affect on the wildlife is uppermost in people's thoughts as well as the disregard for planning of any additional schools, roads, medical facilities etc. So many unanswered questions. We have carried out some research and our findings are as follows. The recent relaxation and reduction of 'red tape' in planning applications has put Tiddesley Wood at serious risk.

A property development company, Hollybrook Homes, based in London, parent of Formula Land Ltd, the company applying for planning permission at Orchard

Farm on the Defford Road, has persuaded the government's Planning Inspector to ignore the robust objections and arguments against the 300 house

development adjacent to the wood. Strong local opposition, plus the views of our local councils and vigorous support from our MP, Harriet Baldwin, have been over-ridden and ignored by the Planning Inspector. This is an affront to the democratic tradition whereby local people have a say in the management of their neighborhood. The unique environmental diversity and long history of the woodland which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) will be a permanent and tragic loss if the Inspectorate ignore the massive groundswell

of objections from our local folk. It is still not too late to raise objections. What can we do?

(Full details on www.pershoretimes.com)

Mothering Sunday

30th March



Clocks will "spring forward"

on

Sunday 30th March

Revills Farm Shop & Farmhouse Café

Open Mon - Sat 9-5 | Sun 10-4

Cafe serving . . .
Tea, Coffee, Cakes
Breakfast &
Light lunches



Bourne Road, Defford, Worcestershire WR8 9BS
Tel: 01386 750466 | www.revillsfarmshop.co.uk

Interested in
fostering?
Join us for a chat!

13th March 10-2pm
St George's Hall, Bewdley

10th April & 8th May
Costa, Weavers Wharf,
Kidderminster, 10-2pm



07930 157901
www.phoenixfostering.co.uk
info@phoenixfostering.co.uk



Power your future with Solar Energy

- Your trusted local solar specialists for 15 years
- Trusted by hundreds of businesses and homeowners
- Safest & highest performing systems available
- Battery / EV charger specialists
- Hassle free service and estimates with no pressure advice

Visit our website & Click Your Roof

To start your Solar Journey



01386 802020

www.2020solarpv.com

TIDDESLEY WOOD SUPPLEMENT!

**Tiddesley Wood, as we know it, is at serious risk -
*What can we do?***



June 2023 Protest

First:

Visit the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust website and familiarise yourself with all the detail of the campaign to save the wood.

Secondly:

Join the WWT and donate to their funds. This campaign will go on and legal expenses are not trivial, but worth it if we are to save the woods for the near and distant future.

Thirdly:

Make your objections known. Talk about it to friends, write or email to WWT, your local MP and the Planning Inspector. He is available at:

The Planning Inspectorate,
Temple Quay House 2
The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

*For reference the planning application no is:
W/23/02112/OUT*



The land at Orchard Farm, Pershore once belonged to the Ecclesiastical Church Commissioners and is marked on ancient maps as "Dead Sale" boggy land. For centuries it has been used for pasture. Tiddesley Wood can be seen in the top left hand corner November

TIDDESLEY WOOD SUPPLEMENT!

MP blasts Tiddesley Wood building blow!

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP has blasted a decision which will see house-building on the edge of historic woodland near Pershore. The MP had long campaigned against a planning application for 300 houses close to Tiddesley Wood and Dame Harriett warned that the permission granted by planning inspectors is another blow to rural Worcestershire. Dame Harriett has criticised the Government for adopting a 'build anywhere' approach which has opened the door to speculative planning applications across the county without a proper strategy for enhancing local infrastructure. The MP warned that while the Government is placing its focus

on abolishing one tier of local government, it risks taking local people's views and representations out of the planning decision process. Dame Harriett said: "I am appalled that a speculative planning application like this has been approved, putting our historic woodlands at risk. The Labour party have already shown that they have no love for rural Britain with their Family Farm Tax and threats to allow solar farms and electricity pylons wherever they like. While the Deputy Prime Minister is busy attempting to abolish a whole tranche of councillors who make sure local people have their say on housing development, they

have effectively given house-builders the green light to blight our green and pleasant land. This is a worrying portent and I plan to meet with the local planning team to hear their views on what this might mean for West Worcestershire. And I'll be writing to the Government to call for a proper plan for delivering infrastructure. The new occupants will want roads, bus and rail services and access to GPs and hospitals, and this has to be an urgent priority while the Government ties local councillors hands behind their backs."



How unique is Tiddesley Wood?

Tiddesley Wood is an ancient woodland that has a recorded history of over 1000 years. It is an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) with a delicate balance of flora and fauna. It will be greatly affected by the light pollution, noise and domestic pets created by a 300-house development so close to its boundary. Insect, bird and all wildlife will be harmed permanently by the construction of the development and its ongoing function as a suburb. The woodland as we know it will be lost forever. The wood is truly unique.

Originally a deer park for Pershore Abby. Today it supports a wide range of hard wood trees including a selection of wild fruits including Crabbe, wild plum and the Wild Service Tree – often referred to as the Chequers Tree that was used in brewing beer in the Middle Ages; In 1883 the discovery of the wild plum in the woods gave rise to the development of the Pershore Egg and the Pershore Prolific Plumbs. Researchers from Kew Gardens regularly visit the wood for research purposes and surveys. It is definitely a gem to be

cherished. For the past 40 years the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (WWT) have managed the site replanting and coppicing the woodland in traditional manner. Areas opened up during coppicing reveal marvelous carpets of Bluebells, Primroses, Cowslips and Orchids in Spring and also tree blossom and Honeysuckle. All attract insects, butterflies, moths and other insects. These in turn attract a variety of birds; meanwhile small and large mammals like hedgehogs, field and wood mice, badgers and deer forage for food in the

undergrowth, frogs, toads and other reptiles are also frequently spotted. All this is a delicate balance that is seriously at risk if the development at Orchard Farm is allowed to happen. A more comprehensive account of Tiddesley unique qualities can be found on their website. www.worcesterwildlifetrust.co.uk. You can also follow a detailed response by the WWT concerning its appeal to the Planning Inspectorate's ruling. Entitled, Defend Tiddesley Wood.



October 2019 Protest



November 2019 - Orchard Farm is the land in the right hand corner

TIDDESLEY WOOD SUPPLEMENT!

What do we know about the developer?

Concessions and mitigations the developer offered

Formula Homes (Persore) Ltd is a subsidiary company of Hollybrook Homes Ltd base in London. Formula Home was created four years ago, it is base in Rugby. It has a very modest annual turnover of £65000, employs just three people and has one shareholder. Formula's application to develop 450 houses on Orchard Farm, adjacent to Tiddesley Wood, was originally rejected, but a second application for 300 houses has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate. The Inspector has overruled the general principles that normally apply to an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and accepted the following mitigating factors proposed by the developer. They included: a buffer Zone to

be planted between the boundary of the wood and the development. A financial payment to be paid every year for 125 years to aid the running and maintenance of the woodland and possibly the payment of wardens to supervise the woods.

In spite of the Planning Inspector admitting the original proposal would cause significant harm to the SSSI the mitigating measures would prove adequate and compensate for the disruption and disregard for the SSSI status because it provided 300 homes, 120 of which would be low cost or social housing dwellings. The inspectorate has ridden roughshod, over the overwhelming objection of local people, our locally elected councilors and our MP, Dame Harriet Baldwin. Objections to the offers of

mitigating factors.

The creation of a buffer zone between the development and the wood will take years to mature and be effective. It certainly would not be in existence as construction began.

Will Formula Land Ltd still be in existence after the site is built? Will the promised payment to help manage the damaged woodland continue for 125 years? Most certainly not! Companies like this cease trading and fold all the time. The inspector is naive if this proposal is considered a sincere commitment for 125 years. The crude financial bribe, that comes with a suggestion it could fund the appointment of a warden, shows the staggering ignorance of anyone who thinks closer supervision by a warden will protect the wood from light

pollution, insect and bird disruption. What this environment needs are peace and tranquility. SSSIs need protection, not supervision.

Is it now too late?

The short answer is: It's never too late. However, an appeal will need to be launched, and quickly. This will be expensive and the only feasible way to raise cash is probably with a Crowd Funding Initiative. Persore Times will help advertise this and spread the message, but Wychavon and the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust should not accept defeat yet. This is a clarion call for action in schools, clubs, pubs and any organisation in the community to overturn this reckless decision or ignore Tiddesley's SSSI status.

Housing Development Plan; review set for public examination!

Public hearings to scrutinise a key planning document setting out where thousands of new homes will be built across South Worcestershire by 2041 will begin in March. Government-appointed inspectors will test whether the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) is legally compliant and meets national planning policy – known as being found sound – during the hearing sessions at Worcester Guildhall. The examination will take place over three weeks, from Tuesday 4 March to Thursday 27 March. Inspectors will explore a different theme each day, ranging from

economic growth policies to the different housing sites identified in the Plan. Further sessions will be held at the Civic Centre in Persore on 29 and 30 April to explore issues, including climate change and transport. The public is welcome to attend the hearings but will only be allowed to speak if they indicated they wanted to make a representation during the Regulation 19 consultation held in November 2022. They will also need to be invited by the inspector. Those with the option to speak at the hearings will be contacted shortly with more information.

Once the hearings have finished, if the inspector agrees the Plan can be found sound, then changes will likely be needed to the document – known as major modifications. A consultation on these changes is pencilled in for Summer 2025. All three South Worcestershire Councils will then be formally asked to adopt the Plan by the end of the year or early 2026.

Cllr Paul Middlebrough, Chair of the SWDPR Joint Advisory Panel, said: "Getting the Plan to the examination stage is a significant achievement against a challenging backdrop. My thanks to all the officers at

Wychavon, Malvern Hills, and Worcester City councils for their professionalism and hard work, as well as the thousands of people who have submitted comments during the various consultations we have held in preparation for this Plan. This is an important step to formally adopting the Plan, giving us more control over how South Worcestershire develops in the coming years."

For the dates and times of the public examination hearings and more information, visit: www.localplanservices.co.uk/swdpreview.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Planning decisions at Wychavon. Those who remember the Poulson Report of the planning mismanagement in the 1960/70's may wonder if a similar situation is occurring here in Worcestershire. Is history repeating itself?

At that time Worcester lost many important and impressive building due to corruption and planning mismanagement. An article in the National press at the time referred to it as 'The Rape of Worcester'. Questions were never asked; developers ran amuck and basically destroyed

huge swaths of Tudor and Medieval Worcester in the name of progress. This is not to imply our local councilors or officials are mirroring the mismanagement and corruption of that time. Indeed, not! In fact, our local authority seems totally in tune with the popular view of locals in opposing the development at Orchard Farm and Tiddesley Wood, as well as other sites at risk in the county, but the inspectors ignored this. However, how could the Planning Inspector support Formula Homes (Persore) Ltd who originally applied to build 400 houses next to the SSSI

site at Tiddesley Wood?

Although this was rejected, an appeal by the developer for 350 properties – with hollow promises of building buffer zones and supplying grants for woodland management – managed to sway the inspector to ignore the legislation aimed to protect SSSIs. An offer to supplying the Woodland Trust with management funds for 125 years!

An SSSI and most valued gem of Worcestershire will be irreparably harmed by this decision. The inspectorate seems to be duped by an opportunist developer who has no real long term interest in our area.

Furthermore, Tiddesley is not

alone in this situation. All over South Worcestershire local opinion on planning applications is being ignored in a similar way. The Golf Course at Redditch suffers a similar fate, and planning inspectors overrule the democratic process of allowing local councils to decide on local developments. It's hardly surprising those who remember 'The Rape of Worcester' in the 1960s fear history may be repeating itself in our neck of the woods. Questions need to be asked about the legitimacy of this decision to allow this kind of development.

Anonymous

TIDDESLEY WOOD SUPPLEMENT!

Dismay at development decision



We are dismayed to hear that permission has been granted for the Orchard Farm development of 300 houses adjacent to Tiddesley Wood nature reserve, near Pershore.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust has long campaigned to make sure that this development did not proceed. Having managed Tiddesley Wood for nearly 40 years, it's our experience that increased recreational pressure already has a harmful effect. This will only get worse when the new development is built. We attended the recent Public Inquiry into the planning application in order to make this plain to the Planning Inspector. Sadly, the Planning Inspector was persuaded by evidence from the developer rather than the Wychavon District Council's defence of the wood, which we fully supported. Tiddesley Wood is one of the most important woodlands in Worcestershire. Permitting harmful development here risks

undermining environmental legislation and protections, setting a dangerous precedent for other nationally protected sites.

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world – we are in the middle of a biodiversity crisis and are losing wildlife at an unprecedented rate. A key planning principle is to avoid harm to wildlife first before moving to reduce the harm resulting from development. The emerging South Worcestershire Development Plan sets out where development should be in the south of the county. The Orchard Farm site had been removed from it because of the potential harm it would inflict on the neighbouring Tiddesley Wood nature reserve. Against our advice, the Planning Inspector here has deemed it possible to mitigate the harm caused by this development. Throughout the

process we have made it clear that such an approach is unlikely to be successful. The process required the Trust to engage with the developer to discuss options to mitigate harm should permission be granted. Though there are elements in the mitigation proposed by the developer that we accept will help to limit some of the harm, it remains our position that these will not be wholly effective in preventing damage to the wood and its wildlife.

Wildlife is ultimately paying the price of this development. Thank you to everyone who agreed with us and stood up to protect Tiddesley Wood nature reserve through this process. We know you will share our disappointment and frustration with the outcome. Thank you to those who contacted us to express their support and particularly to those who donated to help us make our case, helping with the costs of

specialist ecological surveys, legal advice and evidence gathering. Despite this decision, our work to protect wildlife right across the county, through the planning process and elsewhere, goes on. This only strengthens our resolve. The love for Tiddesley Wood demonstrated by local people underlines just how important the woodland and its wildlife are. Looking to the future, we need all visitors to Tiddesley Wood to play their part and redouble their efforts to help protect its wildlife. This includes sticking to the designated trails, keeping dogs on leads and calling out anti-social activities where they occur. The wildlife of Tiddesley Wood needs us now more than ever.

Wendy Carter
Communications Lead
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

worcestershirowildlifetrust.org

Protecting Worcestershire's hidden rainforests

Help us to protect this most special of places

Donate today

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Charity no. 256618

Photo: Steve Bloomfield

Town Council News



Pershore Banking Hub, situated in Pershore Library, has been open since April 2024, and has been serving residents and traders with their everyday banking needs, as well as more specific banking guidance on certain days of the week.

Cash Access, who own the Banking Hub, pay the Town

Council to lease this site, which has done many favours to the Town Council over the last ten months. With this extra cash, the Town Council have been able to make the necessary repairs to the lifts in both the Town Hall and the Library, ensuring those with all abilities are able to access all public areas.

The Town Council have also purchased two large flat screen TVs, for the Council Chamber at the Town Hall and the Conference Room at the Library. Hirers of these rooms can make use of this new equipment at no additional cost, which is a great asset for presentations as well as films at the local film club.

Finally, the Town Council have been able to pay off a substantial



historic water bill which covers the allotment site off Defford Road, which has been able to keep the rental costs for allotment tenants one of the most competitive in the area. Thank you to Cash Access for serving the residents of Pershore with their banking needs, as well as helping to provide budget to the Town Council for



these necessary expenses. Finally, Pershore Town Council have come across some memorial coins, acquired as part of the millennium celebrations back in 2000. There are limited numbers up for grabs now! They are available in the Town Hall to purchase at a cost of £1 each, which will be donated directly to Pershore Foodbank - this year's Mayors Charity. Please do pop in and grab one before they are gone!

Mrs Charlie MacIntyre
Town Clerk

Pershore High Street: A Hungover Ode to the Heart of the Town

Last night, somewhat pickled, I meandered home down Pershore's High Street, struck by the realisation that I had to write about it in the morning. And so, here we are. Pershore's High Street has been around for centuries—long enough to appear in the Domesday Book. Unlike so many places that have succumbed to corporate blandness, it remains a vibrant hub—a perfect mix of necessity and indulgence, of things you need and things you suddenly want the moment you see them. The essentials are here: a butcher selling fresh meat, an independent baker crafting pastries capable of altering your waistline, and a greengrocer producing a seasonal produce. Food lovers (which, let's be honest, is most of us) will appreciate the delicatessen stacked with artisan cheeses, a fishmonger, and an excellent selection of places to eat, whether you fancy a sit-down meal or something for the walk home. What makes Pershore special is its variety of independent shops—businesses run by real people who know which customers they can tease, share banter with, or spread gossip about. A well-loved bookshop (which also stocks arts and crafts supplies for when inspiration strikes) sits alongside stylish boutiques, a jeweller, a florist, and those wonderfully chaotic charity

shops where you can find anything from a designer coat to a 1980s jigsaw puzzle missing one piece. Gift shops sell everything from traditional sweets to memorial stones (because sometimes you need both), and lovers of antiques and collectibles won't leave empty-handed. But Pershore isn't just about shopping—it's practical too. You can fill a prescription, visit the dentist, pop into the post office, or sort out legal matters, all without having to endure a soulless retail park. There's a town hall hosting events, a library with a banking hub, and plenty of places to get your hair cut—including, rather intriguingly, several Turkish barbers, have sparked mild local conspiracy theories. Probably because Amazon has yet to deliver a haircut. For those of a more practical or modern bent, Pershore hasn't been left behind. A well-established general store keeps homes running smoothly, a pet shop caters to four-legged residents, and a bike shop serves those who prefer pedalling to driving. An economy shop offers bargains of every description, while a handful of coffee roasteries ensure the town remains suitably caffeinated. And, inevitably, a tech repair shop stands ready to rescue the phone you will drop at some point.



Pershore is a lovely town to visit, featuring an impressive Abbey, historic inns, charming tea rooms, and a visitor information centre filled with maps and local knowledge for newcomers. Whether you're here to enjoy the Christmas lights or the hanging baskets, this town exudes old-world charm.

So, what's the lesson in all

this? That a High Street like Pershore's is not some quaint relic but a living, breathing centre of daily life. And if you want it to stay that way—if you want to keep its butchers, its bookshop, its independent spirit—you must use them. Because you don't realise how much you love something until it's gone. A bit like, as I reflect this morning, my headache.

A few words from... Dame Harriett Baldwin MP



Dame Harriett Baldwin MP celebrates the cash boost to local schools with Asda community champions Lisa Hunt (left) and Kuia Newman (right).

Supermarket School Cash Boost

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP has welcomed a supermarket scheme which has raised thousands of pounds for local primary schools. The MP met with staff from Asda in an event in the Houses of Parliament to raise awareness of the scheme which has raised £4,891 for primary schools in the constituency. Shoppers can nominate a school and Asda then gives money. The more they shop the more Asda gives up to £500 to help with school costs like trips, learning materials and sports equipment. Dame Harriett said: "I regularly visit the Asda in

Pershire to hear about the work it does supporting the local community and this is a really well supported scheme which is raising hundreds of pounds for 45 schools in the constituency. This is a great example of how a major supermarket is able to harness parent power and give a little bit of extra help with schools' spending. The money is allocated with the collaboration of local Parent Teacher Associations which often play a vital role helping schools out. I was happy to support this initiative and encourage Asda shoppers to do the same."



March is bringing us hope for brighter, lighter and warmer days! We all look forward to the flowers of Spring to cheer us up after a couple of dark winter months.

As indicated in the February article, this will be a Celebratory year with the 80th Anniversary of VE and VJ Days.

Events

Breakfast Club -

continues on the first Saturday of every month at 09:00hrs at the White Horse opposite the Abbey. All members and friends welcome.

Branch Annual Dinner -

Saturday 26th April at the Bell Inn, Eckington - members have been sent details with a closing date for attendance the 11 April.

VE Day celebration -

current plans are for an event on Friday, 9th May - full details next month.

VJ Day celebration -

still in the planning stages. Members with ideas for the events or are willing to help on the 'Events Committee' - please contact the Chairman. The Branch are always looking for new members to support the work of the RBL and at the same time enjoy comradeship with colleagues. There is no need to have served in the Armed Forces.

Anyone interested may contact the Chairman, Gerald Gregory, on 07802 897088

Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra Spring Concert



The WPO Spring Concert is full of European musical gems. Dan Watson conducts works by Dvorak, Svendsen and Brahms 3rd Symphony. We are delighted to welcome the talented young horn player, Fran Penny to perform the Richard Strauss Horn Concerto no 1. This work is the most frequently played 19th century piece in the horn repertoire, giving you an unmissable opportunity to hear this masterpiece. Fran Penny is from Leicester. From an early age, she wanted to play the French Horn. Her father was her inspiration and teacher from the start of her musical journey aged seven. Fran has played with the National Youth French Horn Ensemble and CBSO Youth Orchestra. She says there is nothing like the feeling of getting to the end of symphony and hearing the applause as the whole orchestra stands! In 2022, aged 17, Fran won the Rutland Sinfonia Young Musician and Bardi Young Musician competitions. Fran is currently studying at

the Royal Northern College of Music under Lindsey Stoker. Some of her favourite projects so far are playing Mahler 1 at Bridgewater Hall with the RNCM Symphony Orchestra, and playing Beethoven 8 on the natural horn with the RNCM Chamber Orchestra conducted by Edward Gardner (principal conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra). As well as music, Fran has many other interests and hobbies. Dancing was a huge part of her life for 12 years, indeed she considered a career in dance, and has appeared with her fellow dancers in performances of the Firebird and the Nutcracker with the Bardi Symphony orchestra providing the music. Additionally, she enjoys sewing, baking, and mountain biking.

Saturday, 15th March 2.30pm at Pershore Abbey
Tickets £15 (Under 16s free) available from tourist offices in Worcester, Pershore* and Malvern. *cash only. And at worcesterphilharmonicorchestra.ticketsource.co.uk

Spring flower show

The Alpine Garden Society is holding a new regional Spring flower show and plant fair on Saturday 12th April 2025 in the Severn Hall Three Counties showground, Malvern, WR13 6NN - Open from 11am until 3.30pm. Admission £8, AGS members free

- 15 Specialist plant nurseries
- Plant Societies stalls
- Garden sundries stalls
- Craft and food stalls
- Food and drink available from Severn Hall caterers
- Talks & practical

demonstrations throughout the day

Don't miss this opportunity to view superbly grown alpine plants at the show. You can purchase many rare and unusual plants not readily available in garden centres from the many specialist nurseries and enjoy the range things that local producers, garden and other societies have to offer. Make this a date for your diary. www.alpinegardensociety.net

k|c| Carpets Ltd

Quality Carpets start here!

- Choose at home or visit our showroom
- Experienced advice
- Modern and traditional floor coverings
- Old fashioned personal service
- Surprisingly competitive prices

Start with a 'no obligation' quotation and finish with a beautifully carpeted home.

6 High Street, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 1BG
Tel: 01386 552152

E HILL & SON

Funeral Directors Ltd
Defford Road, Pershore

01386 552141

www.ehillandson.co.uk



Faithfully Serving Our Community

for over 60 years.

Reputation for Dignified, Quality Service.

Private Homely Facilities.

Golden Charter Funeral Plans Available.

Privately owned by Beverley funerals

GILES
INTERIORS

Made-to-Measure Curtains & Blinds

61 High Street, Pershore,
Worcestershire WR10 1EU
T: 01386 556 411
M: 07866 765686

All of our curtains and blinds are available with ivory or white blackout linings, helping to insulate your homes in the winter and to keep the heat out in the summer

Your best friend in business

Managing your business finances
has never been easier

Find out about our
range of accounting
and taxation services:

Ledbury:
01531 631500

Pershore:
01386 552644

enquiries@crowther.co.uk

www.crowther.co.uk

crowthers
Chartered accountants
support for busy businesses



Sunday roasts at

The
angel



Featuring the best
local ingredients

angelpershore.co.uk
01386 552046



THE BANKING HALL

PREMIUM FUNCTIONS VENUE IN
PERSHORE'S HISTORIC BANK HOUSE



BANKINGHALL.CO.UK 01386 552046

FREE SUPPORT FOR PERSHORE RESIDENTS



SERIOUS ILLNESS
SUPPORT
SERVICE

HOSPICE CARE
AT HOME
SERVICE

BEREAVEMENT
COUNSELLING
SERVICES

If you have a life limiting illness, are caring for someone who has a life-limiting illness or are recently bereaved, call us now on: 01386 840505.



www.campdenhomenursing.org

My Dad - A German POW 2024



Bombing of Monte Casino 12 March 1944

My step-father, who I called dad as he was the only dad I knew, he first came in to my life when my mother and me were living at Broad Campden and he came working in the field behind the group of houses there, it was a strawberry field, and he would look after it. He and my mother were talking and was friendly towards him and we all went out together on some Sundays and would go and play football. His name was Gunter Wittenberg born at Glowitzt an area known as Pommernia North West of Germany. His father had a farm but was a master blacksmith as was Dad's grand- father he had an older brother Heinz, and sister Christel, and they went to school at Stolp walking several kilometers away. He told me they had shoes but when they got home they had to take them off and walked around without them. At school some-times the boys would play up the teacher and he would get cross and punish them all.

I was told by mum later dad was in the Hitler youth (well weren't they all!) and in 1942 he volunteered to the Parachute Division (1st Fallschirmjager and was in the 3rd Battalion) and trained at Halberstadt. Early January 1944 they were sent to Italy at Casino to hold the Gustav Line as Allied army who were coming up Italy.

There were several attacks on the area and on the top of one mountain was the monastery of Monte Casino and on the 12th of March 1944 the Americans bombed it, with tons of high explosives, later also bombed the town. 18th May 1944 the Allied forces took the mountain and all the paratroopers had gone, but there were many wounded soldiers the rest had left several nights before.

About 20,000 Germans were killed or wounded in the area, and about 55,000 casualties of Allied soldiers. The few Germans left at night returned to Germany. Then they were sent to Caen June 1944 after D-day landings, but he was wounded there and sent to Paris, to recover, I do not know much after that but there were several battles towards Germany, until April 1945 he was wounded near the River Rhine and captured, and brought to England in London Hospital. He was then sent to a POW camp and then 1946 to Springhill Lodge Camp (180) Chipping Campden. He was there about 18 months then December 1947 they went too Cambridge.

At Trumpington Camp (45) just outside Cambridge, he was still working on the land. In January 1949 many of the POW's were sent by ship to Germany to be



Ernst, Gunter and Elsie Wittenberg Germany 1954



POW at Springhill Lodge Camp 1947

demobbed officially, and collect their discharge papers and late payment (although he said it was not the right amount) in October he married my mother, and in January 1950 we were reunited together living near Henley-in Arden where he worked on the farm. November 1950 we moved and came to Abberton also working on a farm. There he was called "Henry" by everyone in 1952 he adopted me and my brother we went to the Pershore Police station a day off school!

In 1954 he went to Germany to see his parents and family, that was the first time he had seen them since he joined the Luftwaffe in 1942, also his sister got married in 1942 he asked if he could go but he was not allowed time off to go. After the war that part of Germany up to the River Oder,

is now part of Poland so his parents had to move out to the Russian Zone of Germany He worked on that farm at Abberton for 45 years before moving to Pershore. He had a Craft Certificate 1972 for Machinery Operation and maintenance.

Mum and dad loved gardening and grew all sorts of fruit, vegetables and flowers They liked it Pershore being near all the shops as before travelling to go shopping mainly to Evesham. They had their 50th wedding anniversary at The Brandy Cask. He went to Cheltenham Hospital for a hip replacement then after a few days he had a heart attack and passed away. He was such a nice and friendly man and he loved our children and their children.

Anthony J. Wittenberg



Gardening with his flowers at Abberton



Combing Abberton 1960's

March Events at community run The Queen Elizabeth Inn

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

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



09.30 – 11.30
full breakfasts
breakfast baps

09.30 – 17.30
homemade cakes
toasted teacakes
tasty scones
cream teas
crumpets
a wide range of tea
fabulous coffee

Open
Tuesday-Sunday
plus bank holidays
Eat in or takeaway

PLAN AHEAD !!

Join our **Beer & Cider Festival** Friday 23rd May to Monday 26th May
See us at **The Big 450 Bess-tival** Saturday 28th June to Sunday 29th June

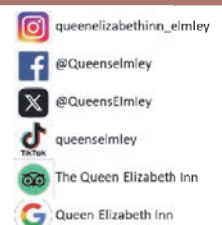


We are a multiple award winning, dog friendly, community-run, 16th Century Inn.
We aim to provide a sustainable 'heart' for Elmley Castle and the surrounding villages, and a friendly destination venue for visitors. Thank you for your support

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



The Queen Elizabeth Inn
Main Street, Elmley Castle WR10 3HS
01386 710251
qe@queenelizabethinn.co.uk
www.queenelizabethinn.co.uk



17th Century Local Hero

Tim Hickson



The Mayflower

When I was teaching Physics at The King's School in Worcester, the laboratories were in a 1950s glass and concrete structure called the Winslow Block. The Physics Department was on the top floor and every time I climbed the first flight of stairs, I was faced by a stone plaque commemorating a past pupil, Edward Winslow. Edward Winslow was born in Droitwich in 1595. His father, who came from a Kempsey family, was involved in the salt production trade. As a young man, Edward gained a Scholarship to The King's School in Worcester. During his five years there, he would have studied Grammar, Latin and Greek. It is not certain what happened when he left but he might have gone to Cambridge University. At eighteen, in August 1613, he was apprenticed to a printer and stationer in London for a term

of eight years. However, he did not complete his time but appears to have been recruited in 1617 by one of the leaders of a group who had fled to the Netherlands to escape religious persecution. They were looking for bright, young educated men to run a press in Leyden to produce Puritan writings banned in England. Edward thrived in this community, was joined by his brother Gilbert and became one of its leaders. He married Elizabeth Barker in 1618. Then, having decided that the group, who became the Pilgrim Fathers, would have more religious freedom if they moved to the new English colony of Virginia, in America, in 1620 they set sail in The Mayflower. The boat was overcrowded, ill-provisioned and, in the storms they encountered, starting to leak. Furthermore, having reached the coast of

America, the bad weather prevented them from sailing south to Virginia so they decided to land and make a colony they named Plymouth. It was bitterly cold and many were ill from the voyage. Consequently, nearly half the passengers died, mostly women and children including Edward's wife Elizabeth. Just a month and a half later, Edward married Susanna White whose husband had also died. In spite of the bitter conditions, the local native people were happy to trade and were friendly and helpful. The natives taught their ways of farming and hunting and the colonists build houses. The colony established itself harmoniously. Also, Edward was particularly good at fostering this friendship. When the chief of the tribe fell ill, it is recorded that Edward walked forty miles to help nurse him with chicken soup until he recovered. When the first crop could be harvested, Edward decided to celebrate with the natives. The English went and shot wildfowl and the natives brought venison.

This was the beginning of what became the American Thanksgiving Day.

Having served a spell as Governor of the colony, Edward returned to England to represent Plymouth. He also brought back goods, including furs and skins, which helped to pay for the voyages and returned with much needed provisions including three Devon cows and a bull. He

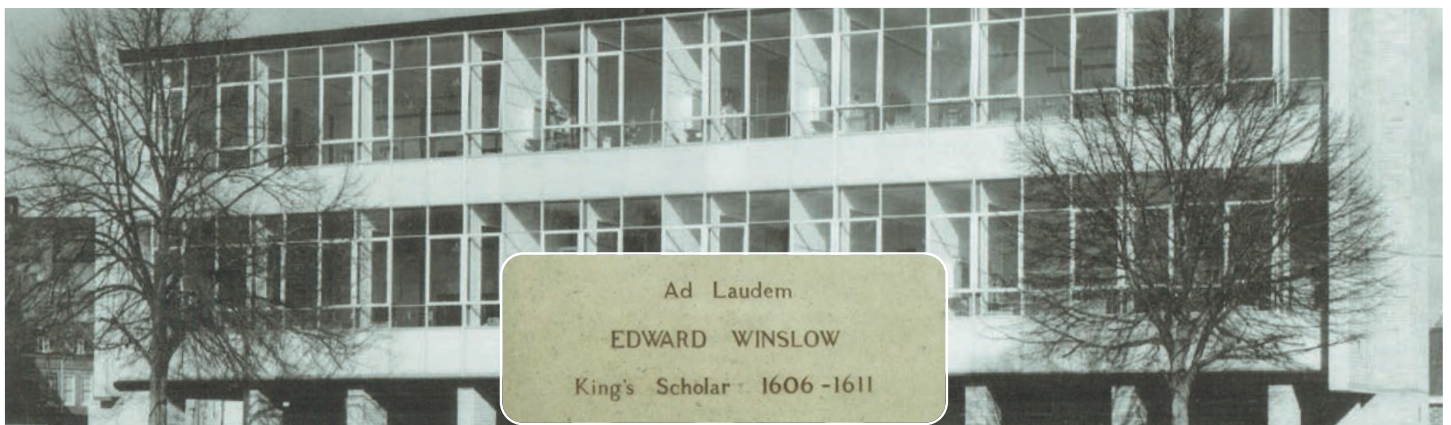


Edward Winslow

*Born: 18 October 1595, Droitwich Spa
Died: 8 May 1655 (age 59 years), Caribbean*

made several voyages back to England, eventually staying there and using his political skills to represent the new Plymouth including defending its existence from opponents. At one stage they got him thrown into the Fleet Prison in London for conducting marriage ceremonies whilst not being ordained. Although he pointed out that, in the absence of a priest, he was acting as a magistrate, he still served seventeen weeks.

During the Civil War, he got on well with Cromwell and when the war ended and Cromwell was appointed Lord Protector, Edward was appointed Governor of Jamaica where there was trouble with the Spanish. Edward was sent to sort this out, which he did but caught Yellow Fever and died at sea. Quite a life!



Ad Laudem

EDWARD WINSLOW

King's Scholar 1606-1611

Plaque and building from Danny Payne's The King's School, Worcester

Farming

A very recent episode of Question Time on Radio 4 brought up the subject of Growth in the Economy, and the need for expansion (encouraged more often than not by Govt); amongst those options was streamlining and relaxation of Planning procedures. One of the easier options there is to just relax Planning requirements and allowing expansion of both domestic and industrial development around existing cities, towns and even villages; such expansion is more likely than not going to be into existing good quality, productive agricultural land. Alongside this – certainly in my estimation – needs to be consideration of the need for this country to be as self-sufficient as possible in the production of its own basic food needs. We need to import many foodstuffs that for climatic reasons cannot be grown here; that has to be a given. Over the last seven years global consumption of basic food grains has risen by a little over 200 million tonnes, but in that same time production has risen by a little short of 160 million tonnes, meaning World reserves have gone down by

Mike Page

approaching 50 million tonnes; should this trend continue it may be bring about widespread shortage and huge threat of change in the World Order. This, I would suggest, is why control of international aid and general trade is used increasingly as a non-military style weapon in settling disputes between nations such as we are seeing in the conflict over Ukraine. As yet no Government of the UK has taken on board fully the need to protect and even enhance this Country's need to feed itself and the slow but seemingly never-to-end development and loss of agricultural land goes on. We produce grain crops averaging around 7.5 tonnes/ha (3.0 tonnes/acre to those of you who, like me, still think in imperial weights!) in the UK, compared to a World average of about 3.5 tonnes/ha (1.5 tonnes/acre); as last autumn and winter's UK weather proved, with total crop output here the lowest it has been for several years, this is heavily dependent on climate. Having said my piece on that subject, we must look forward to this year's production cycle



A small group of cattle enjoying life in the shelter of a barn on a cold, wet day with dry, warm straw to lie down on

and we are at least seemingly heading out of a better winter for crops and for grassland. By the time this circulates the first lambs will be seen out at the foot of ewes grazing on pastures, with herds of beef cattle and milking cows to follow: Having spent the last four months or so in the warmth and shelter of a barn cattle are usually more than ready to get out and revert to what for them is 'normal life'. Perhaps change in practice is being signalled there because as farmers we are being encouraged to adopt more natural and environmentally friendly grazing practices, with livestock no longer being strictly controlled

behind moveable electric fences, but allowed to graze more naturally, as they would choose to do if left to their own devices. The end result must be something that is tolerable for both animal and man, but it seems to indicate one amongst many changes that are coming about in agricultural practices as environment becomes an important element rather than just maximising output regardless of any other effect. But going back to the paragraph above, encouraging production and conserving the environment are two goals that often do not sit well together.



Preventative Health Care



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

What happens at a health check?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best wishes *Eliza*

Ailsa's Kitchen *Ailsa Craddock*

March, and the garden is really starting to wake up. Little shoots appearing (I can never remember exactly what I planted where so it is always a bit of a surprise what pops up) and the days a little longer and lighter. There are plenty of lovely vegetables about but what could be better than carrots - the unappreciated gold amongst vegetables? They are cheap and plentiful; from big ones to little chantenays. Too often presented as a side dish of extraordinary dullness, they can be pepped up with herbs, lemon juice and butter - or made into any of the below recipes.

Spiced Carrot and Lentil Soup

2 tablespoon butter
2 onion, finely chopped
1 -2 cloves of garlic
2 dessertspoon grated ginger
1/2 teaspoon each chilli flakes,
ground turmeric, ground
coriander, ground cumin
4 - 6 carrots, peeled and
chopped
1 tin chopped tomatoes
1500g red lentils
1000ml vegetable stock

Melt the butter in a saucepan and gently fry the onion, ginger and spices and cook until soft. Add carrots, lentils and stock and slowly bring to the boil. Cover and simmer for about 40 minutes until tender. Serve, with toasted sourdough, in a bowl with a swirl of yogurt and mint or parsley for garnish.

Quick Carrot and Walnut Bread

350g plain flour
150g wholemeal flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
150g carrots, peeled and grated
walnut or pieces a handful,
toasted
300ml Greek yoghurt
125ml semi-skimmed milk

Heat oven to 230c/fan 210/gas 8. Mix the flours, salt and bicarbonate of soda, then stir in the carrot, walnuts and yoghurt, followed by enough of the milk to make a soft, quite sticky dough. Tip onto a floured surface and form a flat ball, put on a baking sheet, slash the top and bake for 30 minutes until risen and cooked. It'll sound hollow when you tap it.



Carrot Muffins (makes 6)

75g margarine
125g carrots
100g sugar
100g Self raising flour
3/4teasp cinnamon
1teasp baking powder
1large egg
60g sultanas
25g nuts

Preheat the oven to 200C/gas mark 6/fan 180C. Melt the margarine in the microwave. Top and tail, then peel and grate the carrots. Combine the carrots, sugar and margarine in a bowl.

Sift in the flour, cinnamon and baking powder. Beat the egg in a small bowl and then add to the mixture. Also mix in the nuts and sultanas. Line a muffin tray with six muffin cases and divide the mixture equally between them. Bake for 20 minutes. Allow to cool - and either enjoy them as they are or mix a little cream cheese and icing sugar together as a topping.

*Be kind to yourself –
pour yourself a cup of tea,
grab a muffin and curl up with
that book you've been meaning
to read!*

A view from the middle

After what seemed like an even longer January than usual, I find myself halfway through February without even noticing it has started. The days are getting noticeably longer and I come out of work at 5pm to see that it is still light. It seems the days are racing away with me and it'll soon be Summer. Spring competes very strongly with autumn to be my favourite time of the year and it is so heartening to see signs of it peeking through the cold and gloom. I've seen snowdrops and primroses and even the beginnings of some daffodils but it is the crocuses and tulips that I am most eagerly awaiting. They were my late father's absolute favourite and he once surprised my mother by planting dozens of bulbs in

the lawn. They ended up looking magnificent and it meant the chore of mowing the lawn was suspended until the flowers went over. It is funny the things that remind you of lost loved ones. I still have some bulbs in pots that he gave me and I'm dreading the year that they no longer come up. However, nature is a very good reminder of the ebb and flow of life. In the very depth of winter, it seems so implausible that our outdoor spaces could ever become because a riot of colour and warmth again. Yet, reliably, they do so every year. I take great comfort and courage from that at this time of the year and I send much good cheer to all readers at this time.

"All that I am, or ever hope to be, I owe
to my angel mother"

Abraham Lincoln

"Mother o' Mine"

If I were hanged on the highest hill,

Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

I know whose love would follow me still,

Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

If I were drowned in the deepest sea,

Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

I know whose tears would come down to me,

Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

If I were damned of body and soul,

I know whose prayers would make me whole,

Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

Rudyard Kipling

What do Bee's do in Winter?

Martyn Cracknell



When the air temperature drops below 10 °C, honey bees tend to stay in their hive and cluster together to keep warm. The ones on the outside of the cluster burrow inwards and displace the ones in the middle, pushing them out to the surface so there is a constant but gentle movement. They eat honey from their accumulated stores and they eat 'bee bread'. This is pollen which has been moistened with honey and has been pickled by the action of *Lactobacillus*. The pollen is not wholly digested so wastes accumulate in the bees body and need to be excreted from time to time. When the sun provides a bit of warmth they may be tempted to come out

and have a 'Cleaning flight', flying a short distance around the apiary and excreting in mid air. The waste looks like tiny strips of brown sand and it sets hard on windows and cars and can stain fabrics. At other times of year the bees are flying great distances and their excreta is spread far and wide so it is of no consequence. Throughout the winter there is a continuous loss of bees and after every cold snap a dozen or so dead bees are thrown out of the entrance. Enterprising birds take advantage of this food source and in our garden it is primarily Great tits and robins that clean up the casualties. The colony gradually shrinks from its summer peak of 60,000 to

about 10 – 12,000, but no new young bees are produced. Even if the queen were to lay eggs, the colony would not be able to maintain the high temperature (37C) needed for the growth of bee grubs, nor would the bees be able to supply the fresh pollen to feed them. When the spring warmth comes, with abundant blossom, the queens will resume egg laying and the surviving bees will cluster over them to keep them warm. We have to hope that there will still be enough old bees to create that essential warmth. A long winter and /or a cold spring can result in a colony dying out. As many as 10% of hives die out in the winter in Britain, and occasionally many more which has prompted research into the thermal properties of hives. It seems that the normal wooden designs are much less insulated than a hollow tree or even a straw skep and various insulation products are now available as well as hives made of polystyrene or with built-in insulation. In more severe climates like in Canada, many beekeepers do not try to overwinter colonies but just import them from the southern states of USA, when spring flowers are emerging. It is tempting to buy in replacement

queens or small colonies from warmer countries to replace our winter losses, but this international trade has enabled hive pests and diseases to spread around the world and it is strongly discouraged by the British Beekeepers Association. Instead we should minimise our losses and breed replacement queens from our best colonies as soon as the warmer weather permits, in May to June. The hive entrance has been reduced by insertion of pieces of foam to minimise draughts and a mouse guard has been pinned over it to prevent intruders. Bumble bees and wasps have a different winter survival strategy. Their colonies produced new queens in the Autumn which left their colonies to mate and to find somewhere to hibernate. Bumblebee queens mostly burrow under leaf litter beneath hedges, while wasp queens tend to find sheds and outhouses, or inside beehive roofs. They won't be seen again until Feb or March when they will start to build completely new colonies. Adult solitary bees have also all died out leaving behind larvae with a food store which will hatch sometime next year.

Village Life

John Driscoll

Spring is finally approaching and for many of us it can't arrive too soon. After a disappointing summer last year, and a predominantly grey autumn and winter punctuated by nasty storms and lots of rain, it seems we're ready for an up-lift. What better than early spring flowers with the first brave daffodils blooming at the end of January to be followed by waves of fresh vibrant colour. New signs of life on our trees and wildlife returning in abundance. I'll be on the lookout especially for the spring bulbs planted around the village by friends old and new. Some only a year or so ago, others surviving since a flurry of planting around the Millennium celebrations and before. They make for a fabulous welcome to our village for residents and visitors alike and serve to remind us of the benefits of pitching in with our community. Plenty of us have also added our own splashes of colour

outside our houses. One house in particular stands out every year with the very first daffodil to open, cheering up all who pass. I wonder if there is a competitive streak in dafs and this little beauty knows it's our first! I hope so! This year we have a village project to promote birdlife. Our village fund will be buying bird houses that residents will be able to place in their gardens. We'll encourage people to take photos of their new feathered neighbours and to encourage them to make long term homes. Some will be on view from the roads and lanes and others will be in gardens, but all will hopefully encourage increasing numbers of wild birds with the benefits in wellbeing they can bring to us all. Another great advert for community action and for bringing people together in a shared project. I'd like to think we can take inspiration from those



competitive daffodils and our new feathered friends to renew our efforts to make the most of our surroundings during 2025. Maybe we can recreate the lock-down Easter displays we had in our hedges and trees? They added a lovely splash of colour. If nothing else perhaps we can take a cue from that

first daffodil – while remembering that the greatest impact comes from all the blooms working together to create an amazing splash – long after that first brave soul has faded. Roll on spring and let's all honour that brave little first bloom and make this a spring to remember!

Five garden design trends to transform your home . . .

Transforming your garden into a beautiful and useable outdoor space doesn't have to be daunting. With innovative garden design trends, you can create a stunning home that reflects your style. It can also add value to your home, as much as 20%, so it's worth thinking about especially if you're planning to move home. Here are five garden design trends to consider which could make a difference on how you use and enjoy your garden.

Vertical Gardens

Incorporating vertical gardens is a fantastic way to maximize space and add greenery to small outdoor areas. These gardens can be created using wall-mounted planters, trellises, or vertical garden kits. They are perfect for urban gardens, balconies, and patios where space is limited. Use climbing plants such as Clematis, Honeysuckle and Roses to add height or mask unsightly vistas.

Consider your style, available time, skill level, space, and budget to determine which is the best option. The wall mounted planters will need to be assembled and fixed to the wall, so if you don't have a drill, spirit level etc, it may mean budgeting for expert installation. Compared to a climbing plant, which simply needs a pot and a trellis/frame.

Edible Landscaping

With gardens getting smaller, more people are including edibles in the same space as their flower garden. Thankfully, edible landscaping combines the beauty of traditional flowering plants with the functionality of edible plants.

Consider planting colourful vegetables like rainbow chard, kale, chives or edible flowers such as nasturtiums and calendula which are easy to sow and grow from seed. Add blueberries in a pot if you don't have ericaceous soil – they're a fabulous all-round plant as they're bushy, grow to around 1m tall and have delicious fruits and beautiful autumn colour too. This trend promotes wellbeing and allows you to enjoy fresh, homegrown produce right from your garden.

Wildlife-Friendly Gardens

With a huge decline in the number of butterflies and bees, its super

important to build a garden that attracts and supports local wildlife. It's a trend that benefits both your garden and the environment. Incorporating pollinator-friendly plants, water features like birdbaths or small ponds, and providing shelter with log piles or birdhouses can make your garden a haven for birds, insects, and other wildlife.

Zen Gardens

Zen gardens, inspired by traditional Japanese gardens, offer a tranquil and minimalist approach to garden design. These gardens typically feature elements such as gravel, rocks, and carefully pruned plants. The simplicity and balance of Zen gardens create a peaceful atmosphere, making them perfect for meditation and relaxation.

Outdoor Living Rooms
Transforming your garden into an outdoor living room is a trend that is gaining popularity. This



Nikki Hollier

nikki@borderinabox.com

@borderinabox

www.borderinabox.com

concept involves creating a comfortable and functional space where you can relax, entertain, and enjoy the outdoors. Key elements include cosy seating, outdoor rugs, lighting, and weather-resistant furniture. Adding a fire pit, outdoor kitchen, or pergola can enhance the comfort and usability of your outdoor living area.



March gardening tips

Early March

Lift and divide herbaceous plants. Plant alpine/herbaceous plants. Lightly mow over the lawn. Prepare sites for new lawns. Prune rose bushes soon if not already done. Plant onion, garlic and shallot sets. Start Begonia and Gloxinia tubers into growth indoors. Buy seedlings or baby bedding plants to grow on at home.

Mid Month

Support all tall growing herbaceous plants from early in the season. Try growing some ornamental vegetables in the flower garden, e.g. red leafed lettuce and runner beans. Prune Blueberries. Sow hardy annual flowers like Eschscholzia, Godetia, Clary, Mignonette etc. direct in the garden borders. Treat moss, scarify and aerate lawns as well as feeding the grass, you can now get moss killers that digest dead moss, so no raking or use traditional

Lawn Sand. Prune late summer flowering shrubs, like Buddleia and Caryopteris, as well as Hydrangea paniculate varieties and Hydrangea arborescens Annabelle. Prune down hard shrubs with coloured stems like Cornus, as well as hardy Fuchsias. Trim over winter flowering heathers cutting to the base of the flower clusters. Buy and plant pots of herbs. Sow seeds of hardy herbs in the garden, like parsley. Plant seed potatoes – but beware of frost once the shoots emerge from the soil. Vegetable seeds to sow now include: broad beans, lettuce, leeks, parsnips, peas, radish, salad onions, spinach, Swiss chard and spinach beet. Sow summer bedding under glass: dahlias, impatiens, petunias, phlox drummondii, salvias, asters, tagetes, mesembryanthemums, alyssum, nicotiana, marigolds and zinnias. Plant lilies outdoors in borders and tubs. Lay out

growing bags in the greenhouse to warm up the compost before planting. Sow fruit and vegetable plants for growing on in a heated greenhouse, e.g. tomatoes, aubergines, peppers, cucumbers, etc. or you could decide to buy plants later.

Late March

Plant less robust hardy evergreen shrubs e.g. Hebe and Ceanothus. Lay turf or sow lawn seed. Start feeding pond fish more frequently as the water temperature rises. Vegetables to sow now include: Brussels sprouts, red cabbage, summer cabbage and summer cauliflower. Dwarf French beans can be sown under cloches. Watch out for the buildup of pests and diseases. Hine weevils will be starting to lay eggs in the compost of pots and containers now. An organic answer is a half inch deep layer of horticultural grit over the compost surface to deter them. It is still a bit too early to use predatory nematodes

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester



to control the grubs. Marginal plants in pond can be divided if overcrowded but watch out for frog spawn.

Remember

You can't race the seasons and seeds do not have to be sown exactly when the packet tells you. My advice, with outdoor sowings is watch the weather, not the calendar, as seed sown later when conditions are right usually catches up and surpasses crops put in earlier that had to suffer during bad weather.

Is fostering children, right for you?

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

There are thousands of children and young people that need a loving and nurturing foster family to look after them and support them. Phoenix Fostering will support you and your family every step of the way. To become a foster parent, you need to be over 21 and have a spare bedroom for a foster child to have their own private space. Your nationality or religion won't stop you fostering; however, we require you to be a permanent UK resident. This is to ensure the best long-term care for any foster child that may live with you. We also ask that you hold a UK driving licence.

You don't need any qualifications to apply to foster. Phoenix provides training and

support during the Form F assessment; then in-depth ongoing training to help you become a therapeutic foster parent. Your skills and qualities to foster come from within you, your resilience, empathy, care and kindness will allow you to understand the child and welcome them to your family.

Get in touch today and start thinking about your fostering journey and the difference you could make to a child in need.

Please get in touch with us by e-mail, info@phoenixfostering.co.uk, calling Lisa on 07930 157901, visiting our website: www.phoenixfostering.co.uk or visit us in person at one of our information days, at: Costa Coffee, Weavers Wharf, Kidderminster or St Georges Hall in Bewdley

"Don't watch the clock;
do what it does. Keep going"

Sam Levenson

Interested in
fostering?
Join us for a chat!

13th March 10-2pm
St George's Hall, Bewdley

10th April & 8th May
Costa, Weavers Wharf,
Kidderminster, 10-2pm



07930 157901
www.phoenixfostering.co.uk
info@phoenixfostering.co.uk

Evie's Teenage Focus

Evie Aubin Oxford Brookes University



Another month has been and gone, the winter season is finally coming to an end and signs of spring are starting to show. I was doing my weekly shop just the other day, and walking to Tesco, I passed over a dozen carpets of snowdrops; which was honestly just what I needed. It's got to the point in the year where I simply need to see the Sun again. I have always loved how cosy winter is, being able to snuggle up inside whilst drinking tea and reading a book; however if I don't see the Sun soon, I think I might go crazy! However, with signs of spring starting to show, some fun events are also up and coming. Firstly, Valentine's day, this year me and some friends from my flat went out to Wagamama's for lunch, did some shopping in the city and then got each other flowers. We spent the day together and had lots of fun being bitter about all the happy couples (I promise we are actually happy for you). Next up is my birthday, it's been weird this year not being home with my family but nonetheless I am still excited. My plan at the minute is to make the best of both worlds; I'm going to a restaurant whilst I'm here at university with a bunch of friends, including some that I'm going to drag from home down to Oxford, for dinner and drinks the day before my birthday, then go home on my birthday and spend it with my family. At the moment, I think we will go to a restaurant called Shoryu in Westgate, A friend of mine went there a few weeks ago

and I've only heard good things about it. The next big thing on my calendar is a couple of concerts. These will be my first of the year and I am very excited. I get to see Sabrina Carpenter on March 6th and Gracie Abrams on March 8th. I got the tickets late last year and have been planning outfits since; My outfit for Gracie is sorted, I'm going with my bestie and we decided to get matching outfits and honestly, I can't wait. Sabrina is being a bit more difficult though; I got a dress but I don't really like it, I have a backup dress but I could do better, so I'm now I'm a constant state of keeping my eye out for anything I see that I would want to wear and also fits the aesthetic of the concert. Champagne problems really, but that's where I'm at. Anyway that's all from me, I'll make sure to tell you how it goes next time I write. Toodles!x

The Art Of Wellbeing Centre
Make time for your personal wellbeing
in a calm and tranquil environment.

Classes, Events and Therapies:

- Breathwork and Meditation
- Kobido Facials and Massage
- Pranayama Yoga
- Private Therapy
- Counselling, Psychology and Psychotherapy
- Singing Bowls Sound Baths
- Spiritual Development
- Tai Chi and Qigong

Email: sandi@theartofpranayama.com
Mob: 07887 877865 The Art of Wellbeing Centre
Tel: 01386 552821 @persshore_wellbeing_centre

36 High Street,
Persshore,
WR10 1DP

Gregory's World! Gregory Sidaway Exeter College, Oxford

There and Back Again

Note to self:

Next time, pack a coat.

A lot of my memories of Munich are still dripping and soggy to this day, but I'll try to wring some out for you. Storm Boris was sweeping through neighbouring Austria, Poland and Czechia – and it had its eye on Germany next. As we weaved between puddles and thirsty drains, I barely looked up, my head bowed against the frigid winds. Natdog strode on heroically in front, navigating with Google maps while raindrops splattered his phone screen into pixelated splodges.

Since 1978, thanks to the great Douglas Adams, every aspiring traveller from Kempsey to Kakrafoon now remembers to pack a towel before they embark on their journey. I myself had remembered my towel. More specifically, it was a micro towel. The 'micro' bit is supposed to mean 'microfibre'. Well, I don't know what I clicked when I ordered online, but the towel that came in the post was a micro towel. It had enough microfibre material for me to dry myself one toe at a time. Anyway, if this lowly columnist might be considered alongside Mr Adams for just a second, he'd like to add 'coat' underneath 'towel' as the second most important item to

pack.

Natdog had booked that night's accommodation. Instead of another hostel, he'd chosen a one hundred and eighty man tent ... called 'The Tent'. It really should be considered the Tent because after this one, you'd never want to stay in another. It was as if we'd stepped, sodden and cold, into the barracks from Full Metal Jacket. Had we arrived there in warmer weather and heard the strumming of a guitar in the air and ice cubes clinking in two cold beverages just for us, it might've been a haven. But on this rain-slapped, wind-whipped day, no number of ill-fitting blankets we were given could quite scratch our itch for a warm bed and feeling in our fingertips. Natdog was adamant we book an emergency hotel. I was convinced after we made a pit stop at the toilet. I'll try to be delicate, fellow reader. Inside, we saw a poor plumber on his hands and knees, wrestling with a Hoover and sucking up something unmentionable from under the urinals.

We fled and dared not look back, the cry of the Hoover trembling in our ears. Chug-slurp! Chug-slurp!

If Natdog had a round of applause every time he got us out of a sticky situation, my hands would've fallen off ages ago. After recuperating in our snug

hotel room, we explored Marienplatz and headed to a cavernous beer hall to imbibe ourselves in Bavarian culture. I was very impressed with my pint. Natdog scrunched up his face and said it tasted like liquid bread, yeast, and bile – but other than that, he was impressed too. We ended the night crammed in a very hot cellar, dancing on a bench to Toto's 'Africa'.

I'd been lucky enough to visit Berlin already – see last May's article for further details. This time around, our accommodation was wedged into a well-worn and graffitied nook of the city that still gave off a whiff of old East Berlin. We had to walk alongside a remnant of the Berlin Wall to reach it. I even added a few more places to my list of visited locations, namely: the Reichstag, the Mall of Berlin, and – my favourite – Schnitzelhaus. It soon dawned on us that we were nearing the end of our epic adventure. We marked our last night with a very sophisticated candlelit dinner, then discovered an awesome bar called Republik-Berlin. In the back yard, was a double-decker bus for bier buffs to sit in, upholstered with padded seats, mirrors and even an old Oxfordy table to rest our steins on. After we were denied entry to one club, and Natdog had an expensive ordeal in an off-licence with a



highwayman ATM machine, our luck improved when we found 'Matrix'. I did some crazy dancing and Natdog – having avoided the beer – kept his dignity.

Rain had been chasing us since Slovenia, but our final morning dawned blue and bright. I packed away my micro towel for the last time – which was now very pungent. The bathmat Natdog had been using as a towel had turned to cheese in his damp bag, so that wasn't joining us on the flight home. Waiting for our train to the airport, I sat under the Fernsehturm and nibbled the finest Apfeltasche my taste buds have ever bumped into. Then, before we knew it, we were on the plane, fighting to ram our rucksacks under the seat in front, and what had essentially been a very long and eventful way of getting from Bristol to Birmingham was complete. Thank you, Natdog. Thank you, fellow reader. Thank you, micro towel.

Romy's Uni Life

Busy, Busy

Romy Kemp Liverpool University

It's still freezing here in Liverpool and my bones are chilly. There is a constant draft of bitter wind everywhere which isn't the best but it's making me look forward to summer even more! For the first time ever, I think, I'm really looking forward to summer. I've always been a winter type of person, but I think being here in Liverpool means I'm now pretty sick of the cold weather and I'm so excited for summer clothing, activities and a warm breeze. I think new clothing is one of the things I'm looking forward to most because I'm sick of wearing jumpers, jeans and winter clothes. Both of my housemates have birthdays two days apart which made it easier but harder for me to decorate the house. I had to make two cakes over the weekend

but at least my skills got better for the second cake and blowing up balloons was probably the funniest part. The first cake sort of erupted inside the oven because there was too much batter, but it still turned out pretty good! I'm obviously not a professional baker but seeing as I haven't baked a cake in a while, I feel as though they're not too bad. The cake on the left was the first cake (which erupted) and the cake on the right is the second cake which turned out better but didn't taste as good if I'm honest. The chocolate icing on the first cake was just supreme. For my housemate's birthday we went to play mini golf in Liverpool town centre and it was absolutely fabulous! There were three courses and the themes and lights were captivating. I won the



first round which was great for me! I enjoyed it immensely and it was nice to meet her friends from home too who came up to see her over her birthday weekend. It was fun to hang out as a group for both of their birthdays.

A Little Bit on Loss

I've recently lost my nana which has been very hard for me because we were very close. I don't want to talk too much on this because it is still extremely painful for me, but I did want to bring it up in my



article this month to be a relatable thing. Although I am not yet ready to talk about it properly, I'm sure I will at some point, it's just important to remember that everyone goes through grief. Everyone will experience love and loss and it's important to deal with it however you feel is best. Being at uni is a lot harder because I can't grieve at home with my family, however I'm glad to have the support of the people around me at uni.

Your state pension

Carol Draper

Are you up to date with your state pension contributions?

To receive a full state pension, which is currently £11,500 per year, you need 35 years of national insurance (NI) contributions.

If you are below state pension age and have gaps in your NI record dating back to 2006 you have the option of making voluntary contributions to make up your NI record and hopefully achieve a full state pension.

However, you need to be quick as the option to go back to 2006 is only available until 5 April 2025. After that date you will only be able to make voluntary contributions for the last six years.

If you are employed NI contributions are registered from employee National Insurance deductions and if you are self-employed contributions are registered from Class 2 NI payments made.

If you are unsure if you have the requisite number of years contributions you can go online to check using HMRC's online tool called "check your state pension forecast", is a joint service provided by HMRC and the department for work and pensions. As the name suggests, the service gives a forecast of what pension you will receive based on the NI contributions you have made and calculates if there are any outstanding contributions needed to ensure you receive the full state pension when you



retire. It can be accessed by following the link:

www.gov.uk/check-state-pension

To sign in you will need to have set up a government gateway or have downloaded the HMRC app.

The contribution required to fill a missing year is normally £825, which will boost your state pension by approximately £330 a year. Any investment made will be recovered within three years of retirement, so it is worth thinking about.

Making voluntary contributions may not always be the right decision to make. If you are early in your career and have every likelihood of achieving the required 35 years of contributions, there is no cause for concern. However, if you are later in your career and closer to retirement it is worth checking your NI contribution history to see if there are any gaps.

Carol Draper FCCA
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd

"To the world you may be one person;
but to one person you may be the world"

Dr. Seuss



**Clifton-Crick
Sharp**
Accountants

40 High Street
Pershore
Worcestershire WR10 1DP
01386 561100
mail@clifton-crick.co.uk
www.clifton-crick.co.uk

Rewards!

Angela Johns

Mud, so much mud. I have been trying to walk every weekend to get some exercise in, even though the weather has been pretty grim. Walking through wet, muddy and waterlogged fields, the mud clinging to my boots but the effort rewarded with either a flask of tea or half a pint, depending on the route. The bird song has been changing with the progress of Spring, not just earlier and louder, but the variety songs. I try to keep my ear tuned in when I'm out, and when I'm unsure or clueless I use the app I have on my phone to identify it. My repertoire of birds I recognise by their songs and calls has grown over the last few years but I'm always having to clarify with my trusty app. Sometimes, at a later date, I listen back to the recording it makes and have to chuckle as I hear myself exclaiming in excitement. I have either been rewarded by identifying a more elusive species, or I'm just so pleased that I got it right!

There are plenty of other rewards I get on my walk: good company, a quality snack, a different perspective from the familiar view from the car, the kind of tired that will give me a great not just good sleep, and even a pious kind of feeling that tells my slothful part "See, I told you it would be good to get out and now you don't feel so naughty eating that chocolate!"

We do all sorts of things for reward and the main drive behind it is our own self-worth: I deserve it. The more things we do that increase our own sense of personal satisfaction,



the more our self-esteem will be rooted in our own set of values, not someone else's. This way our achievements give us confidence, resilience and belief in our own abilities. We can confidently set our boundaries, speak up for ourselves and gracefully accept a compliment. We know we are worth it because we feel it. We don't have to rely on someone else to reward us to make us feel good and we can also stop seeking it. What a relief! We more quickly can drop those bitter feelings we get when we don't get the reward, we think we deserved, because we value and appreciate ourselves anyway.

Angela is a qualified Emotional Therapeutic Counsellor registered with the FETC and NCPS. Also a Reflexologist and Reiki Practitioner, she is passionate about her therapies and spends quality time with her clients to facilitate their wellbeing. You can find her at angelajohns.co.uk

Make Mothers' Day Bloom

Choose from lots of special
Gardening gifts for your
flower loving Mum

- ✂ Garden design kits
- ✂ Luxury gardening gloves
- ✂ Seed gift sets
- ✂ Journals & notebooks



www.borderinabox.com

FREE UK DELIVERY

Pain Education in Childhood:

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

The Case for Pain Education in Childhood:

How Early Understanding Can Reduce Chronic Pain

Chronic pain is a growing concern, but education can reduce its severity and its long-term impact. Pain perception develops in childhood, influenced by caregivers, educators, and early experiences. Helping our children understand that pain is not always a sign of harm but a natural protective mechanism can reduce the risk of acute pain developing into chronic pain.

The way we experience pain is shaped by biological, psychological and social factors. Schools play a vital role in fostering healthy pain responses, equipping children with the tools to understand, interpret, and manage pain effectively.

Louise Anderson, a consultant pain psychologist and occupational therapist, runs Cognisance Pain Management in Pershore, where she provides educational and therapeutic support for chronic pain. Her commitment to pain education grew after witnessing well-meaning caregivers promoting unhealthy pain behaviours in children experiencing pain. Recognising the need for better understanding, she now champions early pain education. "How we teach children to respond to pain will shape their experiences for life," she stresses.

How Can We Start?

What Can Educators and Caregivers Do in Pershore?

If a child frequently reports

pain, always consult a healthcare professional. But beyond that, educators and caregivers can take simple steps to foster a healthier understanding of pain:

1. Teach Children That Pain is Normal Pain is the body's alarm system, but it isn't always a sign of harm. Understanding this can reduce fear and anxiety.

2. Encourage Movement and Resilience Avoiding movement worsens pain. Teaching children to stay active and trust their bodies builds confidence and reduces fear-based responses.

3. Connect Emotions and Pain Stress, fear, and anxiety amplify pain. Mindfulness, breathing exercises, and cognitive reframing help improve resilience.

4. Change How We Respond to Pain It is important to acknowledge and convey empathy for children in pain, but instead of reacting with fear, adults can encourage self-assessment. Asking, "What is your body telling you?" fosters a healthy pain relationship.

5. Educate Parents, Teachers, and Society Adults shape children's pain perceptions. Teaching pain science in homes and schools can break the cycle of fear-based responses.

"Pain is a Brain Thing—And That's Good News" Pain is generated by the brain as a protective mechanism, and understanding this can benefit everyone. By educating children in our community about pain, we can reduce fear, build resilience, and empower people to live fuller, more active lives

Be kind to yourself

Emily Papirnik

Be kind to yourself and see what benefit it brings to you and others.

The Importance of Being Kind to Yourself

Self-kindness involves treating ourselves with the same warmth and understanding as we would offer a friend facing difficulties. This practice fosters resilience, enabling individuals to navigate life's challenges more effectively.

The Positive Outcomes of Self-Compassion

Incorporating self-kindness into daily life yields lots of benefits: **Enhanced Emotional Resilience:** Self-compassionate individuals are better equipped to handle adversity, viewing setbacks as opportunities for growth rather than as personal failures.

Improved Mental Health: Regular self-kindness practices are associated with lower levels of anxiety and depression. By reducing self-criticism, we create a more supportive internal dialogue.

Stronger Interpersonal Relationships:

When we are kind to ourselves, we are more likely to extend genuine compassion to others, fostering deeper and more meaningful connections.

The Detrimental Effects of Self-Criticism

Conversely, a lack of self-kindness can lead to negative outcomes:

Increased Stress and Anxiety: Harsh self-criticism activates the body's stress response, leading to heightened anxiety and tension.

Lowered Self-Esteem:

Constant negative self-talk can erode self-worth, making it challenging to pursue goals and embrace new experiences.



Impaired Social Interactions:

Individuals who are unkind to themselves may struggle with feelings of isolation, as their internal negativity can hinder authentic connections with others.

Cultivating Self-Kindness

Developing a habit of self-kindness requires intentional practice:

Mindful Awareness:

Recognise and acknowledge your emotions without judgment. Mindfulness allows us to stay present and reduces the tendency to ruminate on past mistakes.

Positive Self-Talk:

Challenge negative thoughts by reframing them into supportive and encouraging statements. For instance, replace "I always mess up" with "I'm learning and growing from my experiences."

Self-Compassionate Actions:

Engage in activities that nurture your well-being, such as taking a relaxing bath, going for a walk in nature, or practicing meditation.

By prioritising self-kindness, we lay the foundation for a more fulfilling and balanced life.

Embracing our humanity with compassion enables us to navigate the complexities of existence with grace and resilience.

LOUISE ANDERSON

(MBPSs, MSc, MSc, BSc, BA, BSc Hons)

Consultant Pain Psychologist and HCPC Registered Occupational Therapist



www.cognisancepm.com



Cognisancepm@gmail.com



34 High Street, Pershore,
Worcestershire, WR10 1DS



www.mehelpingme.com



The easy way to
Feel better

Healthy Heart Tip:

Protein and heart health

Many people know the benefits of protein for muscle growth and repair, but do you know the other benefits for your health? Protein is one of the main forms of nutrients you need for your body to function. In the UK, on average, there is an over consumption of the recommended amount of protein but often from few sources.

It is essential that your body is getting protein from a range of different foods to ensure you meet all your body's requirements. Did you know that approximately 16% of the UK population follow a meat-free diet? These people may need to focus more attention on meeting their protein requirements than those who regularly eat meat.

In this healthy tip we discuss the importance of protein, different sources and how to get protein into your diet.

Importance of protein

Protein is required for general health, growth and maintenance of the body's tissues. It helps your bones, muscles, tendons, ligaments and skin to stay healthy and have structure, strength and elasticity. Protein helps your muscles to repair and rebuild after exercising and helps to increase your muscular strength. It also supports the immune system by helping to form antibodies that fight against disease-causing bacteria and viruses.

Protein has a satiating effect on the body and helps you to feel fuller for longer. It provides energy to your body, but only as a last resort if all your carbohydrate and fat stores have been used up. It should make up 10% to 35% of your total daily energy intake.



Sources of protein

Animal proteins are often more known and more commonly consumed than other protein sources. These include meat and poultry, fish and seafood, eggs, and dairy products. However, more people are beginning to follow a diet rich in plant proteins and consuming more nuts and seeds, beans, chickpeas, lentils and tofu.

Getting protein into your diet

You should try to include a portion of protein in every meal of the day, as well as in the snacks you eat. This will help to keep you feeling fuller for longer and reduce those cravings for foods with low nutritional value.

For better heart health you should aim to eat a diet that is rich in plant foods. This simply means you need to consume lots of plant-based foods and proteins, and lower amounts of proteins from animal sources. This will not only benefit your heart health but also the sustainability of the planet. If you are consuming animal proteins, then red meats and processed meats are often high in fat and it is more beneficial for your health to consume leaner protein sources such as plant proteins, poultry and fish where possible.

Child Trust Funds



A Child Trust Fund (CTF) is a tax-free saving account for children set up by the government at the time. It was set up if the child was born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011, and the parents or guardian received Child Benefit.

Child Trust Funds have since been replaced by Junior ISAs, so only existing accounts remain. However, because most accounts were initially opened with at least £250, with interest or investment growth, this could be worth a lot more now. Therefore it is worth understanding your rights and what you can and cannot do with the fund.

What you can do with a Child Trust Fund depends on your age. Up to age 16 the parent or guardian of the child must manage the account, such as paying in money – up to £9,000 a year; switching to a new provider or transferring it to a Junior ISA.

At age 16 and over the young adult can manage the account themselves and at 18 they can access the money, leave it where it is (it'll just change to an adult

ISA); move it to a different type of savings account or even spend it.

Many families may have forgotten once set up that they even had a Child Trust Fund and not even added anything to it since they were set up. If you are in this situation don't worry because you can ask the HMRC to find it for you and there is a useful free tool on the gov.uk website that can help you with this. You only need your National Insurance number and date of birth. There is absolutely no need to pay someone to find it for you.

For further information and advice, please contact your local Citizens Advice South Worcestershire office on 01684 563611 or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Preventing car theft - Part 2

3. Be aware of carjackers

The fact that you're in the car isn't always a deterrent to someone trying to steal it.

In traffic, drive with the doors locked and when queuing leave enough space in front of your vehicle to enable you to get out of a tight spot. If your vehicle is bumped from behind, wait to pull over – somewhere safe and preferably where there are people. After all, you don't know the person who has collided with you; they could well be hijackers. If you're at all suspicious, consider calling the police.

If someone threatens you, it's better to hand over the keys to the vehicle than become a victim of assault. Then call 999 as soon as possible, and ask for the police. If your car is stolen, some modern vehicle alarm and tracker systems have the facility to isolate or shut down fuel systems, bringing the vehicle to a halt and leaving the thief high and dry.

4. Park responsibly

It's always advisable to avoid parking in dark and secluded areas. It's worth an extra five or ten-minute walk if it means



your vehicle is left in a well-lit and busier street. If possible, always try to park in illuminated and staffed car parks or those with a Park Mark safer parking award. To find one, simply check out Park Mark.

5. Watch for illegal tow trucks

Thieves often attempt to lift vehicles from the street, literally. So, if you see a towaway crew acting suspiciously – especially if their vehicle isn't branded or if they're not in uniform – then please report it immediately. With every report of suspicious behaviour made in good faith, we'll never blame anyone for calling us if it proves unfounded. Car parks with height-restricted entrances help prevent illegal tow trucks and removal vehicles. And fitting a Thatcham rated category 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors can help protect and trace your vehicle.

Are your Locks Behaving Badly?

All types of door & window lock problems

Locks opened, Serviced, Repaired, Supplied & Fitted

UPVC-composite Multi-point lock repair specialist

Door & Window adjustment & realignment service

Additional Home Security inc. garages, sheds, gates

Upgrade with Insurance approved anti-snap locks

Emergency same day service available*

• No call out charge • Free on-site estimates

For more information contact Stewart

THE LOCKSMITH

Your local reliable Independent Locksmith Service

Tel: 01905 570 999 Mobile: 07871 44 20 11

www.locksmithworcestershire.co.uk

Back in the Day



One of my earliest memories concerns my Grandmothers' farm – and in particular my task of churning the family's butter. Life at Bwlch - Bychan centred around the animals so we started early which meant that my butter churning took place between breakfast and Church on Sunday. This memory came vividly back to me this week when I learned that butter churning is now at the centre of an immersive learning experience just down the road from us in Broadway's Museum and Art gallery.

Go back in time to the 1600's and Broadway was at the heart of the Coaching scene, a place where weary travellers stopped to rest and take refreshment. Now this taste of the past has been recreated with captivating tales of the town's stagecoach history, highwaymen and 17th century life plus the chance to learn the skills of butter making and seasoning with, what else, traditional Droitwich salt. Then enjoy a hearty mid-morning or mid-afternoon meal, featuring either a rich, warming vegetable stew or a traditional Ploughman's served with freshly baked bread and a local ale – perfect for enjoying with the butter you made yourself just moments before. Experiences cost from £37.50 per person and are available weekly throughout the year. For details see: www.broadwaymuseum.org.uk When the trains came it changed

Broadway fundamentally and it became a fashionable resort for, amongst others, artists such as the famous American John Singer Sargent who died exactly a century ago on 14 April 1925. So the Museum and Art Gallery are holding a special exhibition of his works, and those of his associates plus offering private guided tours of the exhibition and a range of talks as part of the forthcoming Broadway Arts Festival. Further into the Cotswolds and

the booking is now open for the Longborough Festival Opera season, which starts on 27th May with 'Wahnfried: The Birth of the Wagner Cult' which explores the inner circle of the composer's family after his death and is followed by the ever popular 'Barber of Seville, by Rossini from 8th June until 13th July. That's followed by 'Pelleas et Melisande' a fresh take on the love triangle, inspired by the mythic world of Arthurian legend which runs from 28th June to 10th July and finally, the first English operatic masterpiece 'Dido and Aeneas' on stage from 26th July until 2nd August.

For details see: www.lfo.org.uk Talking of booking ahead reminds me that now's the time to book tickets for both the main shows at Malvern this year, the Malvern Spring Festival runs from 8th May to the 11th and includes very well known personalities such as Alan Titchmarsh CBE. Then the following month we have the 'biggie' –one of the largest agricultural celebrations in the UK- the Royal Three Counties Show which runs from 13th to 15th June and features a whopping 8,000 animals across the long weekend. Appearing at the Show for the first time this year will be furry friends and their human companions from Atwells Farm Park, sited in our County, Worcestershire, who are offering a new animal encounter and interactive learning area.

Brian Johnson-Thomas

Another new feature at this year's Show is the Pig Village, offering engaging educational experiences and insights into the world of pig farming.

For those who like a spot of retail therapy there's going to be a new 'Fairfax and Favour' area, hosted in the luxurious Royal Parade where we can browse the very latest in British lifestyle fashion before relaxing with a glass of champagne and live music. The organisers say that there will be over 101 free family activities to enjoy over the long weekend. Advance day tickets to the Royal Three Counties Show cost £24.85 for adults and children under 16 are free.

For details see: www.royalthreecounties.co.uk Finally I should perhaps remind you that it's just eighty years this coming May since the end of the Second World War and the occasion will be marked in Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 3rd May at 7.30 pm with a commemorative concert featuring the Band of the Mercian Regiment accompanied by the Oakville Singers in a programme of regimental marches and wartime songs with music by Elgar and Walton. Tickets for nave seats cost just £20, to reserve please contact davidjshallmark@gmail.com or phildouce68@gmail.com Spring is in the air! Look forward to seeing you out and about!

VE DAY
80TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

WORCESTER CONCERT COMMEMORATING VE DAY

VE DAY
80TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

FUNDRAISING FOR **THE WORCESTERSHIRE SOLDIER** REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 276510
at The Commandery

The Band of The Mercian Regiment
directed by Maj Ian Johnson

The Oakville Singers
Musical Director Ivan Oliver, Accompanist John Wilderspin

Programme of Regimental Marches & Warlike Songs with Music by Elgar and Walton

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL
Saturday 3 May 2025 @7:30pm

For your reservations please contact:
davidjshallmark@gmail.com or phildouce68@gmail.com

TICKETS:
£20
NAVE SEATS

Heritage Fund

DESIGNED & PRINTED BY
FIRST PAIGE PRINT

Jazz News

Peter Farrall



Quite a busy start to the year at Pershore Jazz. In January we enjoyed bespoke arrangements of early jazz numbers from the Adrian Cox Trio and, in February, excursions from classics to jazz with Rich Hughes' "Fugue and Groove" quartet. On 3rd February ticket booking opened for "Pershore Jazz on a Summer's Day" at Number 8 on 9th August. Quite a way ahead but already over one hundred seats have been taken so make haste to reserve the seats of your choice for this one-day extravaganza of jazz and swing from the 1920s right up to the 1950s.

Jazz club regulars are eagerly looking forward to a return visit from the Hot Teapots band from Italy with their unusual combination of clarinet/sax and violin on the front line and a drumless rhythm section. Last March, the Teapots so thrilled us with their acoustic style of delivery that we just had to book them when they were here again even though a clash of dates and times mean that this will be an afternoon performance. Our thanks to Anna and crew at the football club for opening especially.

The usual evening session this month presents long time friend of Pershore Jazz, the award-winning star of saxophone clarinet and flute, Amy Roberts with her "rhythm boys". Another

not to be missed performance. A recent offering in the Music Spoken Here series at the Marris Bar in Worcester was a young, up and coming quintette from Birmingham quirkily named Impossible Conversations who "blend traditional sounds with their own contemporary styles"; perhaps not a band for Pershore Jazz Club (at least not at present) but worth hearing if you wish to broaden your jazz appreciation. A tenuous connection with Pershore is that the group is led by drummer Louis Hamilton-Foad, grandson of the iconic saxophonist Andy Hamilton who appeared at Pershore Jazz Festival way back in the mists of time. Andy came to Britain as a stowaway from Jamaica, pre Windrush generation, and settled in Birmingham where he continued his jazz career and, in spite of instances of racism, rapidly became a much-acclaimed performer, composer and ambassador for jazz in his home city and internationally. His passion for involving young people in music earned him an MBE in 2008. After a phenomenal life, he died in 2012 at the age of 94.

Andy was very appreciative of the effort to begin a new jazz outlet in Pershore and commented "now keep it up".

Well, we did keep it up Andy.

Hot Teapots

Wednesday 12th March

Doors open at 11.30am, music at 12.30

Amy Roberts Quartet

Wednesday 26th March 2025

Doors open at 7pm, music at 8

Function Room, Pershore Football Club

Admission £12.50 to include a raffle ticket

Book in advance and pay on arrival

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

Sustainable solution to indoor drying!



Based in Leigh Sinton, Julu Ltd, are making laundry days a little more eco-friendly with their award winning wall mounted clothes airer the Laundry Ladder. The Laundry Ladder is helping homes around the UK to change the way we dry our clothes. Air drying clothes is the eco-friendly way to dry washing. Clothes that are air dried last longer as they avoid the harm done by tumble driers. There is a growing trend to lengthen the life of clothes. This clever wall-mounted version is so versatile that as well as using it as an indoor solution with its portability it can easily be transported to be used outside on sunny days. Customers who wish to take advantage of the fresh air and warm rays on sunny days simply have a second set of brackets on a wall outside. Made in

wood this attractive compact clothes airer is designed to last and its gentle curves give it an elegant look.

Julia one of the original founders of Julu Ltd, recently completed a sustainability course run by Small Business Britain and sponsored by BT.

After completing the six week course the participants were invited to a Lunch at the House of Lords. Julia told us it was an interesting experience to meet with lots of small businesses all striving to find ways to make their businesses more sustainable. One of the key messages from the course is that sustainability does not always cost more. Love Your Laundry.

For more information visit:
www.juluhome.co.uk
Tel 0330 223 2855



**WORCESTER
PODIATRY**

Expert care for all your foot health needs!

Under New Management



TAKING
ON NEW
PATIENTS

Specialising in comprehensive footcare

Chiropody | Verruca treatment

Fungal nail care | Pain and injury management

Shock wave therapy | Laser treatment | Custom orthotics

01905 428434 | info@worcesterpodiatry.co.uk

www.worcesterpodiatryandlasercentre.co.uk

Scan to book
online



Music Matters

Steve Ide

Black Sabbath - Back to the Beginning live show

There was much excitement around Black Sabbath's announcement of their July live show at Villa Park. The show will feature the original lineup of the band and is reported as their very last show, with support acts such as Metallica and Pantera (and rumours of more to be announced). Fans that managed to pay around £200 for a ticket (and reports of tickets going for thousands of pounds) presumably felt like an "Iron Man", while the majority that missed out were left feeling "Paranoid".

Marianne Faithful

Sadly, we lost the singer-songwriter Marianne Faithful on 30th January. Marianne started her career in 1964 and was famous for her songs such as "As tears go by" and "Come and stay with me". She was famous for her distinctive voice and had a highly published relationship with Mick Jagger. Marianne survived many personal problems and suffered poor health in later life, but continued making music, including collaborating with Warren Ellis on the captivating album of romantic poems "She walks in beauty".

Marianne Faithful

29 December 1946 - 30 January 2025

Notable new albums

The bad fire by Mogwai

The Scottish foursome have offered up an uplifting new album while sticking to their modus operandi, largely instrumental, guitar-based, unpredictable and largely instrumental. Try it, you won't be disappointed.

EUSEXUA by FKA Twigs

FKA Twigs has described this album as techno-inspired but it also has a trance-like feel to it. An outstanding collection of 11 tracks that describe intense human emotions.

Debi tirar by Bad Bunny

The latest from the Puerto Rican star, a joyful collection of Portuguese rap songs

Look up by Ringo Starr

His 21st studio release is a country album, and it sounds like Ringo doing whatever he wants to do.

Add to playlist

People ruin paintings
by Manic Street Preachers

Everything is peaceful love
by Bon Iver

Remember my name
by Sam Fender

I love America and she hates me
by The Wombats

Wanna die
by Emma Jean Thackray

The heart is a foolish thing
by Edwyn Collins



View from the Boundary

Not a good start to 2025 for either England men or Women. The men lost the latest T20 by two wickets. India reached 165/9. The women have been trounced by Australia and have not won a game in any format.

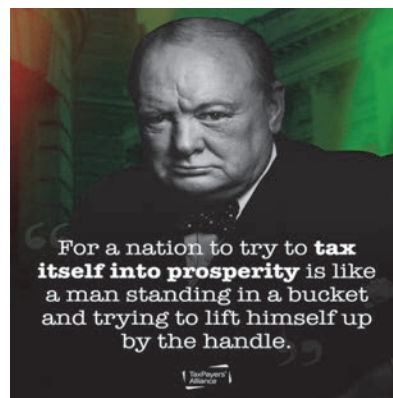
The Six Nations has started. England lost to Ireland. Why? Again, too many penalties given away. Wales v France, well there were some outstanding plays by France and we will see how good they are against the other teams. However, Wales I do not think were as bad as every commentator said.

Let's look to nearer home and what affects us. "Rachel from accounts" as described by Lee Anderson went to China to do a deal, what deal?

Here is a thought. Starmer wants to give the Chagos Islands to Mauritius. I'll bet that China will pay Mauritius and Mauritius will pay us and then China will control the Chagos islands. The Starmer drive to financial ruin has caused the pound to drop and Trump, whatever you think of him, has made the

dollar strengthen. This has caused our oil and gas prices to increase, but if there was confidence in the Pound we would do well.

This brings me to the question of national security; Ed Miliband wants to cancel our right to drill in the North Sea but my comments is as Trump's, Drill baby Drill and make sure that we are self-sufficient. The same goes for shale gas and coal. We must NOT be reliant on any foreign power. The same goes for farming; we need to be able to feed our ever-increasing population. Let's turn further to inheritance tax. Most farms are handed down from father to son and are never sold. The tax on farms over a million is ridiculous. Take a small farm of 200 acres the land value of £12,000 per acre is £2,400,000 plus, say a house and a farm workers cottage of £500,000 takes this to three million less one million therefore inheritance tax. If a farmer and his wife earns £30,000 a year they have no chance of ever paying a mortgage to pay the debt to the government.



I turn to another issue in the NHS, management. I give you an example. A patient who has a liver and spleen issue needs a fibroscan. The only machine is owned by the NHS. Privately you can have it in ten days using public-owned equipment, using the same machine and same operators. If you are an NHS patient 33 weeks was quoted. This equipment should operate 24/7, 365 days a year and given that the taxpayer owns the machine, the question must be, should they not come first? Your answers to the editor. All these deaths being typically perpetrated by people, shall we say not hereditarily from the

UK has begged a question. Should we come out of the European Court of Human Rights? if so let's have a poll by writing to the editor and secondly, for some types of murder and rapes should we bring back the death penalty? another poll to the editor!! or, do a deal with say Chikurubi Jail in Zimbabwe to house lifers at £2.00 per day rather than the huge cost the taxpayers have to pay for cat A prisons. Oops, the editor is going to be busy.

I enclose a little comment made by Sir Winston courtesy of the taxpayers alliance



Thoughts from the Snug... Grumbling verses stoicism

We often get grumbling in the Snug. It's probably a part of British hypocrisy that whilst we are fluent enough in grumbling about small inconveniences, we insist on making light of great inconveniences, grief and even disasters. The skill of the typical English understatement has its

origins in the spectrum of British grumbling. For example, someone who loses a leg may quip, "That's inconvenient, but at least it's helped me reach my target weight." Such is stoicism, the antidote to those who resist moaning and complaining. Whilst stoicism is a truly admirable

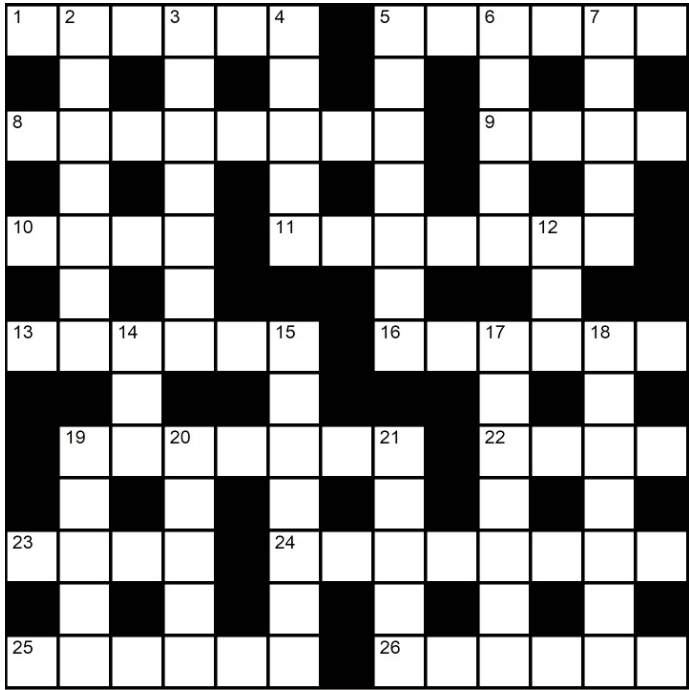
quality, grumpiness can be entertaining if not taken to excess. But here in the Snug grumbling is alive and kicking. We have an expert grumbler who regularly visits us. He's the kind of fellow who would grumble about his own shadow following him. Frankly he is designed for the part. Sagging face, weighty, pouting lower lip, squeaky voice and a generally doleful expression. It has been said he once complained to his wife,

"This vinegar has lumps in it!" she replied, "Those are pickled onions. Now eat your fish fingers!" His repost was, "Fish don't have fingers." Technically right, of course. No denying it. The same character, on reaching a significant milestone birthday, was congratulated on the event. He responded, "I'm not happy, but I'm not unhappy about that." Typically British; long live grumpiness!

Buddy Bach

Coffee Break

Crossword



Across

- 1 Harp on about Jane Eyre, for example (6)
- 5 Encourage (6)
- 8 Performed surgery (8)
- 9 Quartz grains (4)
- 10 Punch (4)
- 11 Transcendent (7)
- 13 Jericho was, until Joshua arrived (6)
- 16 Bury (6)
- 19 Profits (7)
- 22 Copies (4)
- 23 Duration (4)
- 24 Magnificent (8)
- 25 Vigour (6)
- 26 Clear a channel (6)

Down

- 2 Reproduction (7)
- 3 Injurious (7)
- 4 Short letters (5)
- 5 Loud enough to be heard (7)
- 6 Uncooked meal suitable for Fridays, maybe (5)
- 7 Anger about scope (5)
- 12 Holstein holler? (3)
- 14 Shelter (3)
- 15 Think it probable (4,3)
- 17 Learner (7)
- 18 Assembly (7)
- 19 Get ready to eat (5)
- 20 General meaning (5)
- 21 Reliable (5)

Sudoku

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

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

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

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

Wordsearch

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

ANEW
ASSAM
BAT
BY FAR
CUBE
DO IT
DOG
DOWNS
EBB
EELS
EWING
EX-WIFE
INKY
INS
LAX
LENT
NELL
NEST

NOOK
NOS
NUTS
ODOURS
OWL
QUEEN
REDO
RETAIN
ROBE
SENSE
SUB
SUM
TIES
WETTER
WIELDS
WIG
WISH

Brainteaser

You can throw me
off a tall building
and it won't hurt me.
If you put me in
water I break.

What an I?

Poets' Corner

XLII - The Merry Guide

Once in the wind of morning
I ranged the thymy wold;
The world-wide air was azure
And all the brooks ran gold.

There through the dew beside me
Behold a youth that trod,
With feathered cap on forehead,
And poised a golden rod.

With mien to match the morning
And gay delightful guise
And friendly brows and laughter
He looked me in the eyes.

Oh whence, I asked, and whither?
He smiled and would not say,
And looked at me and beckoned
And laughed and led the way.
And with kind looks and laughter
And nought to say beside
We two went on together,
I and my happy guide.

Across the glittering pastures
And empty upland still
And solitude of shepherds
High in the folded hill,

By hanging woods and hamlets
That gaze through orchards
down

On many a windmill turning
And far-discovered town,

With gay regards of promise
And sure unslackened stride
And smiles and nothing spoken
Led on my merry guide.

By blowing realms of woodland
With sunstruck vanes afield
And cloud-led shadows sailing
About the windy weald,

By valley-guarded granges
And silver waters wide,
Content at heart I followed
With my delightful guide.

And like the cloudy shadows
Across the country blown
We two face on for ever,
But not we two alone.

With the great gale we journey
That breathes from gardens
thinned,
Borne in the drift of blossoms
Whose petals throng the wind;
Buoyed on the heaven-heard
whisper

Of dancing leaflets whirled
From all the woods that autumn
Bereaves in all the world.

And midst the fluttering legion
Of all that ever died

I follow, and before us
Goes the delightful guide,
With lips that brim with
laughter

But never once respond,
And feet that fly on feathers,
And serpent-circled wand.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

Quiz!

- 1) Which US rock band, formed in 1976, is known for hits like "Rock Lobster" and "Love Shack"?
- 2) The classic British sitcom "Only Fools and Horses" is set in which part of London?
- 3) Which British playwright wrote the controversial drama "Blasted" in 1995, receiving both acclaim and criticism for its explicit content?
- 4) The 2008 film "In Bruges" stars Colin Farrell and which other Irish actor?
- 5) Which actor is known for his portrayal of Gollum in the "Lord of the Rings" film trilogy?
- 6) "Life on Mars" and its sequel "Ashes to Ashes" are British TV series that combine police procedural with which other genre?
- 7) Who is the British singer-songwriter behind hits such as "Shape of You" and "Thinking Out Loud"?
- 8) "The Office", a mockumentary sitcom that depicts the everyday lives of office employees, was co-created by Ricky Gervais and whom?
- 9) The Kray Twins, notorious British gangsters, operated primarily during which decade?
- 10) "Bandersnatch" is an interactive film that is part of which British TV series anthology?
- 11) What is the name of the thin, circular structure in the eye, responsible for controlling the diameter and size of the pupil?
- 12) What part of a human body is the Mandible?
- 13) What is the name of the muscle found at the top of the arm and shoulder?
- 14) The Palatine Glands are more commonly known as what?
- 15) If the inner surface of the lungs could be laid out flat the surface area would match that of a) half a badminton court b) half a tennis court or c) half a football field
- 16) What organ could be described as the main waste filtering and disposal system of the body?
- 17) What is the largest vein in the human body?

Answers: 1) The B-52's 2) Peckham 3) Sarah Kane 4) Brendan Gleeson 5) Andy Serkis 6) Science fiction 7) Ed Sheeran 8) Stephen Merchant 9) 1960s 10) Black Mirror 11) Iris 12) Lower jawbone 13) Deloit 14) Tonis 15) b) half a tennis court 16) Kidneys 17) The Inferior Vena Cava

February Answers



March Brain teaser solution: Paper or tissue paper.

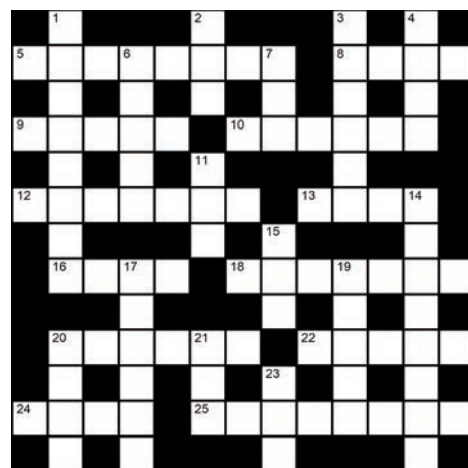
Anagram Crossword

Across

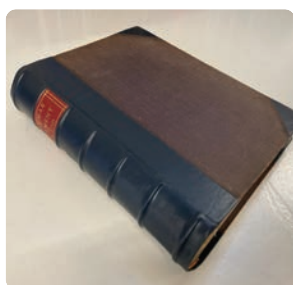
- 5 Aspiring (8)
- 8 Earp (4)
- 9 Pasta (5)
- 10 Itches (6)
- 12 Betting (3,4)
- 13 Mete (4)
- 16 Et al (4)
- 18 Bipolar (7)
- 20 Statin (6)
- 22 Preys (5)
- 24 Go up (1,1,1,1)
- 25 Brigades (8)

Down

- 1 Roasting (8)
- 2 I S P (3)
- 3 Haired (6)
- 4 Best (4)
- 6 Paint (5)
- 7 Tug (3)
- 11 Den (3)
- 14 Merriest (8)
- 15 Tar (3)
- 17 Dial-up (4,2)
- 19 Beady (5)
- 20 Gust (4)
- 21 Bat (1,1,1)
- 23 Run (3)



*Do you have a cherished book that is
in need of restoration or repair?*



Bring it to our shop for a free quotation!

Photographs

*Printed from your mobile phone,
memory stick or email
Old Photographs scan and print service
Photograph repairs also available*



Life is for sharing ...

Gift a Lifetime of Stories

*Turn cherished stories, memories and
thoughts into a beautifully edited life
story book for all the family to enjoy.*



Bring your memories to life!

We transfer to DVD, USB & Audio CD

VHS - Slides - Photos - Cine films

Camcorder tapes - Photos from video

Tape repairs / editing - Foreign tapes converted

Open reel audio, Dictaphone, Cassette &

Vinyl to CD or MP3



Hughes & Company

*Typographers, Printers, Publishers,
Book Binders & Stationers*

*Established 1973
Four generations of printers*

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

Hughes & Company

*Publishers of
Pershore, Apton, Powick & Kempsey Times*



The Complete Package

*Free Monthly Newspapers
plus online versions*

**Immediate access to over
25,000 readers and online followers
Advertisements available from £15.00
Pay as you go monthly advertising -**

No contracts

email edition

To advertise

email: advertising@hughes.company

For FREE editorial

email: news@hughes.company

Published by:

Hughes & Company, 8 Church Street, Pershore WR10 1DT

Telephone 01386 803803

Proprietor / Editor Alan Hughes

Opinions expressed in letters and articles published are not necessarily
those held by the Editor or the Publishers, Hughes & Company.
The Publishers hold no responsibility for the accuracy of any
details contained within the advertisements.

To receive our newspapers by email, visit:

Pershore Times

www.pershoretimes.com

Apton Times

www.uptontimes.com

Powick Times

www.powicktimes.com

Kempsey Times

www.kempseytimes.com

*Enter your name and email address.
You will receive the next edition direct to your inbox!*

**Copy Deadline for
April Issue -
17th March 2025**

Did Jane Austen come to Pershore?

And can she help our wellbeing? In this – her 250th Anniversary year – it's easy to imagine Jane Austen parading the Georgian streets of Pershore, popping in to buy a bonnet (or more likely a ream of paper) before driving out for tea on the terrace at Croome Court. We know she sometimes visited cousins in Adlestrop (20 miles or so from here) and from there once journeyed north of Lichfield. But as far as I know, there is no evidence she ever came to Pershore. A shame, as Broad Street (sans car park, of course) would make the perfect backdrop for one of her novels.

In this anniversary year, many of us will be attending events, reading the books, watching TV dramas, and even dressing up in Regency garb with huge enjoyment. The world of Austen is famously alluring: the fashions, the elegant manners, the sparkling conversations and witty put-downs. There is, however, a darker undercurrent beneath the glittering surface. The comforting lightness of her stories is balanced against a vision of society that is deeply insecure and unsettling. For this reason, her books are used by support groups in hospices, in prisons and for people suffering PTSD: discussion of the characters and their dilemmas can help people address problems in their own lives, all the while feeling contained and comforted by the comedy and reassurance the novels give us. We know that in the depths of World War 2, Winston Churchill asked his daughter to read him *Pride and Prejudice* to help him get through his dark night of the soul.

There are even accounts of soldiers in the First World War being prescribed Jane Austen to help them cope with shell-shock. So what can Austen teach us about wellbeing? "There's a constant low-level psychological stress that all her characters are under," Dr Helena Kelly (author of *Jane Austen: A Secret Radical*)



told BBC Culture in 2021. Just think of the snobbery, the avarice, the sycophancy and hypocrisy that her characters have to endure and somehow keep their heads and make sensible decisions. Elizabeth Bennet and Emma Woodhouse develop emotional intelligence: they learn that they have made wrong judgements and are strong enough to admit this. Coping with embarrassment, resisting social pressure, not jumping to conclusions – we all share these trials with Austen's characters. Not being able to talk about your situation with others is one of the hardest of these trials. Who can forget Elinor (aka Emma Thompson) at the end of the film *Sense and Sensibility* hyperventilating like a landed fish when years of pent-up anxieties are finally released? These characters needed a Pershore Wellbeing Hub down their High Street! We would have welcomed Elinor, Fanny, Edmund and the others for a chat and a cup of tea – as we welcome anyone wanting to talk about problems large or small, practical or personal... or who just want to pass the time of day in friendly company. Check out our website below – and happy anniversary, Jane!

Paul Morris
Pershore Wellbeing Hub
4, High Street
Tel. 01386 555018
www.pershorewellbeinghub.co.uk

£5000 target for Cancer Research UK donation

In memory of our friend and colleague, Susan Catford Hughes and Company have produced a limited edition book of every article, poem and painting, that Susan produced for the Pershore Times. A 100 A4 pages in full colour. All proceeds from the sale of this book and any donations will go to:

Cancer Research UK Ltd. The articles are of a very high quality, each one is different and a joy to read. Susan's 'Women's Hour' was a much loved regular feature of the paper. We received many positive comments, about the articles.

A recent purchaser of the book said:

"I looked forward to reading Susan's articles every month. They were always positive, engaging and thought



provoking. I never met her, but felt I knew her. I love the book and pick it up often to read" Now is your chance for a great read and donate to charity.

Writings & Paintings of Susan Catford Book is available priced at £20 from: Hughes & Company Design House, 8 Church Street Pershore WR10 1DT Tel: 01386 803803 Email: news@hughes.company



CANCER RESEARCH UK

Writings & Paintings of Susan Catford



CANCER RESEARCH UK



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

Available from:

Hughes & Company

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



S B S
Steve's Barber Shop
3 Cowley's Way, Pershore WR10 1EU
Telephone 07811 014247

Over 275,000 trees planted over the last three years



Liz Etheridge from Wychavon District Council with Emma Pestrige, Project Delivery Officer TCAP from the Heart of England Forest

Over 275,000 trees have been planted in the West Midlands as part of an ambitious three-year project to benefit the environment and local communities. The project was set-up to provide vital advice and support for all aspects of tree planting and maintenance, while raising awareness of the benefit of trees in communities throughout the region. The fund was developed by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) in partnership with the Forestry Commission and was delivered by the Heritage Fund throughout the country. The Heart of England Forest held an event at Gorcott Hill, near Redditch, to celebrate this fantastic achievement with over 30 partners, members of local communities, and landowners.

At the celebration event, a small, new woodland was planted before visitors shared their reflections on the achievements and successes of the project.

Andy Parsons, Chief Executive at the Heart of England Forest, said: "We were given a grant of £499,446 from the Trees Call to Action Fund to enable us to work together with the District Councils of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwick, and Wychavon, on a three-year project to support and deliver tree planting across our local landscape and community spaces. "Increasing tree cover is vital to help address the climate and biodiversity emergencies, since a lack of trees and woodland impacts negatively on nature, people's health, and the environment.

Emergency Voluntary Services (EVS)

Severn Freewheelers is YOUR blood bike charity, made up entirely from volunteers, providing a professional, efficient service to our community, at no cost to our local NHS Trusts. We transport, by motorcycle or car, urgently needed items such as blood, medicines and samples across Worcestershire, as well as Gloucestershire, North Wiltshire and Herefordshire. We also partner with other blood bike groups across the country to relay samples across regions. Nine emergency service bikes and four cars are available 365 days a year, with members working weekdays, evenings and at weekends and Bank Holidays, we provide a 24-hour service to the NHS. Founded in 2007, Severn Freewheelers has grown in membership from one motorcycle and five volunteers to the current fleet size and over 180 members. Representing a variety of people from many walks of life, member roles include motorbike riders, car drivers, despatchers and fundraisers. We are funded entirely by generous donations from the public and local grants. We hope you can help us make a difference today.



Why not volunteer for us? We need Riders and Despatchers. A motorcycle typically covers 60,000 miles per year and will, through conscientious servicing last around 3 ½ years. We have a constant need for funds to operate our services: a bike is £18,000 to purchase, tyres cost us £5,500 annually and with ever-rising fuel prices, that bill exceeds £25,000. We are invariably working at night – you won't see us often – but you may need our help one day.

We appreciate that times are incredibly hard for everyone right now, but if you can find it in your heart to help us, please consider donating at:
<https://www.justgiving.com/severnfreewheelers> or
 Scan the QR code in the picture to read more about us.
 Thank you.



Pershore Times

Collection Points:

Hughes & Co - CO-OP store - Tesco Express

Acorns - Fruit Salad - Upper Crust Bakery

Pershore Library - Riverside Fish Bar

St Richards Hospice Shop - Drakes Broughton Village Shop

Eckington Village Shop

Elmley Castle, The Queen Elizabeth

Peopleton Village Shop

Upton Snodsbury Post Office & Shop



SARAH'S FOOTCARE Mobile Service

A friendly, caring service in the comfort of your home
For all foot care needs: Nail cutting, corns, calluses, verrucas
 A registered Foot Health Practitioner
 (SAC/RHFP registered general nurse)

Contact Sarah by text or tel: 07817 635312

The Power of Volunteering: Making a Difference



As we look back on the past few months, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible impact our volunteers continue to make in our community. Volunteering is a powerful way to create positive change in our communities, and it all begins with a simple act of kindness. When we volunteer our time, skills, or resources, we not only help those in need, but we also contribute to a greater sense of unity and purpose. The impact of volunteering stretches far beyond the immediate help we

provide – it's about building stronger, more resilient communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Each time we volunteer, we make a difference in someone's life, whether it's providing support to individuals facing difficult times, transporting someone to an appointment, enhancing local programmes, or promoting local causes. The benefits don't stop there. Volunteering helps to foster personal growth, develop new skills, and cultivate a sense of

fulfilment. It has been shown to reduce stress, improve mental health, and increase happiness, all while building connections with others who share a passion for making a difference.

As we continue to face the challenges of our time, the need for volunteers has never been greater. No matter how much time you can give -whether it's a few hours a month or more regular commitment – you are making an impact. Your time, your energy, and your compassion all have the power to change lives.

We encourage you to consider the many opportunities to get involved and make a difference in our community. Volunteering is not just an act of charity; it's

an investment in the future, one that pays dividends for both the giver and the receiver.

Together, we can create a ripple effect of goodwill that inspires others to take action and continues to strengthen our community for years to come. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with us here at Pershire Plus Volunteer Centre, our team is here to guide and support you every step of the way. Your help will truly make a difference.

Contact us on 01386 554299

Email Kim,

Volunteer Coordinator

kim@pershirevolunteers.org.uk

“ Spring is nature's way of saying
Let's party! ”

Robin Williams



Pershire WI

A fantastic 2024 was rounded off with an interesting and varied December. The month began with an afternoon tea at St Peter's Garden Centre, a lovely chance to socialise and the scones are to be recommended. Next some of the ladies went to watch the PODS performance of Puss in Boots, which is always a good evening. It was an excellent show, Pershire is lucky to have so much talent. The December meeting was of course our Christmas party. Phil Collins led us through an Advent Calendar of Dickensian facts. We learnt a few things, rang the bells and took part in a mummings play, this was followed by a Christmas supper and mulled wine. We rounded the evening off with a few games, quizzes and a reverse raffle (if you want to know what that is do join us in 2025).

The month ended with the craft group having a relaxing 'knit and natter' evening to round off the year.

The New year has made a fantastic start with Anja Potze, a jeweller from Worcester via

Amsterdam. She told us of her fascinating life and how she became a jeweller, how she had a love of diamonds from an early age. We learnt what to look for in a diamond, ready for when we go shopping!!! The craft group made sewing kits using old CD's as a base. These will be donated to the 'Shoe Box Appeal', a cause WI have supported for many years. These items will be useful for the older girls and Mums, who also enjoy receiving a box at Christmas.

Ladies if you are new to area and would like to meet a group of very friendly ladies, please contact us via or Facebook page or email pershirewi@gmail.com, or just turn up at our next meeting. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 7.30, at Wulstans Hall, Priest lane



Spot & Shop - February Winners

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Tina Henderson | 5) Rose Price |
| 2) Victoria Kite | 6) Alan Dufty |
| 3) Bill Day | 7) Hilda Tustin |
| 4) Heather Perkins | |

Last month's answer:

Chair based exercise class



COMPETITION TIME!

Take a look at the anagram

The answer is the name of a business that is advertising in the Pershire Times this month

Chance to WIN £50 CASH

This month's anagram
**ASHE PRITHEE
ROGER**

This month's prizes!

1st - £50 cash

2nd - £25 cash

Donated by Hughes & Company

3rd £20 Food Voucher

at The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley

4th £10 Voucher

at Revills Farm Shop, Defford

5th £10 Voucher

at Craftypyro, Bakers Arcade, Pershore

6th Reg Moule Gardening Book

7th Pat's Pantry -

Jar of home-made marmalade/jam

Complete and return this form or email:

news@hughes.company for your chance to win!

Pershire Times closing date: 28th March 2025

Answer:

Name:

Telephone/email:

Return to: Hughes & Company/Pershire Times

8 Church Street, Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1DT



Tyddesley Wood Lane, Pershore

**Four bedroom detached house
No Chain**

**Tenure: Freehold EPC: D Council Tax Band: E
Asking Price: £625,000**



Checketts Close, Pinvin

**Fully renovated and extended three bedroom
Semi-Detached Bungalow. No Chain**

**Tenure: Freehold EPC: C Council Tax Band: C
Asking Price: £535,000**



Beech Avenue, Drakes Broughton

**A completely renovated and beautifully presented
Two Bedroom Bungalow. No Chain**

**Tenure: Freehold EPC: D Council Tax Band: C
Asking Price: £385,000**



Westcott Way, Pershore

**Well presented three bedroom
detached family home**

**Tenure: Freehold EPC: B Council Tax Band: D
Asking Price: £350,000**

**Pershore
23 High Street
01386 556506**

**Nigel Poole
& Partners
Independent Estate Agents**

**Evesham
1 Port Street
01386 556506**



Loughmill Road, Pershore

**Three bedroom semi detached house
located on the popular vineyards estate. No Chain**
**Tenure: Freehold EPC: C Council Tax Band: C
Asking Price: £275,000**



Cornmore, Pershore

**Two bedroom extended semi-detached house
No Chain**
**Tenure: Freehold EPC: TBC Council Tax Band: B
Asking Price: £275,000**

March What's on

Sat 1st

Broad Street Market

Broad Street, Pershore
9am - 2pm

Pershore Carnival

Fund Raising Quiz
Pershore Sports & Social Club,
7.30pm

Sun 2nd

Think and Drink Charity Quiz Night

Claude Choules, 7pm

Mon 3rd

Griff & Friends Jam Session

Pershore Football Club 7.30pm

Wed 5th

Board Gaming Night

Pickled Plum Pub, 7pm

Pershore Heritage and History Society:

AGM & talk 'The Story of Number 8'

Pershore Library, 7pm

Thurs 6th

Learn to Sew or Knit

Pershore Library, 4pm - 5.30pm

Fri 7th

Town Choir Spring Concert

Pershore Baptist Church,
7.30pm

Wed 12th

Pershore Jazz -

The Hot Teapots - Italy

Pershore Football Club,
12.30pm - 3pm.

Pershore Craft and Chat

St Andrews, 2pm

Fri 14th

Friday Film Club

Pershore Library, 2pm

Sat 15th

Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra Spring Concert

Pershore Abbey, 2.30pm.

Irish Music Night

The Star Inn, 7pm

Foyer Folk -

Dave Ellis & Boo Howard

Number 8 Foyer, 8pm

Sun 16th

Boozy Bingo Night

Claude Choules
arrive 6pm - 7pm

Wed 19th

Folk Night,

Pershore Sports & Social Club,
7pm

Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd

Nellies Open Weekend,

Nellies Fabric Shop,
10am - 4pm

Wed 26th

Pershore Craft and Chat

St Andrews, 2pm

Pershore Jazz -

The Amy Roberts Quartet

Pershore Football Club,
7pm

Fri 28th

Friday Film Club

Pershore Library, 2pm



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

www.visitpershore.co.uk



Visit-Pershore

Cinema Listings

Hard Truths (12A)

Thu 6 Mar - 7.30pm
1hr 37 mins, Tickets £9.00

A Complete Unknown (15)

Sat 8 Mar - 7.30pm;
Mon 10 Mar - 11.00am;
Tue 11 Mar - 7.30pm (ST);
Wed 12 Mar - 7.30pm
2 hrs 21 mins, Tickets £9.00

Vermiglio (15)

Thu 13 Mar - 7.30pm;
Wed 19 Mar - 2.00pm
1 hr 59 mins, Tickets £9.00

September 5 (15)

Fri 14 & Sat 15 Mar - 7.30pm
1 hr 35 mins, Tickets £9.00

Cottontail (12A)

Mon 17 Mar - 11.00am & 7.30pm
1 hr 34 mins, Tickets £9.00

Nickel Boys (12A)

Tue 18 Mar - 7.30pm
2 hr 20 mins Tickets £9.00

The Seed of the

Sacred Fig (15)

Thu 20 Mar - 7.30pm
2 hrs 47 mins, Tickets £9.00

Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (15)

Fri 21 Mar - 2.00pm & 7.30pm;
Mon 24 Mar - 11.00am & 7.30pm;
Wed 26 Mar - 7.30pm
2 hrs 5 mins, Tickets £9.00

Black Bag (cert tbc)

Fri 28 & Sat 29 Mar - 7.30pm;
Mon 31 Mar - 11.00am
running time tbc. Tickets £9.00

The Tasting (15)

Thu 3 Apr - 7.30pm;
Wed 9 Apr - 2.00pm
1 hr 32 mins, Tickets £9.00

Event Listings

Six The Musical Live!

Sunday 6 April -
3.00pm & 7.00pm
1 hr 21mins
Tickets: £16, Child £10

Nick Sharratt's Picture Book Drawalong

Wednesday 16 April - 2.00pm
1 hr 15 mins
Tickets: £12; Child £10

A Night with Janis Joplin The Musical

Saturday 26 April - 7.00pm
2 hrs 20 mins, Tickets: £16

Lipstick on Your Collar

Friday 9 May - 7.30pm
2 hrs 30 mins (inc.interval)
Tickets: £27

Bonnie & Clyde The Musical

Thursday 15 May - 7.00pm
2 hrs 30 mins,
Tickets: £16, Child £10



Box Office Opening Hours

In Person Bookings:

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

Telephone Bookings: Mon - Sat 4pm - 6pm

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

High Street Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1BG

www.number8.org

PERSHORE BROAD STREET MARKET

Local Produce



Artisan Goods

Returning Saturday 1st March: 9am - 2pm

Pershore Flower Club

FLOWER ARRANGING DEMONSTRATIONS

Every month - except January (AGM), August & December

Meetings held at 7.30pm on the third
Wednesday of the month at
Bishampton Village Hall WR10 2LY

Follow us on Facebook: Pershore Flower Club

Email: pershoreflowerclub@gmail.com

Next meeting: Wednesday 19th March

Paula Routledge from Nottingham

'Coronation Calamities'

All visitors welcome

INSIDE AND OUTSIDE



INSIDE

All aspects of DIY:

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

OUTSIDE

WE REALLY DO MEAN
"NO JOB TOO SMALL"

All aspects of garden

maintenance and clearance:

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



Also, man with a van.

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

We have a photograph portfolio of some of our previous work

Steve & Sarah on 07389 180862

EAR WAX REMOVAL

Consultation with video camera £20

One ear - including consultation £40

Two ears - including consultation £60

RHAD MSHAA ISABELA BAILEY

Ogles Pershore Pharmacy

Tel: 01386 710444

Mob: 07961 649288



A-Y SERVICES



Established over 30 years - Fully insured

House & garden clearances - Maintenance & repairs
Window cleaning - Fencing & landscape gardening
Gutters - fascia - cladding - Cleaning, repairs or renewals
Driveways - patios - paths - Power-washing or Installation
Flat and rubber roofing / roofing repairs
Re-pointing - chimneys - walls - apex - ridges
Chimney sweeping & cowl, bird guards, pot fitting services
Rubbish removals - Demolition & dismantling
Tree work & hedge cutting

Give me a call for a free no obligation quotation



07704 992938 | 07876 308058



Registered waste carrier No. CB DU 390692

Your local vets in Pershore & Evesham



At Martin & Carr we know that quick diagnosis leads to better results. We have invested in superb diagnostic facilities including ultrasound, video endoscopy and x-rays, enabling our clients and their pets to get accurate and quick answers and our onsite laboratory means most blood samples can be analysed the same day.

Services

- Keyhole Spays
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Advanced Surgery
- Endoscopy & Laparoscopy
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Acupuncture
- Puppy Parties
- Nurse Clinics



Contact us to make an appointment

Pershore
01386 553631

Evesham
01386 413601

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

Worcester
Philharmonic
ORCHESTRA

Soloist Fran Penny
Conductor Dan Watson
Leader Graham Longfils

SPRING CONCERT

Saturday 15th March 2025

2.30pm

Pershore Abbey

WR10 1BL

Svendsen

- Norwegian Rhapsody No 2

Dvořák

- My Homeland

R. Strauss

- Horn Concerto No 1

Brahms

- Symphony No 3



Tickets: £15 (under 16's FREE but ticket required)

Tourist Offices: Worcester/Pershore*/Malvern (*cash only)

Ticket Enquiries: 07805 077279

Online www.ticketsource.co.uk (booking fees apply)

Registered Charity Number 512073



Christadelphians

We believe Bible prophecy demonstrates God's existence. The Bible explains that God is behind world events. It says: "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets." (Amos 3v7). What God revealed is recorded in the Bible, and the fulfilment of those prophecies demonstrates God's existence. Bible prophecies frequently contain amazing detail. For example, God described how the coastal city of Tyre would be destroyed by its stones, timber, and soil being laid in water (Ezekiel 26v12). Alexander the Great fulfilled this in 332 BC. The Babylonians had previously

destroyed the city, but its inhabitants had fled to a nearby island. To attack them, Alexander built a causeway by taking material from the old city and depositing it in the sea! Critics claim that Bible prophecies must have been written after the events in order to contain such detail. However, this can sometimes be disproved. For instance, prophecies described how Jews would be scattered worldwide but would return to retake possession of Jerusalem. The 1948 establishment of Israel fulfilled prophecies such as Ezekiel 34v13, although it did not give Israel possession of old Jerusalem. Other prophecies stated that gentile

Interested in learning more about the Bible?

Pershire Christadelphians invite you to a talk explaining why

'We believe Bible prophecy demonstrates God's existence'


On: 6th April @ 10am, God willing

and why

'We believe the Jews are God's witnesses'

On: 4th May @ 10am, God willing

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



PERSHORE CHRISTADELPHIANS
www.pershire.bible

(i.e. non-Jewish) ownership would be temporary (e.g. Luke 21v24), and that their ownership would end 2300 years after the Persian Empire collapsed (Daniel 8v13-14). It fell in 333 BC, so his time

period expired in 1967, the year in which Israel captured old Jerusalem! Seeing how such prophecies foretell the future forces us to believe that their author – God – must exist.

Fossils found in Worcestershire

You don't have to go looking for Fossils on the Dorset coast anymore. They can be found most Sundays in the summer in Birlingham or Malvern. The majority are between 50 and 70 years old, with a few even over

80. All you have to do is turn up at Birlingham or Malvern cricket ground and listen for the plop of ball on bat, plus the odd shout of "OWZAT!" and you have found the Fossils Cricket Team.

If you enjoy playing cricket, have given up or are thinking about giving up – don't. The Fossils Cricket Team start their 30th season this year and will welcome you. They play friendly games on Sunday and midweek.



*Want to find out more?
 Contact John Reynolds on
 01905 427007*

Rotary News

Richard Lees



Our 2024 Tree of Remembrance Appeal is done and dusted and the total sum received amounted to £6,000. Donations of £2,000 will be made to St Richard's Hospice, Acorns Children's Hospice and the Midlands Air Ambulance. Thank you once again to everyone who supported our Appeal. A comment made to one of these charities (and shared with us) brought the whole event into focus. This person said, "Thank you for all you do and for the love and care you show to each and every one who crosses your doors. Whether it be patient or family – you are there and that means so much.

You are true angels on earth." International Women's Day falls on 8th March and encourages us all to celebrate women's achievements; raise awareness about discrimination; take action to accelerate gender parity and fundraise for women-focused charities. The United Nations will celebrate International Women's Day under the theme, "For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment." This calls for action to unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering youth, particularly young

women and adolescent girls, as catalysts for lasting change. The Inner Wheel Club of Pershire will celebrate International Women's Day 2025 with talks by local "Inspirational Women". The event at Peopleton Village Hall on Friday, 7th March from 1.30 to 4.00pm, will spotlight contributions made by;

- * Mrs Beatrice Grant - His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire
- * Anne-Marie and Becca Holman of "Sound About" - a local music charity especially for the visually impaired
- * Professor Sandra Nicholson - founding Dean of the Three Counties Medical School
- * Susan Birth - local artist who painted one of the Worcester Waddle penguins
- * Freddie Barker - Worcestershire Young Poet Laureate 2024 – 2025 and
- * Rebecca Redfern MBE - Paralympian swimmer who won gold in Paris.

Tickets costing £5 are available from jancrouch46@aol.com. Any profits will go to Parkinson's UK and local charities.

Back by popular demand, our local Rock Choir will perform once again at Pershire Abbey on Saturday, 29th March. Rock Choirs are the UK's original and award-winning, local, contemporary choirs for those that love to sing. The choir, led by Jacob Ashworth, includes members from South Worcestershire and Herefordshire regions. The concert will include a rich variety of rock and contemporary popular songs.

Tickets at £15, plus booking fee, are available at www.pershorerotary.club/concert

Doors open at 6.30pm with the concert starting at 7.00pm. Wine will be on sale during the interval. All proceeds from the event to be donated to Parkinson's UK.

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

sixways

As part of our drive to sustainability, Sixways is delighted to announce that we have signed a five year contract with Worcester City FC to allow the club to play at the stadium from the 2025 season. The growth in sporting use of Sixways Stadium is a core element of the new management business plan and is seen as complimentary to the return of

Rugby. Laura Napper, Commercial Director said 'Sixways Stadium has had a long relationship with football, and we are delighted that Worcester City FC were able to meet the operational and financial thresholds that match our sustainability requirements. With hospitality options catering to seat 500 and stadium seating for up to 11,000, as well as function rooms and car parking, we have the perfect infrastructure to support WCFC in their promotion ambitions

South Worcestershire Archaeological Group



SWAG - South Worcestershire Archaeological Group is a group formed in 1981 to study landscape archaeology and has a programme of lectures and walks to places of archaeological interest. We have had a series of very interesting talks this autumn ending in a most enjoyable post-Christmas party at Callow End Village Hall.

Our next talk is on Saturday 8th March. Jan Scrine will follow our short AGM with a talk on Highways and Waymarkers.

In 12th April, Chris Ludlow will be telling us all about Old Pershore in pictures. All meetings are held at Callow End Village Hall which has plenty of parking. We meet at 1.30 for a 2.00pm start. (A small donation of £4.00 for non-members). Tea/coffee and biscuits always available! We are always pleased to welcome new members either as a one off or to join our friendly group in our many activities.

For more information please email: swagmembership@googlemail.com

Paul Dallimore

In memoriam

CARR. Janet Irene

Passed away peacefully at home on 12th February 2025, aged 74 years. Loving Daughter of the late Annie and William, much loved sister of Muriel, Patricia, Paul and the late Maurice and Bill. Janet will be very sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral service took place at Pershore Cemetery Chapel on Wednesday 26th February 2025. Followed by burial.

SPEAKE. Stewart Ivor

Passed away on 11th February 2025, aged 70 years. Much loved dad of Caroline, beloved grandad to Darcey and Teddy, dear brother to Trudie. Stewart will be very sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service at Pershore Abbey, on Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 12noon. Followed by burial. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the RNLI may be left in the collection box at the service or made online

CRADDOCK. Myrna Joyce

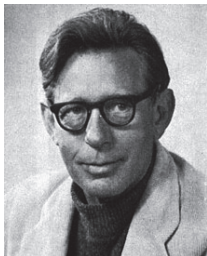
Passed away peacefully on 26th January 2025, aged 81 years. Beloved wife of Ivor, much loved mum to Joy and Emma, mother in law to Alex, nan to Lucie, Megan, William and Katie. Myrna will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service took place at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Friday 21st February. Family flowers only, donations if desired for the Alzheimer's Society may be made online.

GUBBINS. Denis Vernon

Formerly of Pershore. Passed away on 6th January 2025, aged 65 years. Beloved son of the late Joan, dear brother of the late Steve (Ocky), Richard (Gubbo) and surviving sister Delyse. A father and grandfather. Denis will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Funeral service took place at Pershore Cemetery Chapel, on Friday February 21st 2025. Followed by burial. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the British Heart Foundation may be made online

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

PERSHORE
PRIVATE HIRE TAXIS
SHORT & LONG DISTANCE
Call Luan: 07478 888685



ELMLEY CASTLE VILLAGE HALL

Friday 4th April 7.00pm for 7.30pm
Laurie Lee - Author of 'Cider with Rosie' - The Lost Recordings
An Illustrated talk by David Parker

Reflections on love, landscape, writing, poetry, childhood.

In 1994 Laurie Lee shared his memories of an 'eventful' early life in a series of interviews with the film maker David Parker. It was quite a coup, Laurie did not 'do' television! He talked with sublime eloquence about his life in the Slad Valley, the influence of the landscapes and memories of his childhood. David will introduce the recordings, and using extracts from them reveal what they tell us about one of England's finest chroniclers of our times.



Tickets £10 Bar, tea, coffee
Jeanette Smith 01386 710511 Brian Lovett 01386 710286

pershore carnival

Duck Race

Sunday 20th April
Pershore Riverside
Centre
from 1pm

First Race 2pm

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

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



Spring Walk

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


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

Suitable for all ages - stout shoes or boots advisable
Dogs welcome on leads
More information from Margaret Herbert, 01386 751196

Raising funds for Earl's Croome Church



Wild Flowers Walk



Michael's Last Party

8 Number 8 Pershore
March 29th 2-5 pm

An afternoon gathering for those of us whose lives were touched by the kindness of **Michael Amies** to celebrate him and the extraordinary community he leaves behind.

RSVP to princeofpershore@gmail.com

Situations Vacant

Part time bar staff

*Weekends and evenings
availability for 15 hours and salary is negotiable.*

Part time cook

*For Saturday and Sunday for approx. 12 hours.
Experience needed for Sunday roast.*

The Royal Oak Kinnersley WR8 9JR
01905 371482 theroyaloakkinnersley@gmail.com
www.theroyaloakkinnersley.co.uk



PUBLIC NOTICE – LICENSING ACT 2003

APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE OR CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE TO BE GRANTED UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Name of applicant/club

Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton & Netherton Parish Council

Postal address of premises/club premises or description

Elmley Castle Playing Fields & Recreation Ground
Elmley Castle
Pershore WR10 3HP

The applicant proposes to carry out the following licensable activities or qualifying club activities on or from the above premises/club premises:

Live Music
Recorded Music
Performances of Dance
Anything of similar description to the above
Supply of Alcohol

Representations by interested parties or responsible authorities should be made in writing to Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF or enquiries@worscsregservices.gov.uk

By (insert date – 28th consecutive day after the date of lodging the application)

19th March
2025

The record of the application is available for inspection by appointment. Please call us on 01905 822799 for an appointment.

IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO AN UNLIMITED FINE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO KNOWINGLY OR RECKLESSLY MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN, OR IN CONNECTION WITH, AN APPLICATION



Tuesday 18th March at 2pm

Richard III- murderer or loyal brother ?
with speaker Max Keen

Tuesday 15th April at 2pm

The Most Dissolute Man in London?
A talk by Dr Gillian White about William Cavendish, the first Duke of Devonshire and the building of Chatsworth

All welcome, including non-members
Meetings held at Number 8, High Street, Pershore.
For more details, contact Sally Whyte Speaker Coordinator
on u3apershoresally@gmail.com
www.pershore.u3asite.uk



Pershore Heritage & History Society

Re-opening on Tuesday 4th March 2025

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)



JUNE 8TH 2025
LOWER MOOR PLAYING FIELD

PARTY IN THE PARK

DIANNA'S DAY

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

MUSIC FESTIVAL * FOOD * CLASSIC CARS * STALLS

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

PONSORED BY * SPONSORED BY * SPONSORED BY * SPONSORED BY

Sponsors include: Henson, Scoffs, SmartCut Ltd, and others.

Hughes & Company

Printers - Publishers

Bookbinders - Stationers

8 Church Street, Pershore WR10 1DT

Tel: 01386 803803

Email: print@hughes.company

Four generations of printers

Pershore Times



Double home wins!

On Saturday, January 25th, both Pershore Rugby's Women's Phoenix team and the Men's 1st XV had home wins at Piddle Park. Phoenix started strongly in their match against Cheltenham Civil Service, with Freya Simpson scoring the first points within three minutes. Civil Service responded with a try, but Sally Jakeman added another for Pershore, which she then converted. Pershore maintained pressure on Cheltenham, with additional converted tries from Rachel Coughtrie and Laura Kelly. Despite Civil Service's spirited efforts to recover, Phoenix's strong defence and strategic play saw them finish the game with a 38-22 victory. The Men's 1st XV then took on Dudley Kingswinford II. Despite a slow start, which saw the home side concede two converted tries, the team worked diligently to recover and bolstered their defence. Their efforts were soon rewarded with

tries from Damo May and Brian Ranns. With DK's close behind, Pershore capitalized on their opportunities as Todd Charlton successfully converted two penalties and Martin Hope crashed over the line for a third try which Charlton converted. In the final minutes, Ben Crouch executed an impressive kick from the touchline, resulting in a final score of 25-20. It was also a family affair with mum Nicola Hope captaining Phoenix, dad Martin Hope playing for the men's 1st XV and their daughter Charlotte running touch for both games! The next double-header takes place on 22nd February at Piddle Park. Phoenix face top of the table Cheltenham North and the Men's 1st XV take on rivals Kings Norton, k.o. 2pm.

If you're interested in finding out more about Pershore Rugby, please see our website: prfc.co.uk or contact us by email: enquiries.pershore@gmail.com



Charlotte Hope in action for Pershore Rugby

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.

Other services include:

Employment & HR | Family matters & divorce | Contracts & agreements



Resolve Law Group

Call: 01905 391939 / 07785 500432

Email: Peter.Jewell@ResolveLawGroup.co.uk

Group Head Office: Resolve Law Group Tudor Court Droitwich WR9 7JY

Cost effective legal advice

Let us handle things...

Over 45 years experience

Available 24/7
365 days a year
10-12 hours a day

Nurture with Nature at Wick Care Farm

Set in 270-acres of rural farmland near Pershore, Worcestershire, Wick Care Farm supports adults and young people to engage with a variety of farm-based activities to benefit physical and mental health.

When we first opened our doors in 2014, there were fewer than 100 care farms operating in the UK. That number has since tripled, and it's wonderful to be a part of a unique and growing sector – combining nature, social interaction and purposeful activity with therapeutic support. It's always humbling to see the mental health benefits of care farming in action at Wick Care Farm. 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. Reflecting on this, our newly adopted slogan – Nurture with Nature – feels apt. (extract from our blog; see www.wickcarefarm.co.uk for more).

We are launching a 'Friends of Wick Care Farm' on Saturday 15th March 10am-12pm.

Please join us to find out how you can get involved or email info@wickcarefarm.co.uk if you are unable to make it on the day but would still want to become a 'friend'.



As a not-for-profit organisation, we rely on our supporters and with this in mind, we are launching:

'Friends of Wick Care Farm' On Saturday 15th March 10am-12pm

Come for tea and cake and hear from our already well-established volunteer workforce about how they support with:

- Fundraising
- Client facing days at the farm
- Steering committee meetings
- Or just to sign on to our emailing lists to keep up to date on events & blogs

*Tours of
the Farm at
10.30am & 11am*

for more information, see www.wickcarefarm.co.uk