

Pershore Times

A free monthly newspaper for Pershore and surrounding villages



Issue 101

February 2025

FREE



A Foggy day at Eckington Bridge, photograph by Amy Jones

A Happy New Year to our readers, advertisers and contributors. The weather in January has been cold but mainly dry, with a little snow, so it would appear 'we' are having a normal winter. We have been very fortunate because in other parts of the country it has been awful, with flooding and all sorts of disasters. However, daylight is now getting longer, the bulbs are starting to shoot through the ground. Spring is around the corner and it is a wonderful time of the year to look forward to.

We have had the great news that the war in the Middle East has stopped. A ceasefire has been agreed and hostages from both sides are being returned.

Let's hope this is the end of this dreadful war and a permanent settlement can be reached, so that innocent people can live in peace. We still have the war in


the Ukraine and let's hope the new American President can bring some leadership and end this disaster soon.

Thank you for all the letters, emails and telephone calls celebrating our 100th edition in December. These were all very much appreciated and we now move forward to new milestones. The Pershore Rotary Club has made a presentation to us for the support we gave to the Tree of Remembrance Appeal. This is much appreciated and thank everyone very much indeed.

Late News!

We have just received news that a book, we recently designed and produced for the Chicago Golf Club, published by Grant Books Limited has been awarded 'Book of the Year' by the American Golf Association. They are the governing body of Golf in the United States with a staggering 700,000 members. Incredible news for us and the enormity of it is difficult to comprehend. This follows the International Sports Award, we received last year.

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Town Council News



Pershore Town Council News
As I write this, we are seeing the snowdrops bloom, daffodils pop up and the start of the lighter evenings, although not much warmth yet in the sun! The Town Council have just submitted their precept demand to Wychavon District Council, and I thought this a good

opportunity to remind you what your Council Tax towards the Town Council is spent on:
Maintaining the following public open spaces:
- King Georges Field
- Cherry Orchard Playing Fields
- Holloway fields
- Avon Meadows Car Park
- South Meadow Avon Meadows



- St Andrews Gardens
Maintaining the following public buildings:

- Town Hall
- Library
- Pershore Cemetery
Providing the following services:

- Pershore Visitor Information Centre
- 270 allotment plots
- Bus shelters
- Street lighting
- Vehicle Activated Signs
- Benches and litterbins
- Floral Displays
- Christmas Lights
- Venue Hire

And much more!
This year will see another busy year for the Town Council with some ambitious goals in place



as well as our usual day to day work. We are collaborating again with the Pershore Placeboard to enhance St Andrews Gardens to become a sensory garden, linking the Abbey and Abbey Park with the High Street, as well as extending the Christmas lighting offering. We will, again, be offering a Christmas Fayre at the end of November after the huge success over the last two years.

I wish you all a prosperous, healthy and exciting 2025.

Charlie MacIntyre
Town Clerk

Friends of Pershore Hospital



Pershore Cottage Hospital, built in 1896 in Defford Road, was on land which is now a retirement home called Nightingale Lodge, named after Florence Nightingale, whom it is said helped with plans for the Cottage Hospital. Many Pershore residents remember the old hospital and have benefited from its services. The League of Friends was formed to support the hospital, later becoming the Friends of Pershore Hospital and it was this charity, together with Wychavon District Council, which suggested a solution when the Cottage Hospital building was no longer suited to the needs of modern healthcare. Wychavon District Council would build a new hospital and the Friends would help equip it, to the highest modern standards. The Regional Health Authority welcomed this solution and in 2006 Pershore Community Hospital in its current location

of Queen Elizabeth Drive was opened by the Duchess of Gloucester. The Friends continue to support Pershore Community Hospital, pictured above, and have spent £250,000 on medical equipment, furniture and other items such as televisions, in fact, any items not currently funded by the NHS, but which support and enhance the healthcare of patients. All money spent by the Friends comes from membership, donations and legacies and the Matron of Pershore Community Hospital is invited to trustee meetings where requests are discussed. Money has also been donated to the GP practices in Pershore, as well as to St. Richard's Hospice, Acorns Children's Hospice, Worcestershire Royal Hospital and the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, all of which serve our local community. Other organisations based in Pershore

such as Singing for Health and Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre have benefited from the financial support of the Friends. These days, the Friends welcome requests from other health providers, charities and organisations within Pershore and the surrounding area that benefit the health and wellbeing of local people. Below are photographs of some of the organisations we have supported over the years. Steve Cooper and Sarah Brown are two of a team of five First Responders in Pershore. They are Trust Liaison Volunteers working with the West Midlands Ambulance Service responding to calls, typically twenty each month. The Friends bought and equipped a vehicle. Over the years have been pleased to offer our support to the Pershore Riverside Centre. They look

after the needs of young people in Pershore, including mother and baby mornings and many activities for older children and teenagers, providing a safe and fun place to be.

We have given our backing to the Pershore Wellbeing Hub since it was first set up. It provides much needed advice and support for a wide range of people who call in to see them.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Friends of Pershore Hospital or would be interested in becoming a member of the Friends, please contact our Chair, Karen Hodges at chairfoph@gmail.com who would be happy to give you more information and a membership form.

Please do consider joining us, we need more Friends!



Campaign highlights dementia support

People living with or showing symptoms of dementia are being urged to access local support as part of a new campaign.

Defy Dementia has been launched by the Wychavon District Health Collaborative to reduce the fear around the condition and to highlight the range of support on offer. The campaign will showcase the positive ways people continue to live an active life after a dementia diagnosis and empower people to take control of their dementia journey by becoming familiar with their local dementia network. It will also encourage anyone with new concerns about their memory, regular bouts of confusion or sudden difficulties with speech and language to visit their GP. Wychavon has one of the lowest rates of dementia diagnosis in the West Midlands. One reason people may not be seeking help is because of fear about the impact dementia will have on their life. There is also a popular misconception that symptoms such as memory loss are just 'part of getting old' which prevents people from seeking

help and vital treatment.

The campaign will have a particular focus on Evesham where GPs have been strengthening their ties with local support services such as Evesham Dementia Alliance, Evesham and District Mental Health Support Services and Age UK. This will allow doctors to direct patients and their loved ones to places, where they can begin building connections with people in similar situations. They can also get advice, even before they receive a formal diagnosis. This can help reduce isolation and loneliness amongst those with dementia.

Cllr Dan Birch, Wychavon's Executive Board Member for Wellbeing, said: "The Defy Dementia campaign aims to provide help and support to those who are affected by dementia and challenge the stigma that surrounds it. Although there may not currently be a cure for dementia, that doesn't mean people affected by it should feel alone or isolated. We hope this scheme helps our residents access



Members of the Wychavon District Health Collaborative launch the Defy Dementia campaign

support when it matters most." Dr Neill Bramble, Clinical Director for the Vale of Evesham Primary Care Network, said: "Living with dementia can often seem frightening and lonely for patients and their family and friends. This campaign showcases the excellent local

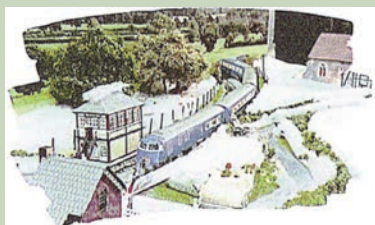
organisations which help to support people and connect them with experienced and friendly people who are passionate about living well with dementia."

For more information. Visit www.wychavon.gov.uk/wellbeing

The Mayor of Pershore Coffee Morning & Model Railway Exhibition *in aid of Pershore Food Bank*



Friday 21st February 2025
9:30am - 2:30pm
Pershore Town Hall
34 High Street, Pershore



Entry £3 to include refreshments

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Celebrating 130 years of Women's Rights

Wychavon is celebrating a landmark law that introduced women's right to stand for election to their district council. As well as being 50 years since Wychavon was formed, 2024 is also 130 years since the 1894 Local Government Act was passed. This enshrined in law women's right to stand for their local district council – the late-Victorian version of district councils – and allowed some women to vote in their elections. It was an early victory in the decades-long struggle to win women equal rights to vote and stand for election, courageously fought for by women such as Pershore's very own suffragette Florence

Feek. Like most councils across the country, Wychavon has never achieved equal representation between the genders amongst its elected councillors, but progress has been made. 43 councillors elected in 2023, 16 are women. The council's longest-serving female councillor is Cllr Liz Tucker, first elected in 1991. Mrs J M Jones was the first woman to become Chairman of the Council in 1984. Overall, 11 other women have held the role over the last 50 years. But there has so far been only one female Leader of Wychavon, Cllr Linda Robinson in 2015. Cllr Robinson was inspirational in introducing and leading



(Front) Cllr Linda Robinson, (L-R) Cllr Hannah Robson, Cllr Nicola Morris, Cllr Judith Ciotti, Cllr Emma Sims, Cllr Margaret Rowley, Cllr Liz Turier, Cllr Beverley Hardman, Cllr Emma Kearsey, Cllr Liz Tucker, Cllr Angie Crump, Cllr Emma Stokes and Cllr Julie Tucker

Wychavon's social mobility work, which continues to change and improve the opportunities and outcomes for some of the district's most disadvantaged residents.

Scouts Triumph Operation Bald Eagle Challenge!



Three Scouts from The Avonvales, alongside a Scout from Peopleton, recently tackled the Operation Bald Eagle challenge, testing their skills, resilience, and teamwork in a series of varying challenges. The event, which gathers Scouts from across the region, is known for pushing participants to their limits through a mix of mental and physical tasks designed to cultivate essential scouting skills. Demonstrating exceptional team spirit and determination, the Scouts successfully completed each challenge base, earning the coveted "I Completed the Bald Eagle" badge, a true mark of achievement in the scouting community. Their hard work paid off as they achieved the 3rd fastest completion time—a remarkable feat that showcases their dedication and hard work. Scouting offers young people

unique opportunities to develop life skills, build friendships, and gain confidence, all while making unforgettable memories. The Avonvales Scout Group is a vibrant part of the local community, meeting just outside Pershore at the Horticultural College, where they welcome young people eager to take on exciting new challenges. To continue providing these fantastic experiences, The Avonvales is looking for new volunteers to join their team. From event support to leadership roles, there are plenty of ways to get involved. *Those interested in their children joining or themselves volunteering can contact leadvolunteer@theavonvales.org for more information.*

Start Scouting and help empower the next generation of adventurers!

James Rowberry

Early Spring flowers on display at the Alpine show!



Visit our fabulous early Spring flowers on display at the Pershore Alpine show! Food and drinks available and six specialist nurseries selling a range of beautiful plants. On Saturday 22nd February 2025 the Alpine Garden Society (AGS) will hold the annual Spring flower show at Pershore High School, Station Road, Pershore WR10 2BX. A wide range of fabulous small plants grown by Alpine Garden Society members will be displayed and judged on the show benches. You will be able to buy plants to take home from our six specialist nurseries – including rare or unusual plants that you won't

find in garden centres. The West and Midland Iris Society will also have a display of plants. Hot and cold food and drinks are available. We have an AGS members' plant stall, bookstall and tombola, all of which raise funds to help cover the cost of the event. Come and support us and have an enjoyable day too. Plenty of free parking available.

Entrance on the day at the door - £4 per adult, children go free.

The event opens to visitors from 10.30am (access to the show hall around 11am) until 3.30pm.

"It is a commonplace observation that work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion"

Cyril Northcote Parkinson

A few words from... Dame Harriett Baldwin MP



MPs Turn Out in High Numbers for Conscience Vote

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill has taken its first step towards becoming law in England and Wales following a Private Member's Bill, which was debated in the House of Commons on Friday 29th November.

The Bill passed by 330-275 with almost every MP present for the historic Friday sitting. The Bill will now be scrutinised by a legislative committee before returning to the House of Commons for further votes next year. West Worcestershire MP Dame Harriett Baldwin, who has expressed her opposition to the Bill, was responsible for counting MPs opposed to the Bill and as a teller, her name gets read out by the Speaker and she is listed in Hansard at the bottom of the list of names voting No.

Over the recent weeks, hundreds of constituents have written to the MP making arguments on both sides of the debate and Dame Harriett has also been in contact with local

hospices to understand their plans to improve palliative care.

Dame Harriett said: "This was a respectful and historic debate but I was unable to support the idea of putting this into law. The House of Commons has spoken, and this legislation will now move forward for greater scrutiny. The Bill as it stands has many areas of concern and I will be following this process closely over the coming months. This has been an extremely passionate debate with people expressing differing, opposing views and it is important that this matter is aired and subject to the oversight of democratically elected politicians. While this Bill progresses, I am also adamant that we should properly assess how we fund and deliver palliative care. As part of this public debate, I hope we can also recognise the need to improve the way people are cared for at the end of their life and to hear some of the terrible stories of suffering that have been told over the last few weeks."

Pinvin Memorial Village Hall - Future Developments



Exciting plans to provide benefits to all the community to enhance the existing facilities at Pinvin Memorial Village Hall (PMVH).

The PMVH committee, formed by local volunteers, submitted in early December 2024, a Planning Application to Wychavon District Council (WDC) under reference W/24/02442/FUL.

The plan is to demolish the existing derelict buildings on the field around the Hall and construct a single-storey extension to provide new sports changing rooms with improved parking facilities for all. The existing building will be upgraded and reconfigured to provide a community cafe with large windows overlooking the playground area, a modern kitchen, a meeting room, with improved toilet facilities and storage areas. It is hoped that the existing hall area will remain in use and available to the groups and the community for functions during the building phase.

Providing the application is approved it is hoped to start the building work in April 2025, after Easter, with the work completed in October ready for an official opening ceremony to coincide with Remembrance Day in November 2025. The ceremony will also commemorate those local veterans who lost their lives during the Great War of 1914

to 1918. The Hall committee, at the same time, plan to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the build of the Memorial Hall from 1925.

More details of this will be published at the right time. As part of the application, there is a requirement to improve the biodiversity of the scheme, and although a number of trees will have to be removed as they are currently growing on the footprint of the extension, there are plans to plant up eighty trees in an adjacent area next to the existing community Arboretum and Orchard. In addition, there are other proposals to enhance the surrounding grasslands, provide hedging around the new car parking area, with swift and bat boxes on the new building.

The work is being financed by a Community Legacy Grant, funding from Local Development 106 money and other funding streams. Any people who want to get involved or volunteer with this project, please contact Jeff Clayton 07807 348272. Help is required with additional funding applications, construction of website, and suggestions for the rollout of the biodiversity scheme. It is hoped that this project will kickstart improvements to the local area to provide a wide range sporting facilities and activities for all sections of the community.

Pershore Times

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Exercising to help with Parkinson's Disease

Parkinson's Disease affects around 150,000 people in the UK. It is a neurological disease whereby nerve cells in a part of the brain are lost leading to the well-known symptoms of the illness – tremor, slow movement, balance problems, stiff and inflexible muscles, although there are many more. There is at present no cure, but research has led to treatments which can help to alleviate these symptoms, but they cannot be stopped altogether and the disease progresses in its intensity as the affected person grows older. There is no set pattern to this, as it affects everyone differently and the rate of deterioration can be quick or slow. The disease is not fatal, but as it progresses it puts the body under significant stress, which then leads to other problems.

Support for sufferers is available through the Parkinson's UK charity, and at a local level in Evesham and Pershore there is an active friendship group. This group provides information, friendship and support to local

people affected by the disease. One aspect of alleviating some of the symptoms of Parkinson's is through exercise. Those people living with the disease are unlikely to be able to take part in the typical variety of exercise classes that there are, and so a dedicated class is provided and supported by the charity. This class provides exercises that are targeted at the needs of people living with Parkinson's, and it can help to slow the rate of deterioration in movement and flexibility. The class focusses on improving balance and strength, and general aerobic movement. The Pershore class is delivered by Linda Baker, who is an experienced exercise instructor for the over 60's age group. Linda would welcome any new attendees at the class, which is held on Wednesday afternoons at the Pershore Riverside Centre in King George's Way. *Contact Linda by phone 07766 253077 or email lindabaker1@outlook.com For Friendship Group, call Maureen on 07876 480569*

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Probus Club

The end of each year is normally a quiet time for Probus Club as we turn our focus towards celebration and entertainment. Our last presentation in 2024 was A Dickensian Christmas presented in their usual rollicking style by Phil Collins and Mike Bottomley in which they combined some interesting historical facts about Christmases past with some music, magic tricks and fun.

In the past Probus Club have usually held a Christmas lunch for all members and their wives and partners before Christmas but as that is a particularly busy time for hotels and restaurants, we decided that in future we would hold our Festive lunch on the first Tuesday of each New Year. This time our lunch was held at the Fox and Hounds Inn in Bredon where we were regaled with superb food and drink and first-class service. Normally the pub closes on a Tuesday so on this occasion we were delighted that they agreed to open it specially for us and all members agreed that it was a resounding success.

Our Probus Club was established in 1975 as an offshoot from Tewkesbury Rotary as a new Club for retired men who had finished charity fundraising (the main feature of Rotary Club) and in retirement, preferred to

relax and be informed and entertained in a social environment every Tuesday morning. Since then we have gone from strength to strength and our members clearly appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and of a similar level of interest. So, this year we celebrate our Golden anniversary marking 50 years of successfully bringing together like-minded people and stimulating their retirement. We will mark this with our 50th anniversary lunch immediately after our Annual General Meeting in April 2025.

Events in February:

4th Feb -

Strength for Life

(with Patricia Tenn)

11th Feb -

Visit to the Javelin Park Energy from Waste Incinerator

18th Feb - The gas industry as seen from the inside

(with Peter Marsden)

25th Feb -

The Stasi:

East German local policing

(with Charles Rees)



Royal British Legion



All good wishes for 2025 from the Royal British Legion Pershore and District Branch. A celebratory year - 80th Anniversary of VE Day in May and VJ Day in August. Poppy Appeal update-we are delighted to inform you that the total so far is £21,500. A huge 'thank you' to all volunteers who sold poppies and to the Pershore Community for their generosity in helping to raise this money to help ex-service personnel and their families.

Events in 2025

Breakfast Club - continues on the first Saturday of every month at 0900hrs at the White Horse opposite the

Abbey. £9 for a full English Breakfast. All members and friends welcome.

Annual Dinner -

will take place on Saturday 26th April at the Bell Inn, Eckington - full details will be emailed/posted out soon.

VE Day & VJ Day celebrations

- details to follow. 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

The Croome & West Warwickshire Hunt

at the Royal Oak in Kinnserley, Tuesday 21st January



Hospital admissions rise

AGE UK urges every older person to protect their health by having a winter COVID-19 and flu jab as soon as they can. RSV hospital admissions rise dramatically in 2024.

With the roll out of the 2024 winter flu and covid vaccination programme underway, Age UK urges older people to do all they can to stay well this winter by having the vaccinations for which they are eligible as soon as they can.

By having a vaccine those most at risk from respiratory illnesses can be protected through the colder months, preventing nasty winter bugs from developing into more serious illnesses and helping to minimise hospitalisations. Studies show that older people and particularly those managing health conditions are among those most at risk from the serious impacts of flu, COVID-19 and respiratory virus.

The UKHSA weekly flu and covid surveillance reports show those aged 85+ had the highest hospital admission rate for influenza between December 2023 and May 2024. This was followed by those aged 75-84 who had the second highest rate.

The weekly rates of hospital admissions for older people with RSV has risen sharply since October 2024, leaping from 0.3 per 100,000 patients on October 14, to 2.92 on November 25 for the 65-74 age group. For the 75-84 age group, those figures have risen from 0.5 to 5.95 per 100,000

patients (almost 12 times as many) during the same period. For those 85+, the admission rate for RSV has risen from 1.27 to 14.05 (over 11 times as many) during the same period. Despite the risks across eligible groups, influenza vaccine uptake in the UK has generally lower during the 2024 to 2025 season, compared to the previous 2023 to 2024 season among the 65+ age group. However, estimates show the effectiveness of the influenza vaccine against hospitalisation was 30% in those aged 65 and above, making it a vital tool in protecting ourselves against serious winter illnesses. For the first time, the NHS is also offering vaccines for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a common cause of coughs and colds which can be dangerous to older people. The jab, introduced earlier this month, is being made available to all adults turning 75 on or after 1 September. In the first year of the programme, there will also be a one-off catch-up campaign for adults already aged 75-79 years old on 31 August 2024.

Influenza and Covid vaccines will be available and are considered safe to have at the same time, but the RSV vaccine will be offered on a different day to the others.

For more details, visit: www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/rsv-vaccine

February Events at community run The Queen Elizabeth Inn

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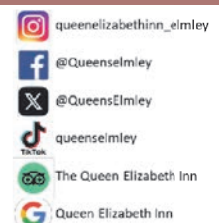


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Christmas at Croome Court

Tim Hickson

When the Croome Court Wednesday volunteers had their festive, pre-Christmas lunch, I had been asked to do some research to find what George William Coventry, the 6th Earl, would have done on Christmas Day in the 18th Century. This is what I found.

First, the extensive Croome archives contain no mention of Christmas. So I had to deduce what might have happened then. Throughout the Country, at the start of his Earldom, Christmas fun, feasting and games would have lasted from Christmas Day through to New Year's Day. However, as the Industrial Revolution developed, manufacturing and mining employers could not afford for their workers to be away for so long so their holiday shrank towards the two days we have now. This change eventually spread throughout the population. For the religious at that time, which was the vast majority of the Nation, there were two big fasts, one in Lent, the other in Advent (from the 1st to 24th of December.). During that time their food consisted of vegetables and, if lucky, fish. Furthermore, not being permitted to consume animal-derived products, they could not have cow's milk but drank Almond 'milk'. (Not just a fad of today's trendy, it had been a drink since early times, just as that made with soy, coconut, hazelnut, walnut and other plants.) So by Christmas Day most people were craving red meat.

Homes were decorated with greenery, holly and evergreens. Although King George III's Queen Charlotte had introduced a Christmas tree to the Royal Court, trees were not widely adopted until much later when The Illustrated London News published an engraving of Queen Victoria and her family with a decorated tree.

In the C18th, Christmas Day as a religious festival was taken more seriously and, in the morning, everyone would go to church. After that, it was the custom amongst the wealthy to give food and drink to the needy. (There is a photograph of the 9th Earl giving beef and bread

to the children of the tenants on Christmas Eve, 1915). Duty done, the 6th Earl and family, and any guests, could repair to the Court for the Christmas Feast. This is likely to have begun at about 3p.m.

In the Dining Room, food was served a la Francaise, in which there were two courses and, for each one, a large number of dishes were served simultaneously. If you fancied trying something on the other side of the table you had to ask fellow diners to pass that dish across to you. It would have taken quite a time for everyone to have sampled all the dishes that appealed to them and inevitably food grew cold. Soup would not be left for the duration of the course but would be replaced, usually by fish. It is interesting to think that today we find 'small dishes', tapas and mezze fun. Perhaps that is why service a la Francaise persisted?

Once people had had enough of what was on the first course, the whole lot would be replaced by a fresh set of dishes. An example, from 1791, is shown here. Notice that a few sweet dishes were present this time. With the growth of plantations in the Caribbean, sugar had gone from being so rare it would be treated as a spice to something more readily available. However, remember that the mince pies would still contain meat. All this would be accompanied by wine, port and brandy. When eating had ended, coffee would



Queen Victoria & Albert around a Christmas Tree

have been served, normally elsewhere in comfort, allowing the staff to clear up. Then, if the children were still very young, this was the time when they might be brought in. After that it was time for games, including gambling using cards. Conversation and drinking continued with, perhaps, music. A light supper would be available in the evening. Reading about a Christmas Day in 1773 at New College, Oxford, I learnt that the dons sat down to dine at 3p.m.. They also had

two courses but not with as many dishes in each as would have happened at Croome. Still, they did not finish eating until 4.30p.m. Then they retired to the Senior Common Room before going to the chapel for prayers at 6.00 p.m. After that, most went to the nearby Chequers Inn for more drink and roast rabbit as a supper. If the family at Croome gave any gifts, this usually took place on Twelfth Night. Only in Victorian times did Christmas Day become more as we know it today.

BILL OF FARE FOR DECEMBER (1791)					
Richard Briggs, <i>The English Art of Cookery</i> ²⁹					
First Course			Second Course		
Oyster Patties	Mock Turtle Soup Removed with Salmon	Fillet of Pork	Mince Pie	Capon Larded & Roasted	Pineapple Cream
Spinach	Chicken Pie	Oyster Sauce	Squid Stuff	Partridge Pans	Sauce
Lobster Sauce		Broccoli	Sauce		Asparagus
Leg of Lamb Boiled	Rump of Beef ala Double	Turkey Boiled & Oysters	Pheasant	Swan Roasted	Sauces
Mashed Turnips	Tongue & Udder	Shrimp Sauce	Squid Mushrooms	Calf's Ears Braised	Sauces
Plain Butter		Squid Cabbage	Sauce		Green Turtle Sauce
Custard ala Maria	Soup Sauter Removed Crimp Sauce	Squid Collage	Turtle	2 Wild Ducks	Apple Puffs

Farming

The year of 2024 ended for many of us engaged in the world of agriculture with the Chancellor's announcement, in her Budget, of changes to the application of Tax Relief (IHT and BPR) to farm businesses on the death of a farmer. Since for many years the vast majority of farms have been passed on down directly to a son (and occasionally a daughter) who has joined what has often been for many generations a 'family business', and the profit (returns) from farming are relatively low when measured against the capital value of farm properties and other farming assets, it was considered appropriate for Inheritance Tax on agricultural land and assets to be usually zero rated, unlike many other capital assets. The Chancellor's decision to do away with a large part of that relief has caused a great deal of anger within the agricultural community, and that has spilled over into 2025, in the hope that she and her Government may think again and reverse or at least modify her initial plans. Most farmers who own their land are, in asset terms,

Mike Page

reasonably wealthy as agricultural land has a good value which tends to rise at least in line with inflation. As I have heard it said, land retains its value because it is in limited supply: "they don't make it anymore." Returns from farming, measured against the capital value of land and other agricultural assets are usually measured in lower single figures and I remember having a conversation with a friend who ran a car sales business and he said that no-one in his industry would even consider making a capital investment unless they were looking at a probable return on capital of the order of 20% or better. Part of the problem with giving tax relief on agricultural assets (chiefly land) is that it has encouraged some who have amassed considerable fortunes in other ways to invest that money into agricultural land using it purely as a means to avoid their offspring having to pay 40% Inheritance Tax when they die. Not actually farming a single acre of that property for their own benefit, they are accepting lower returns but taking advantage of a tax relief



Sheep (fattening lambs) grazing stubble turnips, planted after an earlier crop has been harvested on that field. They start off by nibbling away all the top growth (leaves + stems) and eventually just about the entire root mass, which is growing mostly above ground. It is a good feed for sheep: they enjoy it as a food and it lets them increase in size/put on weight at a time when their usual food (grass) is getting in short supply.

primarily designed to support the continuity of farming and safeguarding the national food supply. It will be interesting to see how this confrontation plays out eventually. In the meantime we have enjoyed a better autumn/winter this time than last year, even though conditions have been harsh at times. The newly introduced Government agricultural support measures, which lean heavily towards environmental benefits rather than the total output benefits of

our EU days and earlier, are being taken up by farmers – they are here on this farm; the hope is that, while they will in the short-term have a detrimental effect on total food production, bringing about a better balance with the environment will eventually pay dividends in that the slow but remorseless squeeze on environmental diversity will cease and agricultural production will become a positive player in maintenance of our surroundings.



VETERINARY ADVICE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!



The Importance of Vaccination

Vaccinations are an important part of our pets' healthcare requirements. They are there to protect our pets from potentially deadly diseases, such as canine parvovirus, feline enteritis and rabbit haemorrhagic disease. As well as stopping the potential spread of diseases like leptospirosis to humans.

Unfortunately, there has been a worrying trend of a reduction in the numbers of both pets and humans being vaccinated in recent years. This has led to regional outbreaks of serious diseases that have not been seen in large numbers for some time. Up to a third of pets are not kept up to date with their routine vaccinations. Vaccination, in part, works by 'herd immunity' – the more animals that are vaccinated the less likely those vulnerable to the disease will become infected. With fewer animals being vaccinated the more at risk our animals are, even those that are routinely vaccinated.

Recommended vaccinations:

Dogs

- Core vaccinations (those recommended for any domestic dog worldwide) are for canine parvovirus, canine adenovirus (hepatitis) and distemper, after the initial vaccination course these are needed every 3 years.
- In the UK countryside leptospirosis is not only a potentially fatal condition but can also be spread to humans, this vaccine is needed every 12 months.
- Kennel cough can lead to a debilitating cough and is very contagious, it is recommended for dogs in any setting where there are multiple dogs present e.g. kennelling or training classes, or for dogs that are particularly sociable and enjoy greeting every dog. It is a 12 monthly vaccine usually given up the nose.

Cats

- Core vaccinations are for feline enteritis, feline herpesvirus and feline calicivirus (cat flu). Enteritis is given 3 yearly and the flu viruses are needed yearly.
- Feline leukaemia virus vaccine is given 3 yearly and is recommended for any outdoor cats.

Rabbits

- Rabbits have a single combined vaccination yearly which covers for rabbit haemorrhagic disease 1 and 2 and myxomatosis.

Most vaccination appointments will include a general health check to catch other conditions early, such as dental disease and heart disease. Contact your vet to make sure your pet is up to date with their vaccinations.

Best wishes *Eliza*

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Ailsa's Kitchen *Ailsa Craddock*

This cookery page is a collection of some favourite recipes written at my kitchen table, using ingredients you can find locally and in season. Personally, I love the changes and wouldn't want to live anywhere other than the UK with all its climate and regional diversities. I look forward to the first asparagus from the farm just around the corner, English strawberries from the local market, the freshest fish from our British waters, field mushrooms from an autumn walk.

With less carbon footprint and more freshness, you will soon understand why eating British and following the months will tickle your tastebuds, save you some pennies and help the local economy.

It wasn't so long ago that every meal people ate was prepared using seasonal ingredients because there was no means of transporting international produce between countries. People ate as nature intended and their diet was dictated by what grew locally. There really is no sense or benefit in eating fruit, vegetables, meat and fish that have been flown around the world when you can enjoy native ingredients that have been grown, reared or

caught a matter of miles from home.

Every time we look at our plates, we should ask ourselves where the food comes from, how it was produced and what it cost – not just in terms of money but also in terms of environmental damage.

To entice us to buy fruits and vegetables, supermarkets lay out stacks of perfectly formed specimens. Unfortunately, this means that 20 – 40% of local farm produce is wasted because it isn't "perfect" enough even though it tastes absolutely fine. It also means that to reduce the risk of blemished produce, the former relies more and more on a range of pesticides and fertilisers to keep food available out of season. The fertilisers also cause massive problems in the environment as soil biodiversity and water course are polluted by the run off from fields. Locally grown will often cost less, will be fresher, tastier and more nutritious. It will be less damaging to the Earth due to the reduction in energy used to transport far flung places. You will also be supporting farmers and producers in your area and, in turn, helping the local economy.



We can change things for the better by:

- *Accepting "wonky" or less than perfect vegetables and fruit*

- *Grow your own.*

- *Eat by the season*

Spring is traditionally a time of culinary celebration after the Winter months. Fresh green produce, various meats and berries begin to appear. By the Summer the harvest from land and sea is in progress and many fruit and vegetables are plentiful.

With the advent of Autumn, there is still much about and will now include wild mushrooms, British apples and pears and nuts.

Winter is not the dull culinary season many people think it is with game and winter vegetables that need a touch of frost to bring them to their peak.

Make the best of this month's offerings with warming soups and casseroles and seasonal cooking will never feel so wholesome.

A view from the middle

I would very much like to take this opportunity to wish all readers a very Happy New Year. To my deep regret, I missed last month's deadline due to illness and missed both the opportunity to pass on festive greetings and to feature in this publication's 100th issue. The 101st will have to do! The proprietors and all contributors throughout the years should be congratulated for this achievement. With all the talk of the death of print media, it is remarkable to have survived - and indeed to be thriving - through so many travails. Not even Covid, which saw the collapse of many businesses and ventured, put an

end to it. For that, I am thankful and Pershore should count itself so.

By contrast to the fortitude and adaptability of the paper, I was stuck down by flu before Christmas and was completely stopped in my tracks. There are some terrible bugs going round and this one saw me lose days into a complete haze. Luckily, I recovered and was able to enjoy the big day itself. I only hope that next year I will have a more healthy run up to the day and that, in 98 issues' time, I will meet the deadline for the 200th episode. In the meantime, I wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2025.

Coconut Curry Soup – the best soup using leftover vegetables

1 tablespoon of olive oil
1 chopped onion
1 -2 cloves garlic, smashed
Small knob of ginger, grated
1 tablespoon red curry paste
1 tablespoon turmeric
Salt to taste, 1 dessertspoon sugar
1 14 ounce can of coconut milk
1 pint vegetable stock
(from a cube will do)
the fun part - any vegetables you have in the house!
You can add:
potatoes/sweet potatoes/
parsnips/ carrots/ courgettes/
peppers/ mushrooms/ spinach

Heat the oil in a large pot over a medium heat.
Add the onion, garlic and ginger and stir fry for a few minutes.
Add the curry paste, turmeric, salt and sugar.
Stir fry again to combine.
Add the coconut milk and stock - and whatever lost vegetables you have found!
Simmer until soft, blend to silky smooth and serve with some crispy fried onions and/or coriander on top.

"The word impossible is
not in my dictionary"

Napoleon Bonaparte

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Could you become a foster carer?

Fostering Requirements

To become a foster parent, you need to be over 21. You need a spare bedroom, for a foster child to have their own private space. You may need to ask your landlords permission if you rent.

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 Preparation and Positive Behaviour Support training during the Form F assessment; we then provide 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.

As a foster carer you will attend meetings and advocate for the child in your care. We have a variety of personnel and specialists that offer support, or if required we will seek support externally.

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Call: 07930 157901
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Evie's Teenage Focus

Evie Aubin



It feels so good to be writing here again, it seems like a lifetime ago since I last did. I believe the last time I did I was writing about my time at university, but since then I've practically been home the entire time. I think the winter break has been a much-needed change of pace; there is never a dull moment at university however it has been nice to take things slowly again.

Usually, I'm off from school for about two weeks but now I've been home for almost a month and I'm starting to realise all the things I've been missing. First and foremost of course my family, whilst I FaceTime them almost every day it's of course not the same as being there with them or only a few minutes away from them every day. However this one will always be a two-sided coin for me, if I'm at university I miss my family but if I'm back home with my family, I then miss the friends that I have made whilst being at university. In particular two of the girls in my flat, we talk almost daily but I still can't wait to see them again. But still being back home means my dad does most of the cooking, so I'm not being left to fend for myself every night, and even better we have a dishwasher so I'm not having to wash everything up so I will always take it as a win. Going on from this a also massively miss my friends from home, it's so hard to get to see each other now, every moment I get with them I treasure, whether we spend a few hours in the pub or coffee shop, or we all get together for a while and sit

with each other, I am reminded of how deeply I miss them. Another thing I miss whilst at university is nature. Whilst I do love the city in Oxford, I do miss how much nature we have back home, to be honest looking back I think all the time I've spent living around here I've taken it for granted. Having Tiddesley Wood so close and Croome Court a quick drive away I've always been surrounded by nature; and I'm yet to find anything like it in Oxford. I've been to the botanical gardens a couple of times but it's nothing like what we have here, especially when we now have to pay to get in. Whilst I am yet to find a good walk I am often home often enough for it to not be too bad; whilst I do live at university I have somehow made a pattern of coming home for the weekend once every two or three weeks, where I can go for lovely walks with my Gran. So whilst it's not uncommon for me to be home, the winter break has been a nice change of not having to travel so often. That's all from me, until next month,

Toodles!

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Styling your garden with pantone colour of the Year - Mocha Mousse

Are you wondering how to incorporate the 2025 Pantone Colour of the Year into your garden? This year's choice, PANTONE 17-1230 Mocha Mousse, is a rich, warming brown hue that evokes the comforting qualities of chocolate and coffee. This nurturing colour is perfect for creating a cosy and inviting outdoor space. As we cosy up during the winter months, it's the perfect time to dream about transforming our gardens. While snuggling under a warm blanket with a hot chocolate, you can start planning how to bring the comforting tones of Mocha Mousse into your garden. Here's a few ideas on how you can do it.

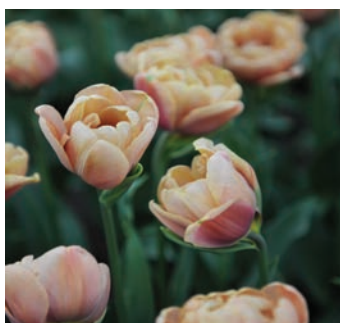
Start with Plants

The best way to introduce this cosy colour is through your choice of plants. Here are some stunning options for colour from spring to autumn:

Tulipa 'La Belle Époque'

Such a pretty springtime flower. This time of year, you will need to purchase them 'in the green' so they may be tricky to find. But it's worth the effort as it ideal for pots and front of borders to add warmth. Combine them with flowers in pastel shades of pink, mauve, cream and pale green. Or if you want to add drama, use dark colours such as Tulipa 'Queen of the night'.

Nicotiana langsdorffii



'Bronze Queen'

Has muted, bronze-brown chocolate-coloured flowers from June to October and grow to around 1.2m tall. They can easily be grown from seed too, which means you can try them without a huge expense, and they look great with Dahlia 'Café au Lait'.

Dahlia 'Café au Lait'

Boasts huge dinner plate-sized flowers with a dark brown centre and blush pink and cream petals. These perennials need winter protection as they can't survive cold, damp weather. Store them correctly, and they'll come back to life in spring, allowing you to take cuttings and expand



your plant collection for free!

These dahlias grow to around 1.2m tall and 75cm wide, thriving in sunny, well-drained soil. They bloom from July to November, providing late summer and autumn colour. To make the flowers 'pop' in your borders, a dark leaf shrub such as Pittosporum 'Tom Thumb' is a dense evergreen shrub that grows to around 1m tall and is a versatile backdrop to many flowers and is easy to maintain too.

Alternative Garden

Décor Ideas:

If you want to refresh your patio area, in addition to plants, painting is one of the quickest



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www.borderinabox.com

and most cost-effective ways. Use Cuprinol Garden Colours and visit a DIY store paint mixing hub for custom colours. Paint fence panels, furniture, and planters, then add cushions and a rug to create a cosy relaxation spot for summer evenings. For stylish home décor items, try Etsy for personalised items.

Pantone Mocha Mousse



February gardening tips

Early February

Continue planting trees, shrubs and perennial plants if conditions are suitable.

Plant Jerusalem artichoke tubers. Plant shallot sets (in colder areas start them off in pots of compost in a cold frame)

If you do not have a cold frame just buy a large clear plastic storage box, drill some holes in the bottom put in a layer of grit, pop on the lid and there is a cold frame.

Look after garden birds by providing food and water- try to tailor the food to the birds you have around.

In heated greenhouses sow Antirrhinums, Begonia semperflorens, Verbenas and Pansies for summer bedding. Otherwise buy seedlings or baby bedding plants later to grow on. Sow sweet pea seeds, growing them on in a cold greenhouse or frame.

Buy seed potatoes and stand them on end in trays or egg boxes to chit (begin to shoot) Potatoes are easy to grow in pots above 30cm (12in) in diameter. To this end store some first early seed potatoes in the fridge bringing some out to chit every 10 days. The previously chitted ones are then planted in pots and kept in a frost-free place to grow. You will then have a succession of new potatoes to harvest every 14 days or so.

Mid-February

Complete the pruning of apples, pears and soft fruits. Prune Clematis that have their main flowering period from July onwards back hard to about 30cm (1ft) above the soil. Cut back dead stems of herbaceous perennials to ground level.

Stock up on pots, labels, twine and other quickly consumed sundries before the season gets into full swing.

Prune back old, woody Mahonia stems to keep the plants bushy.

Buy Begonia and Dahlia tubers as well as other summer flowering bulbs such as Gladioli.

Cover some strawberry plants with cloches for an earlier crop.

Prune Buddlejias and the Spiraeas with colourful foliage, like Spiraea Goldflame, back hard.

Late February

Dig up and divide herbaceous perennials.

Check wall trained plants to see if they require watering as it can get very dry at the base of a wall.

In heated greenhouses sow

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester



Dianthus, Lobelia, Ageratum, and multi-bloom Geraniums for summer bedding.

Dig up, divide and re-plant overcrowded clumps of snowdrops.

Prune winter jasmine (Jasminum nudiflorum) by trimming back by two thirds shoots that have flowered. Sow summer cauliflower in trays under glass.

Gregory's World!

Gregory Sidaway Exeter College, Oxford

Strangers on a Train

The train thrummed underfoot, charging northwards from Ljubljana to Salzburg, weaving between the leaning shoulders and craggy faces of the Austrian Alps. Natdog and I had a compartment to ourselves, but I was expecting Poirot to poke his moustachioed face around the door at any minute. I regret to inform you, he did not. Someone else did, however, lots of someone elses. My ears pricked to hollering in the compartment further down. It was on the move. I'd spent our recent nights in hostels, falling in and out of sleep as our fellow inmates creaked and squeaked their way to the loo, or – in Vienna – as a Gung ho cleaner burst in, whacked on the lights, clanged the bin and left everything in a wetter state than he found it. I'd perfected a technique of sandwiching my head under a pillow, rolling a hood over my eyes to block out any light, and using ear plugs, though my single-use pair were getting fluffier every night. So, I'd been rather enjoying this moment of peace in the sublime Austrian wilderness. Our compartment door slid open. A group of Austrians, wearing straw hats with feathery plumes, squeezed inside, took the seats

opposite us and dropped a cardboard crate of beer at our feet. These guys were eighteen and about to begin six months of compulsory military service; they mentioned a health and fitness exam – clearly, they must've already completed it, because it'd barely passed midday and they were collectively keeping Schwechater Bier in business. "Prost! Prost!" they cheered, rotating their cans on the air conditioning vent to cool them down and adding: "No hide and seek!" when Natdog lowered his unopened one. The view outside was as stunning as a laptop screensaver, but all I could focus on was the can of beer cracked open in my face and pushed into my hand – which one of them then tried charging me for! As we plunged through a tunnel and our dark compartment murmured with disembodied laughter, I began eagerly anticipating Salzburg. Like pretty much everywhere, Salzburg offered a historic market square, churches, lots of stairs, no free toilets, and a castle. Maybe it was the overcast weather, but Hohensalzburg fortress felt less like a Disney palace, and more like somewhere Indiana Jones would be held prisoner and have to escape from. We also discovered a plaque marking where Mozart

had lived, and passed the Starbucks next door, where he probably penned his Requiem. Natdog had made a pact with the powers that be – such are his abilities – for our day at Lake Bled to be sunny, warm and photo-worthy. However, those powers then gave us a week of pretty dismal weather after that. Instead of the hills being alive with the sound of music, the heavens came alive with the sound of roaring rain. We took shelter under a tree with a box of soggy chilli-cheese doner meat, finding it hard to believe our Lake Bled visit was only yesterday. Hearing about the vein-popping prices in Zurich, we prepared by buying a picnic of pastries and apples in Aldi (in Austria, fun fact, it's called 'Hofer'). However, we weren't so prepared for the temperature drop. I hadn't packed a coat. Natdog was still wearing his trunks, hoping to swim in Lake Zurich. He seemed to really like the city's business-vibe, while I had a whale of a time inside the public toilet cubicle. Many far more accomplished travel writers have probably captured the atmosphere of Zurich more effectively – a city of coarse greys and steely blues, where a McDonald's box of twenty chicken nuggets costs £15 – but I bet none took the time to inform their readers about this particularly



city gem. Until now, fellow reader! Entry cost one franc. I'd never paid contactless to use the toilet before, but it instilled in me a feeling of high-tech sophistication as a pair of doors hissed open and I stepped inside. Everything was sensor-activated. I couldn't turn my head without loo roll shooting out of the wall. It even timed me, letting everyone else queueing outside know exactly how long I was making them suffer for. I got my franc's worth and tried out all the sensors, only to hurry up when it crossed my mind that this sentient loo might have a designated time limit and might soon eject me. When you leave, the doors seal and the entire cubicle reverberates as its interior becomes a vacuum, sucking away any aromatic traces of the previous occupant. I'm pretty sure it did that for everyone – not just me. Until next time, when Natdog and I embark on the final leg of our journey, to Munich, Berlin and beyond (known locally as Birmingham)!

Romy's Uni Life

Romy Kemp Liverpool University

How is it 2025? With the promises of the New Year, comes New Year Resolutions. Although it's always great to set yourself goals, I do personally believe that New Year Resolutions somewhat set you up for failure. Goals and dreams should be set as a positive setting stone for success, rather than as a compulsory task. This tradition should be embraced positively as a progressive victory which doesn't push you into incidental failure. This year, I've decided to choose growth as my goal, both physically and mentally I want to grow stronger and stay resilient. Change can be a good way to encourage growth. Being at home, for the holidays, has been lovely and I've had a great time meeting up with

family and friends. I've really tried to meet as many people as possible over this holiday to catch up and keep the relationships strong. I find it quite hard staying consistent in messaging and phoning people - one week I respond quickly but the next I can't find the energy to respond. That might sound bad, but I know it's quite common! However, over this holiday I have been extremely active in responses (mostly)! As much as I have enjoyed being back at home over the Christmas break, the feeling of going back to university is such a wonderful one. It's like going back to your second family. I have missed them all so much and look forward to meeting up with them all once again.

The weather over the past month has been incredibly cold and icy. Being back in the countryside has allowed me to see the frosty conditions of flooded fields and ponds. Despite this I am grateful to not be in Liverpool during this bad weather spell, I do miss the bustling energy of a big city. The wind is bitter at this time of year and so I am glad to be away from Liverpool. The fog in my village lasted for days when the weather was at its worst a couple of weeks ago, however I loved watching the fog surrounding all the external house lights. It gave it such a surreal and uncanny feel to the dark streets. Over the holiday, I have been preparing for my exams and trying to prepare myself for the next semester of second year at university. There is, obviously, an immense amount of reading to do for an English degree and



I am miraculously keeping on top of it all but it is not uncommon to fall behind, so there is no need to worry if that is the case for any essays, tests or exams! Everything will work out in the end if you are aware of opportunities and the hard work you must put in to get to where you want to in life. I am extremely excited for 2025 and the opportunities it will bring! If there's a time to be proactive in taking control over your own life, it is the present!

Pure beeswax candles



I have just returned from a trip to visit some Christmas markets in Germany and whilst there are quite a few commercial market traders with bought in goods, the tradition of rural artisans coming into the cities to sell their craftwork is still very much alive. In Mainz, a

beekeeping enterprise had a wonderful display of pure beeswax candles, filling the chalet with the beehive aroma of the wax. Beeswax burns slowly, with a bright flame, and a pleasant aroma, but it is an expensive material, so in Britain 'beeswax' church

Martyn Cracknell

candles may contain as little as 10% beeswax. The designs ranged from simple pillars with a raised pattern or picture, to pinecones, trees, figurines and even a complete nativity scene. I can't imagine this was very decorative after Joseph's head had been lit for an hour or so! These would all have been made by pouring molten wax into rubber or silicone moulds in which a wick had been fixed. An alternative method for making conventional tapered candles is to repeatedly dip a stretched wick in a vat of hot wax, allowing it to cool between dips. It is surprising how quickly the successive layers of wax build up, but to achieve a smooth finish the rate of raising and lowering must be very even. Dipping jigs with wick stretched and fitted vertically enable many candles to be formed simultaneously, and mechanising the lowering and lifting enables uniform batches to be made. This was the method used to make the magnificent candles which flanked the queens coffin at her funeral and lying in state. The Victorian company which made them is Charles Farris, wax chandlers who have a summary of their history on their website and they have a short YouTube



video of candle dipping @charlesfarris6878.

Whilst candles are no longer used on Christmas trees where they pose an unacceptable fire risk, many people still burn candles as table decorations. Remember to place them on a stable fireproof surface, not in a draught, and do not leave them unattended when lit.



Village Life

Life in a village means all sorts to all sorts of people, and a real sense of belonging within a community is perhaps the biggest bonus. There are so few households that it's possible to make contact with the majority on one level or another. Some will become firm friendships; some will remain no more than 'nodding' acquaintances and some may emerge as needing support in some way as life twists and turns.

In a former life, living in a crowded city, it was possible to rub along knowing very few neighbours and being known to a similarly small group of people. Yes, we had friends but very few who lived nearby or shared local experiences.

In a small community it's inevitable that plenty is known about your life, just as you know about your fellow villagers. That took some getting used to when we first moved here, but we now know this is more about sharing experiences than

intruding. We value the fact that others in the village know what is important to us, just as we know what many of our neighbours' value most. I'm constantly amazed at the level of generosity within our community. *A twelve-year-old lad recently tackled a twelve mile walk to raise awareness of homeless people, and to raise funds for Shelter. One mile for each year of his life is just amazing. Mind you, someone should remind him that if he repeats that ratio every year from now on, he'll be walking to Weston-Super-Mare by the time he gets to my age!*

Other great causes supported in our small village include Alzheimer's research, St Richard's Hospice, MacMillan, charities supporting mental health and support with teenage leukaemia, plus our local church. At various times during the year, and particularly over the recent Christmas period, there have been local collections of

funds and donations supporting the Pershore Community Cupboard.

Numerous other great causes have been supported via sponsored bike rides, extreme physical challenges and the like that deserve huge respect for those who take part.

Closer to home, we have raised funds to enhance our village with spring bulb planting and we're looking to subsidising bird boxes so local people can help encourage our feathered friends. We also funded a defibrillator that's available in the centre of our community providing reassurance should it be needed.

The recent festive season will have seen numerous other acts of generosity, many of which will have passed unnoticed and without fanfare. A big thank you to all who participated. All this shows what can be achieved by living and working together in a close community where we can look out for each

John Driscoll



other and offer help where needed. We may not always agree with everyone around us, but with mutual respect we can still work together and achieve great things.

I'm just so glad I didn't take on the mile-a-year challenge all those years ago! No disrespect to Weston-Super-Mare, but if I want to go there, I'll choose the car/bus/train any day over walking!

Inheritance Tax for Farmers

Carol Draper

While the headlines from the last budget have largely died down, many of the impacts have yet to be felt. One of the biggest headlines related to the changes to Inheritance Tax for farmers with different sides arguing about just how many and how badly farms would be affected.

Amidst all the noise the detail is often lost, so hopefully this will provide some clarity. There are reliefs that can be claimed against Agricultural land and property when it is being passed on as an inheritance following a death the most important one for farmers being Agricultural Property Relief (APR). Where the owner of a farm has occupied it for at least 2 years, or the farm has been occupied for 7 years by someone else, APR can be claimed against 100% of the value of the farm's land and buildings. In most cases this has meant farms do not qualify for inheritance tax. The budget changed the rules on APR from April 2026 by capping the value on which relief can be claimed at £1 million per owner. APR relief is in addition to the standard Inheritance Tax allowance, which is £500,000 per individual who owns a family home. A farm owned by a married couple could therefore have a combined relief of £3 million once both spouses have died. If a farm is valued at



more than £3million, tax would be payable on the balance. From April 2026, where inheritance tax is payable on farms, this will be at the reduced rate of 20% compared to the standard rate for inheritance tax of 40%. Ordinarily inheritance tax must be paid by the end of the sixth month after the person died and interest will be charged on any payments made late. Farmers will be allowed to spread the payment of any inheritance tax due over 10 years interest free. The treasury estimated a quarter of farms would be affected by the new rules although clearly not all at once. However, as farms are typically asset rich, and cash poor planning is essential to mitigate the potential impact of future inheritance tax bills.

Carol Draper FCCA

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

Jim Fox



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Spring Bulbs

Angela Johns

Hello to longer, lighter days, bluer skies and stronger sunrays! Slowly but surely we can start to see the awakening of the Earth from the darker duvet days of January. We are halfway to the Spring Equinox, from the Winter Solstice in December. The 1st February used to be celebrated as the beginning of Spring. It is certainly a time when we start to notice new growth, and the sunlight has a new quality to it no matter how chilly it still is.

This winter I feel like I have hunkered down more than usual, taking as many opportunities as possible to rest and regroup my thoughts. By building my inner stores of energy, trying to let those things that no longer serve me fall away, I feel like a Spring bulb. I'm ready to push my way through the soil that has nurtured me and grow into the sunlight. Just like my growing children over the years, I have been nestling in the soil of family, good friends, nourishing food and a warm hearth.

And just like them, I want to be anchored in this soil not buried by it. I want to be free to love and be loved and still be able to make my own decisions. I don't want to be smothered by obligations but to rise up to my responsibilities. And I want to start new projects, not be stuck in the mud. Just like the Spring bulbs I need some time to gather the energy that enables me to push through the soil towards my sunlight. But we can't just take from the soil if we want it to keep on giving, it too needs care and attention. Spring is such a wonderful time to make fresh starts.



We can Spring clean our thought patterns and our habits. We can decide whether our past and our present can be used to feed the future we desire. Like the strong, resilient dandelion that grows through the cracks in the pavement where there is little soil and it must dig deep, there is always hope - green shoots and a burst of someone's favourite colour. Or like the delicate and gentle Verbascum that doesn't flower until the second season, some of us just take a little longer. Neither are confined by the soil but bloom according to their own rulebook, in their own time.

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

Also a Reflexologist and Reiki Practitioner, she is passionate about her therapies and spends quality time with her clients to facilitate their wellbeing. You can find her at angelajohns.co.uk

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  **borderinabox.com**

Pain and the brain

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

Breaking the Pain-Depression Cycle: Cognisance's Innovative Treatment in Pershore

Living with chronic pain can be an overwhelming experience, particularly when paired with depression or anxiety. The relationship between physical and emotional pain often creates a vicious cycle that affects every aspect of life. Groundbreaking research into shared brain anatomy is shedding light on this link, and Louise Anderson, who runs Cognisance Pain Management in Pershore, is using these insights to transform how chronic pain is managed in Pershore.

Understanding the Pain-Depression Link

The connection between chronic pain and depression is deeply rooted in the brain. Regions such as the somatosensory cortex, which processes physical sensations, are closely linked to the amygdala and hypothalamus, which are responsible for managing emotions and stress responses. This shared brain structure explains why chronic pain is frequently exacerbated in individuals with depression. Neurotransmitters like serotonin and norepinephrine provide further evidence of this connection. These vital chemicals regulate mood but also play a key role in pain perception. Disruptions in these systems create a feedback loop, where pain intensifies depression, and depression, in turn, heightens the perception of pain. This relationship is evident in conditions like fibromyalgia, migraines, and irritable bowel syndrome. Research suggests that nearly two-thirds of people with chronic pain also suffer



from depression or anxiety. *An Evidenced Based Approach to Treatment* Cognisance Pain Management, led by Louise Anderson, provides evidenced based treatments that address both the physical and emotional dimensions of chronic pain. Her therapy is informed by the latest research and is designed to change the cycle of pain and depression, helping people regain balance and control. "The relationship between pain and depression is complex, but it is not untreatable," says Louise Anderson. "By recognising the shared brain anatomy, we can create personalised treatment plans tailored to each individual." Cognisance Pain Management operates from a clinic room in the centre of Pershore, offering a welcoming space for those seeking help. *Regaining Control* For those struggling with chronic pain and depression, finding the right support is crucial. Cognisance Pain Management combines compassion and science to evidence-based care, giving patients a pathway to recovery and improved quality of life.

For more information, visit www.cognisancepm.com

Self-Love:

The foundation for a fulfilling Life

Self-love is essential for emotional well-being and personal growth. Holistically, self-love means valuing and nurturing your mind, body, and spirit. It's about embracing your authentic self and fostering inner harmony through acceptance, compassion, and intention.

Why Self-Love Matters

Promotes Mental and Emotional Health

Practicing self-love creates a safe inner space, reducing anxiety and self-doubt. By treating yourself kindly, you build resilience and navigate life with clarity and strength.

Strengthens Relationships

When you honour your own worth, you set boundaries that foster healthy connections. Self-love invites authenticity and allows love to flow freely between yourself and others.

Builds Confidence

Recognising your unique gifts fosters unshakable confidence. This empowerment helps you pursue dreams, embrace opportunities, and inspire others. *Supports Personal Growth* Self-love nurtures curiosity and adaptability. By accepting where you are while striving for growth, you build trust in yourself and embrace life's lessons.

Self-Compassion

Being gentle with yourself means recognising that you are doing your best with the resources you have. It involves letting go of perfectionism and accepting that it's okay to make mistakes. In a society that prioritizes productivity, self-compassion is revolutionary. It allows space to:

- Rest and recharge.
- Seek support without shame.
- Adjust expectations to align with reality.



Approaching challenges with kindness doesn't mean giving up. It's about shifting from self-criticism to self-encouragement, treating yourself as a cherished friend.

Cultivating Self-Love

1. Cherish Your Whole Self:

Engage in activities like yoga, meditation, or journaling to nourish your being.

2. Reframe Negative Thoughts:

Replace self-criticism with affirmations and encouragement.

3. Set Boundaries:

Say no to draining situations and protect your energy.

4. Seek Support:

Surround yourself with uplifting people and communities.

5. Celebrate Progress:

Acknowledge every step forward, no matter how small.

6. Pause and Reflect:

Take moments to breathe and reconnect with your inner wisdom.

Self-love empowers you to live authentically and with purpose. By treating yourself with kindness and compassion, you build a foundation of resilience and joy. Start today. Be gentle with yourself. You deserve a life filled with love and wholeness – and it begins with you.

Emily Papirnik
intentiontherapy.co.uk

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**The easy way to
Feel better**

Healthy Heart Tip: Carbohydrates and heart health



Carbohydrates are one of the main food groups, but many people are unaware of the different types of carbohydrates and the impact they have on your health. Did you know that sugar is a form of carbohydrate? Carbohydrates come in all different shapes and sizes, some are good for our health and some are not so good. Fibre, which is a form of carbohydrate that is beneficial for heart health, should be eaten regularly as part of a healthy balanced diet, however only 9% of the UK meet the recommendations. This tip shares the importance of carbohydrates in your diet, where you get them from, and how to increase your intake. *Importance of carbohydrates* Carbohydrates are your bodies main source of energy and should make up 45 to 60% of your total daily energy intake. They fuel most of your body's cells to allow you to carry out everyday tasks and extra ones like exercise. Any excess carbohydrates that you've consumed but not used up are stored in your liver and muscles, these are slowly released throughout the day for

blood sugar stability and brain function. Fibre, a form of carbohydrate that is naturally found in plants, promotes digestive health and helps to reduce your risk of heart disease. It does this by helping to stabilise blood sugar levels, lower bad (LDL) cholesterol levels, reduce blood pressure and inflammation. *Sources of carbohydrates* Some sources of carbohydrates are more well-known than others, such as pasta, rice, bread, potatoes and cereal. These are often your main sources of energy and ones that you pair with other foods to create your meals. It is recommended for better heart health to follow a diet higher in fibre and choose wholegrain or wholemeal varieties of pasta, rice, cereals and bread where possible. Sugar is also a form of carbohydrate, called a simple carbohydrate. Your body can break it down quickly to provide immediate energy however, it doesn't have much nutritional value and can be the cause of weight gain. You should consume this in small amounts infrequently. *Increasing your fibre intake* Increasing your fibre intake to meet the recommended guidelines of 30g per day should be done gradually to avoid any unpleasant symptoms such as bloating. It is recommended that you drink plenty of fluids when adding more fibre to your diet to keep your digestive system working effectively. Making healthier choices and increasing your fibre intake will benefit overall health. Make sure you eat 5+ a day of fruit and vegetables, whilst swapping your carbohydrates to wholegrain varieties where possible.

Whatever the problem, we are here to help!



Citizens Advice South Worcestershire helped over almost 8,000 people in the last eighteen months and dealt with over 26,000 issues, raising over a million pounds for them in terms of grants, rebates, dispute resolution and additional financial entitlements.

Are you struggling to pay your bills, worried about the rising costs of living or struggling to pay fuel, housing and other utility costs? Do you have a problem at work causing you stress or are you concerned about how to sort an issue with your tenancy?

Citizens Advice can help you with all these problems and much more. Trained staff, mostly volunteers, are supported by a small expert management team, providing free, impartial, confidential information and advice tailored to help you manage your problems such as eviction, disconnection, challenging benefit decisions or finding ways to manage multiple debts.

Our advisers can advise you on the best ways to manage your finances, improve your household budgeting and look at ways to put extra money in your pocket.

As well as providing information and advice, we also work with local and national

agencies to help tackle the root cause of local problems and deliver vital services that help lift people out of poverty and provide long-term financial stability.

There are many ways to access our free service and find out more about us:

- Call the Worcestershire Adviceline Monday to Friday, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on 0808 278 7890
- Face-to-face appointments can be arranged if appropriate
- email us on enquiries.malvern@citizensadvice.org.uk
- For consumer advice call 0808 223 1133
- if you need help to make a Universal Credit Claim, call us on 0800 144 8444
- For 24-hour access to information and details of all our services visit our website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Preventing car theft - Part 1

Follow these simple rules to protect your vehicle from thieves.



1. Lock your vehicle

Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have locked your vehicle, check you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open. It is illegal to leave your vehicle running unattended, while you de-ice it or warm it up in cold weather. If someone takes it while it's left like this, your insurer won't pay out because you won't be covered. If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked, make sure you lock it properly. Criminal gangs are looking for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked.

2. Keep the keys safe

Vehicles today are more difficult to steal than ever, unless the thief can access your key or fob to clone them. Keep your keys safe, out of view when at home, and away from your front door. It's not uncommon for car keys to be stolen from inside your home by thieves fishing for them with a stick and hook through the letterbox. If you're selling your car and you meet up with a potential buyer, do not allow the keys out of your sight. They may be cloned by thieves and used later to steal your vehicle at a later date.



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My Money's on the British Contender

Brian Johnson-Thomas



Everyone's heard of St. Valentine, the Italian guy who died back in 273 and is famous for being the Patron Saint of beekeepers but who doubles as the Saint for lovers in his spare time. Not everyone, alas, has heard of our home grown British equivalent, one Saint Dwynwen.

She was around in the dark Ages, just after the Romans had left but after they had brought Christianity to these shores, sometime around the year 500. One of 24 daughters of Brychan, the King of much of south Wales, she is renowned as the most beautiful and also the most spirited. She fell madly in love with a guy called Macsen, son of a neighbouring King, but Daddy wasn't having any and forbade their marriage. So she had a hissy fit and fled to the woods, lay on the ground and cried herself to sleep. A spirit came to her and told her that her boy friend had been turned into a block of ice but, as compensation, she could have three wishes granted.

Right, so the first wish was that Macsen should be thawed, the second was that true love should always be protected in her name

and the third was that she should never again fall in love, not marry. She became a nun and travelled Wales setting up churches and praying for those who were troubled in love. Her final stop was just off the Anglesea coast on the island of Llanddwyn, where the remains of her church can still be seen. After her death a well was discovered nearby and some say that the well occasionally boils up and that those who see it will be lucky in love. If you fancy trying your luck then the island is accessible at low tide and is just next to the Nature Reserve at Newborough Warren. If you're that way then easily the best town to stay in is Beaumaris, with its famous Castle, and a good place to stay would be the Bishopsgate House Hotel, also in Castle Street.

For details see:

www.bishopsgatehotel.co.uk
Nearer home, and with Valentine's Day pending, there are some nice staycation offerings just down the road in Ledbury – just far enough to be off the daily routine but easily accessible for us here. Try the Clock Tower at Barton Court for example. It's a romantic little bolt hole,

which was one the head gardener's cottage but has now been carefully restored to make it both comfortable and charming. It has everything that a couple – and their dog – could need, from a wood fired hot tub in part of the pretty little enclosed garden to a cosy sitting room and a well equipped kitchen.

Barton Court has a romantic story of its' own and is said to have inspired both Jane Austen and Thackeray with a parade of spendthrifts and cads. Certainly it dates back to mediaeval times. For details see:

www.bartoncourtonline.co.uk

Nearby Ledbury is also home to Choccotastic, an artisan chocolatier offering delectable chocolate treats for all occasions, not just Valentine's Day. As well as the shop there's also an integral tearoom on the premises. For details see:

www.choccotastic.com

Back in the more mundane world the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford upon Avon are encouraging us to try something new with them this year. Amongst other things they're offering a new set and props tour and well as theatre ghost tours and cocktail masterclasses to elevate (?) our Friday nights. The new Scenic Workshop Tours will allow us to explore the process of set and prop creation and watch skilled craftspeople bring a show to life. Visitors can now also book into new Ghost Tours to explore areas normally off limits after the theatre has closed whilst learning about the history of theatre superstition, supernatural sightings and ghostly effects on stage.

For workshop-tours see:

www.rsc.org.uk/overview/scenic

For details of the ghost tours visit www.rsc.org.uk/overview/ghost-tours.

Also, when it comes to mastering the art of mixing a really good cocktail, visitors to the Theatre's Rooftop Restaurant can learn how to craft classic cocktails and mocktails and design their own creation. This event happens on Fridays between 8pm and 930pm and costs £25 per person. For details see: www.rsc.org.uk/rooftop-restaurant/cocktail-masterclass

Finally, some news of an exciting local initiative from Broadway. There the Museum and Art Gallery have teamed up with the Gordon Russell Design Museum by launching a new oral history project to capture the personal stories of former employees of Gordon Russell Limited. This collaborative effort is intended to safeguard these memories for future generations. If some of those memories are yours – and you'd like to share – then email either Olivia Perry at:

manager@gordonrusselldesignmuseum.org or Anona van Lawick at: anona.vanlawick@broadwaymuseum.org.uk.

Whatever you do, have a happy Valentine's Day but, next year, why not remember St. Dwynwen on 25th January?



Barton Court

Making a Small Claim in the County Court

citizens advice

Small claims made in the County court are for simple cases that don't involve large amounts of money or complicated issues. They're often used to get compensation or your money back if something's gone wrong. Small claims are never usually for more than £10,000.

You can use small claims for things like:

- A faulty product
- Poor service
- Being owed a refund
- Disputes with your landlord for example, if they haven't

done minor repairs

- Being owed money for work you've done
- Accidents when you've been injured – for example, a car accident

Small claims are sometimes called 'money claims'. They're meant to be simple, so in general you probably don't need a solicitor.

However, before you consider using the courts in this way you should always try to solve the problem another way if you can – for example, by making a complaint or using formal

mediation. This is important because it makes best use of the court's time and can save money in the long run because there are fees for bringing a small claim and if you lose your case or the other party won't pay up, then the fee may not be recovered.

If you don't have good evidence, you won't have a strong claim, and it might not be a good idea to start one. Gather together any documents or photographs you have to support your claim. It might help you to list what happened

in date order then find evidence to back it up. It might not be worth making a claim if it's going to cost you almost as much as you're claiming.

You'll have to pay a fee to make a claim. How much you have to pay depends on what you're claiming. If you're getting benefits or have a low income, you might get the fees reduced or not have to pay any. *More information on the process and how to start a claim if you need to can be found on:*

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Elgar

Martyn Marsh



Graziana Presicce and Emma Arizza shortly after making the film

I (Graziana Presicce) first met Emma Arizza sometime in October 2021. We are two Italian musicians living in the UK for some years – a pianist in Yorkshire and a London-based violinist when our paths crossed for the first time purely

coincidentally on social media. We decided to take advantage of an upcoming London trip to meet in person and soon realised that a new personal and musical friendship had started and two months we were collaborating on our first little

project together. During that meeting, we discussed creative ways of presenting or engaging people with classical music in a way, that this genre is not as frequently presented with “music videos” in the same way as other styles of music. A few days later, Emma got in touch about a beautiful yet lesser-known, piece by Elgar she came across: A Christmas Greeting. A warm, beautiful piece of music, we took this as a sign to take action on the ideas we shared in that first meeting!

Elgar’s music has always been special to us: it represents a deep emotional connection and a unique ability to blend majestic feelings with intimacy. His compositions speak straight to the heart, and we admire how he captures the quintessentially English landscape while allowing many audiences to resonate deeply with his works. A Christmas



Greeting feels particularly magical, as it evokes warmth, hope, and nostalgia – emotions we associate with the festive season.

With a fast turnaround, we planned the music video’s story: where could the mysterious red envelopes found during our journey lead to? We will not spoil the ending, but you can find our music video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRzFSOsEFJk> or by visiting our websites:

www.grazianapresicce.com and www.emmaarizzaviolinist.com

We hope this is the first of many more projects to come... watch this space for 2025!

Graziana and Emma

Jazz News

Peter Farrall

Breaking news this month is that tickets are now on sale for Pershore Jazz on a Summer’s Day 2025 - a full afternoon and evening of Classic Jazz performed by seventeen masters of the idiom. Vintage Jazz, Swing and Big Band music will celebrate iconic “jazz royalty” with the sounds of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Earl Hines and more aristocrats of the era, all in our much loved Number 8 Arts Centre. Visit our website: www.pershorejazz.org.uk for more details and a direct link to Number 8 box office.

Classic FM Radio recently featured Suite for Jazz Orchestra by Dmitri Shostakovich, which may have suggestions of jazz but cannot be considered jazz as jazz fans know it. In the 1920s and 30s many classical composers produced jazz influenced works, not trying to emulate bands like the Armstrong Hot 5s and 7s, but to create their musical impression of the “Golden Age of Jazz” in which they found themselves. Some European composers were acquainted with jazz on tours of the US. Darius Milhaud, for instance, was enthused for jazz after spending time in New York jazz clubs, which is evident in his ballet composition, La

Creation du Monde, and even more so in a later work, Scaramouche for Saxophone and Orchestra. Maurice Ravel’s G major Piano Concerto, hinting at jazzy rhythms and blues inflections, came about from an admiration of George Gershwin whom he met whilst on an American tour. Classical composers often collaborated with jazz musicians; Stravinski’s Ebony Concerto was composed for Woody Herman’s swing band and Harold Farberman, a percussionist himself, produced a concerto for jazz drummer and orchestra which has featured Gene Krupa and Louis Bellson on occasions. Benny Goodman commissioned Aaron Copland to write a clarinet concerto for him and Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue was written at the request of (self-styled) “King of Jazz”, Paul Whiteman.

Valerie Capers, who overcame blindness to obtain a master’s degree in classical composition, performance and education, forsook her classical career in favour of jazz and is now a well-established performer and educator on the New York jazz scene. Her work in teaching and promoting jazz has earned many accolades including honorary doctorates from no



less than four US universities. We have an intriguing classics and jazz blend of our own at this month’s jazz club with the Rich Hughes Trio, who will take

favourites from the classical repertoire and use their skills of inventive improvisation to produce a swinging evening of jazz in a style all of their own.

The Rich Hughes Trio

Wednesday 26th February 2025

Function Room, Pershore Football Club

Doors open at 7pm, music at 8

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

Five of the best albums from 2024

Steve Ide

1 Wild God

by Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds

Nick reunited with his band for this album and it's a celebration of joy coming from great grief. Musically it covers blues, rock, spoken word and gospel. The songs contain ghosts, mystical horses, spiritual references and there's even a song about frogs. This is the sound of a man healing.

*Stand out track -
Song of the lake*

2 Romance

by Fontaines DC

Since hitting the scene in 2019 with 'Big', these Dublin post-punks have kept improving,

producing albums and electric live shows, always on their own terms. Romance is probably their best work to date, but continues their questioning view of the world

*Stand out track -
Starburster*

3 Father John Misty – Mahashmashana

This album was the last one on the list to be released but was definitely worth the wait. From the radio friendly 'She cleans up' to the wistful 'Summers gone', he continues to hold a mirror to the absurdities of life. Oh and in case your wondering Mahashmashana is a Sanskrit

word for a cremation ground
*Stand out track -
Mahashmashana*

4 Dance, no one's watching - Ezra Collective

This is the jazz quintets follow up their 2022 Mercury award winning album and continues the jubilant, get up and dance rhythms. Jazz, afro beats, funk and Latin grooves all sit happily alongside some of the more laid back tracks, all with the natural joy of their sound running through them

*Stand out track -
God gave me feet for dancing*

5 Songs of a Lost World by The Cure

Robert Smith has been through a lot of sadness in the last few years and it shows on this album. With epic soundscapes, heart breaking, yet beautiful lyrics and an average track length of over 6 minutes, this album gives a stunning, uncompromising glimpse into Robert's state of mind.

*Stand out track -
Alone*



View from the Boundary

I write this to you on Christmas day before having a little something and talking bigger drivel. The three-test series with New Zealand was successful, save for the last test. However, what has emerged is firstly Joe Root who with another 406 test runs would become number two in the world, this could happen in 2025. His next target would be Tendulkar, for that he would need another 2543 runs. This is possible but he would need to be on form for another five years. What is encouraging for the future is the performance of Harry Brook who shows the same potential as Joe Root. Also, the other encouraging factor is the bowling performance of Brydon Carse, Gus Atkinson

and potentially Jacob Bethell. Let's hope that my views come to fruition in 2025.

What of Worcestershire for 2025? T20 and fifty over Tournaments were a disaster in 2024 and they just survived the County Championship as I predicted the weather came to their assistance. Why? is the question. The club was a member's club with a board that came from the members. Now with the change of the rules it has become a cabal of appointees and a chairman who lives some 100 miles away. If the ECB do change the county structure this could mean the end of first-class cricket in Worcestershire. The members should seriously consider this position. Major Jewell, Lord

Cobham and Duncan Fearnley are but a few who will be turning in their grave.

Let's look at what is happening in this country, it is disastrous and really concerning. We have county elections which the government are trying to cancel. If it does happen, before you vote look at the CV of people not their party. This is local and we do not want to go down the same route as the Members of Parliament most of whom are not qualified to do the job and have not really had a proper job. The latest woke idiocy is the, shall we say, person with terrorism convictions trying to bring actions against pubs called the Saracens Head. The boats keep coming. Spousal visas continue, arranged marriages and now an MP stands up in Parliament and announces

that cousins marrying keeps money within the family unit, So, what about the farmers keeping the farms in a family unit. Prediction. The Rotherham, Rochdale and Halifax grooming gangs problem will raise its head again with every effort made to sweep it under the rug. Mr Starmer needs to consider his position; it is a disgrace. People keep coming across the channel and nothing happens. We will see in my next View from the boundary.

Please your comments whether you agree or disagree in this free speech magazine.

We are past December 21st, so at least it is getting lighter with longer days!



Thoughts from the Snug . . .

Energy prices - Shocking

The cost of living is a regular topic of discussion here in the Snug, prompted by almost any radical change in the economy and government policy. Energy costs feature frequently. What tariff to use, how to swap suppliers and the lack of incentives to encourage cheaper, green and sustainable energy crop up regularly. The cutting of the winter fuel allowance to pensioners this year was one discussion that prompted this recollection of a story from the Daily Telegraph:

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill the spokesman for North West Gas said, "We agree it was rather high for this time of year. It is possible Mr Purdey has been charged for the

gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house." Poor Mr Purdey! We wondered if he now met the new criteria for the fuel allowance. Probably not!

The power of words

Pandiculation is the act of stretching and yawning at the same time. It's a kind of double statement of boredom rarely witnessed in the snug. Fascination, with words and language often erupt with "Did you know" This is often the opening to a discourse involving some quirky bit of language. Susie Dent, famed lexicographer and etymologist of television quiz, Countdown might be impressed by our efforts. Here are a few examples of Snug dialogue: *Did you know (DYK) ...* Tormentone is the Italian word

to describe the summer hit that is constantly played on your car radio, plus every cafe and bar you visit on holiday? Very fitting. *DYK...* The word twitter was first used by Geoffrey Chaucer in 1374. Do we expect Elon Musk's X (formerly Twitter) to enjoy such longevity?

DYK... Obese drivers are more likely to die in car accidents? This caused some discomfort as most of us in the Snug are well padded. An alternative was suggested that short people, who can barely see over the dashboard, are probably more at risk than us tubbies. A counterpoint accepted, so we moved on.

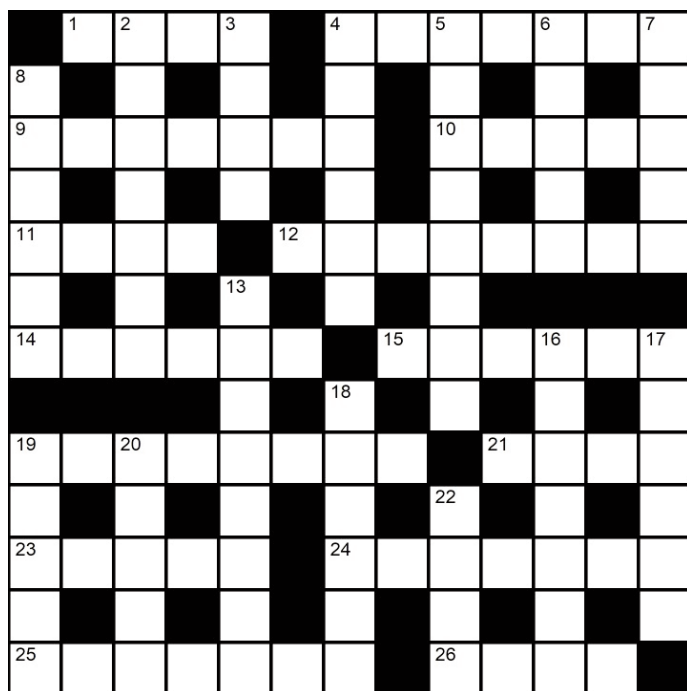
DYK... Edward Elgar had a bicycle that he rode around our Worcestershire lanes and it was called Mr. Phoebus? Was Elgar

guilty of anthropomorphism, the attribution of human traits to non-human entities? Why do people name inanimate objects with human identities? Elgar probably wanted to show off his classical education was one opinion, but another pointed out Phoebus was a Greek God, not a human. So Elgar's not guilty, or was he? Even more mysterious. Plenty to think about. Thank goodness we have such a rich and varied language. Is it better than other countries? Quite possibly; for example, take the German word, Flieerabwarkanne. This, literally translated, reads 'pilot warding off cannon'. Flack is the English abbreviation. So much more adaptable, Say no more!

Buddy Bach

Coffee Break

Crossword



Across

- 1 Thick slice (4)
 4 Layered Italian dish (7)
 9 Eyebrow darkeners (7)
 10 German sea scourge (1-4)
 11 Prepare for publication (4)
 12 Saviour (8)
 14 Permeable by liquids (6)
 15 Capable of wounding (6)
 19 Glove material clanks if disturbed (8)
 21 Getaway spots (4)
 23 Island in the Bay of Naples (5)
 24 Burn unsteadily (7)
 25 Good spot for a summit meeting? (7)
 26 Deep black (4)

Down

- 2 Taller and thinner (7)
 3 Soft cheese (4)
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 6 Brush a horse (5)
 7 Go into (5)
 8 Maintenance (6)
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 16 Thai capital (7)
 17 Dr tees off - could be a very large bunker! (6)
 18 Fish out of water (6)
 19 Series of changes (5)
 20 Pass into disuse (5)
 22 Designed by Issigonis (4)

Sudoku

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

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

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

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

Wordsearch

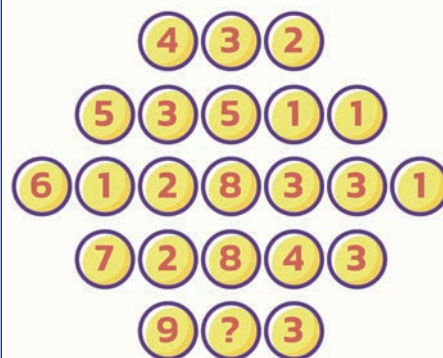
F	S	U	A	Q	W	C	G	K	J	C
H	M	E	N	T	A	L	A	G	E	Q
G	Y	E	P	O	E	T	I	L	U	G
R	N	N	E	J	M	A	B	E	A	T
E	O	I	Z	D	O	M	S	E	R	S
G	D	D	M	H	U	F	O	E	B	B
B	U	D	S	R	T	M	C	C	S	C
O	E	A	I	Q	A	C	R	H	O	U
V	S	A	G	R	R	W	O	O	W	L
S	P	E	C	I	A	L	B	N	N	G
B	U	S	J	L	C	R	S	I	G	F

ALAS
 ARCS
 ARMING
 AT EASE
 BUDS
 C F O
 CARAT
 COMMON
 CONG
 DEEM
 DIN
 DUO
 E T A
 EBB
 ECHO
 EEL
 GUT
 ICE

JOT
 LITE
 MAT
 MENTAL
 NORM
 OMAR
 PAIR
 PSEUDONYMS
 REG
 ROBS
 RUMBLE
 SASH
 SOWN
 SPECIAL
 TLC
 U F O
 USES

Brainteaser

What's the missing number in the circle?



Find the solution on next page

Poets' Corner

A Shropshire Lad

XLI

In my own shire, if I was sad
Homely comforters I had:
The earth, because my heart was sore,
Sorrowed for the son she bore;
And standing hills, long to remain,
Shared their short-lived comrade's pain.
And bound for the same bourn as I,
On every road I wandered by,
Trode beside me, close and dear,
The beautiful and death-struck year:
Whether in the woodland brown
I heard the beechnut rustle down,
And saw the purple crocus pale
Flower about the autumn dale;
Or littering far the fields of May
Lady-smocks a-bleaching lay,
And like a skylit water stood
The bluebells in the azured wood.

Yonder, lightening other loads,
The seasons range the country roads,
But here in London streets I ken
No such helpmates, only men;
And these are not in plight to bear,
If they would, another's care.
They have enough as 'tis: I see
In many an eye that measures me
The mortal sickness of a mind
Too unhappy to be kind.
Undone with misery, all they can
Is to hate their fellow man;
And till they drop they needs must still
Look at you and wish you ill.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

Quiz!

- 1) The Victorian era ended with the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. Which era followed?
- 2) Women over 30 gained the right to vote in 1918 and equal voting rights with men in 1928 as a result of which movement?
- 3) What was the name of the armed insurrection in Ireland against British rule in 1916, which ultimately paved the way for Irish independence?
- 4) Britain experienced high unemployment rates, economic hardship, and social unrest during the 1930's. What was this period known as?
- 5) What event triggered Britain's entry into the Second World War?
- 6) Which report, published in 1942 laid the groundwork for the modern welfare state in Britain?
- 7) What was the name given to the period of conflict in Northern Ireland, lasting from the late 1960s to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998?
- 8) The period of cultural revolution characterised by youth-driven movements, changes in fashion, music, and attitudes towards social norms, during the 20th century became known as what?
- 9) What was significant about the Battle of Edgehill in 1642?
- 10) Who was the famous queen whose navy defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588?
- 11) Which historic document limited the power of the monarch and laid the foundation for constitutional governance in Britain.
- 12) In which century did the Industrial Revolution begin in Britain?
- 13) Which monarch is associated with the expansion of the British Empire during the 19th century?
- 14) In what year did England have its first Norman king?
- 15) Which cousin of Queen Elizabeth I was executed in 1587?
- 16) What was the name of the book, commissioned by William the Conqueror that was a survey of England's land and resources for tax purposes?

Answers: 1) Edwardian era. 2) Suffragette movement 3) The Easter Rising 4) The Great Depression 5) The invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany 6) The Beveridge Report 7) The Troubles 8) The Swinging Sixties 9) It is commonly considered the beginning of the English Civil War. 10) Queen Elizabeth I 11) The Magna Carta 12) 18th century 13) Queen Victoria 14) 1066 15) Mary. 16) Domesday Book

December/January Answers



February Brain teaser solution: $9+3=12(÷2)=6$

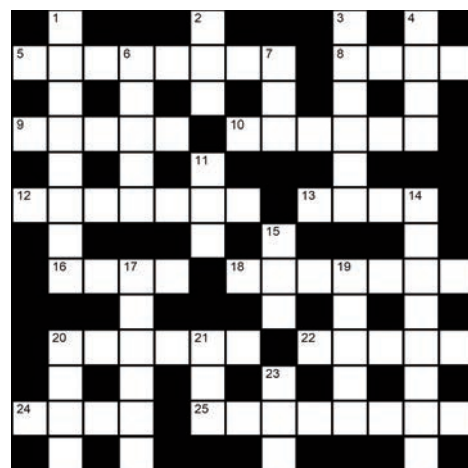
Anagram Crossword

Across

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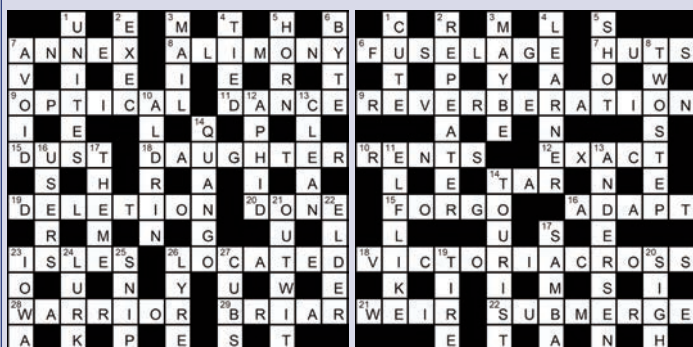
Telephone 01386 803803

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Copy Deadline

March Issue - 17th February 2025

Christmas Crossword Answers



Writings & Paintings of Susan Catford



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

Produced in a limited edition of 250 copies

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

Available from:

Hughes & Company

Design House, 8 Church Street Pershore WR10 1DT

Tel: 01386 803803 Email: print@hughes.company

Are Solar panels still a worthwhile investment?

That was such a pertinent question fifteen years ago when 2020SolarPV started supplying and fitting systems to local businesses and homes throughout the midlands, and time and experience has proved that if you are looking for a way of saving on your bills, generating your own electricity and reducing your carbon footprint, it was and still is a solid investment, especially when you think that in real terms the cost of installing solar has virtually halved in that time. A typical 3-bedroom house with a 4kW solar panel system can save you between £400 to £800 annually on electricity bills. As well as reducing your impact on the environment, under the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) scheme, households in Great Britain actually get paid for excess solar energy they export back to the grid. Of course, other developments in recent years have increased demand for solar, for example, heat pumps, electric vehicle charging, batteries to time-shift excess energy, as well

as smarter technology have all helped improve the pay-back on investment by harvesting more energy and increase independence from the grid. This coupled with spiralling energy costs and more recent price drops for owning solar has created a 'perfect storm' for consumers and business owners.

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

You can visit our website www.2020solarpv.com and follow a simple link to click your roof, which will generate a no obligation quote for your home, or call us on 01386 802020 for a friendly chat.

New Year, Volunteer & Make a Difference!

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and build healthy relationships. It strengthens your ties to the community and exposes you to people with similar interests, talents, and skills.

Volunteering also gives you the opportunity to practice and develop your social skills. As well as helping to protect you against stress and depression. Volunteering can also help with mental health recovery.

The volunteer opportunities we offer at Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre contribute to all these great benefits and more.

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Drivers, Minibus Drivers, Passenger Assistants, Transport Desk Administrators, Lunch Club Helpers, Befrienders and many more.

Please contact us for further information:

Tel 01386 554299

Email: admin@pershorevolunteers.org.uk

www.pershorevolunteers.org.uk

Spot & Shop - Dec/Jan Winners

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Nick Bonehill | 5) V Michell |
| 2) Jenny Masser | 6) Angel Jack |
| 3) Jean Dickinson | 7) June Herbert |
| 4) Judith Robinson | |

Last month's answer:
The Banking Hall



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COMPETITION TIME!

Take a look at the anagram

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

SPOT & SHOP!

Chance to WIN £50 CASH

This month's anagram
ABRA ACCESS
CIDERS HELIXES

This month's prizes!

1st - £50 cash

2nd - £25 cash

Donated by Hughes & Company

3rd £20 Food Voucher

at The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley

4th £10 Voucher

at Revills Farm Shop, Defford

5th £10 Voucher

at Craftypyro, Bakers Arcade, Pershore

6th Reg Moule Gardening Book

7th Pat's Pantry -

Jar of home-made marmalade/jam

Complete and return this form or email:

news@hughes.company for your chance to win!

Pershore Times closing date: 21st February 2025

Answer:

Name:

Telephone/email:

Return to: Hughes & Company/Pershore Times

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**NEW PRICE****Furlongs Road, Pershore****FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE****Tenure: Freehold Council Tax Band: C EPC: C****Asking Price: £325,000****NEW PRICE****Station Road, Pershore****THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE****Tenure: Freehold Council Tax Band: C EPC: D****Asking Price: £325,000****Furlongs Road, Pershore****THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE****Tenure: Freehold****Council Tax Band: B EPC: D****Offers in Excess of: £300,000****Althorp Gardens, Pershore****TWO BEDROOM DETACHED COACH HOUSE****Tenure: Freehold****Council Tax Band: C EPC: C****Asking Price: £275,000**

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& Partners
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www.nigelpoolestateagents.co.uk

February What's on

Sun 2nd February Think and Drink Charity Quiz Night

Claude Choules, 7pm

Mon 3rd February Griff & Friends Jam Session

Pershire Football Club,
7.30pm.

Tues 4th February Death Café

Angel Hotel, 3pm - 5pm

Wed 5th February Board Gaming Night

Pickled Plum Pub, 7pm

Wed 5th February Pershire Heritage and History Society:

Talk on King Alfred the
Great,
Perspire Library, 7pm

Sat 8th February Love and Friendship

Sinfonia of Birmingham
Perspire Abbey, 3pm.

Wed 12th February Perspire Craft and Chat

St Andrews, 2pm

Fri 14th February Friday Film Club

Perspire Library, 2pm

Italian Tapas & Wine Night

The Star Inn, booking required.

Sat 15th February Foyer Folk the Blue Motel

Number 8 Foyer, 8pm

Sun 16th February Boozy Bingo Night

Claude Choules,
arrive 6pm - 7pm
Birmingham Philharmonic
Orchestra
Perspire Abbey, 4.30pm

Mon 17th February The Frog and Princess and other Stories

Number 8, 2pm

Wed 19th February Folk Night

The Millers Arms, 7pm

Wed 26th February Perspire Craft and Chat

St Andrews, 2pm

Wed 26th February Perspire Jazz -

Fugue and Grove Trio
Perspire Football Club, 7pm

Fri 28th February Friday Film Club

Perspire Library, 2pm

Regular events:

Every Sun:

Quiz
Pickled Plum Pub 7pm

Every Wednesday and Thursday

Pasta and Wine Night
The Star Inn, booking required.



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

www.visitperspire.co.uk



Visit-Perspire

Cinema Listings

Maria (cert tbc)

Fri 7 Feb - 2.00pm & 7.30pm;
Sat 8 Feb - 7.30pm;
Mon 10 Feb - 11.00am
2 hrs 4 mins, Tickets £9.00

The Goldman Case (12A)

Thu 13 Feb - 7.30pm
1hr 56mins, French with
subtitles Tickets £9.00

The Brutalist (cert tbc)

Fri 14 Feb - 2.00pm & 7.30pm;
Sat 15 Feb - 7.30pm;
Tue 18 Feb - 7.30pm
Tickets £9.00

Mufasa:

The Lion King (cert tbc)

Screenings subject to
confirmation:
Sat 15 Feb - 2.00pm;
Wed 19 Feb - 11.00am
Tickets £9.00

Here (cert tbc)

Mon 24 Feb - 11.00am;
Tue 25 & Fri 28 Feb - 7.30pm
Tickets £9.00



Event Listings

Macbeth:

David Tennant & Cush Jumbo
Recorded at Donmar Warehouse
Thursday 6 February - 7.15pm
1 hr 54 mins, cert 12A
Tickets: £16, Seniors £15,
Students/Child £10

Sherlock Holmes:

The Last Act

Tuesday 11 February - 7.30pm
1 hr 45 mins (inc. interval)
Tickets: £14

The Frog & The Princess and Other Stories

Monday 17 February - 2.00pm
55mins, age guidance: 3+
Tickets: £12, Child £10

A Country Music Songbook

Saturday 1 March - 7.30pm
2hrs (inc. interval) Tickets: £28

Jesus Christ Superstar Live

Recorded at the NEC,
Birmingham. 1 hr 55 mins (inc.
interval), cert 12A
Tickets: £16, Child £10

Catch Your Breath

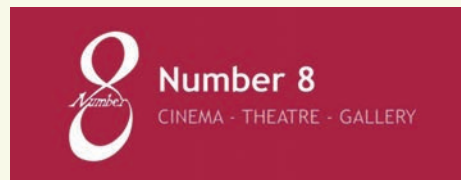
The Secret Life of a

Sleepless Anaesthetist

Friday 7 March - 7.30pm
1 hr 40 mins (inc. interval),
age guidance: 16+
Tickets: £15

One Night in Dublin

Saturday 22 March - 7.30pm
2 hrs 20 mins (inc. interval).
Tickets: £24



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Telephone Bookings: Mon - Sat 4pm - 6pm

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- General repairs (as simple as putting up curtain poles)

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- Bushes trimmed/shaped
- Small trees pruned
- Borders weeded/planted/shaped
- Gravel laid
- Fencing erected/painted/replaced



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One ear - including consultation £40

Two ears - including consultation £60

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www.martinandcarrvets.co.uk

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Christadelphians

We believe we can only please God if we have faith

Faith is essential for anyone seeking a relationship with God, as the Bible tells us: "Without faith, it is impossible to please Him". (Hebrews 11 v6). Jesus healed the sick due to their faith, and some even asked Him to increase their faith. He rebuked His disciples for their lack of faith and prayed for others' faith not to fail. Abraham's belief in God's power to do the impossible was counted as righteousness, and those who trust in God's promises are also deemed righteous. Faith is not static; it develops and grows over time.

Faith is defined in Hebrews 11 v1 as "the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see." The Greek term suggests faith is like solid ground. A list follows this definition, of individuals whose faith guided their actions, based on confidence in God's involvement in all aspects of life. The apostle Paul explains such faith comes from hearing the word of God, allowing believers to understand His purpose and work in their lives. Faith is relevant to the past, present, and future. In the past, God rewarded those who trusted Him; in the present, He cares for those who act in faith; and in the future, believers

Interested in learning more about the Bible?

Pershire Christadelphians invite you to a talk explaining why

'We believe we can only please God if we have faith'

On: 2nd March @ 10am, God willing

and why

'We believe Bible prophecy demonstrates God's existence'

On: 6th April @ 10am, God willing

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



anticipate the fulfilment of God's promises. However, faith without works is dead. Actions must accompany faith to please

God. Only those who diligently seek God now are promised a reward, as God is faithful to those who respond in faith.

Rotary News

Richard Lees

A very happy New Year and thank you! Our 2024 Tree of Remembrance Appeal raised the largest sum ever and we have so many people to thank for helping us support three vital, local charities – St Richard's Hospice, Acorns Children's Hospice and the Midlands Air Ambulance. Where to start? Without the support of all those who tried their luck at winning a bottle of bubbly on our tombola stand at the Georgian Christmas Fayre, or donated at the street collection, or 'remembered a loved one' this Christmas and donated to the fund through the Pershore Times and its sister papers, or donated online via our Facebook page or were one of our cherished business sponsors; none of this would have been possible. Thanks to the generosity of you all we raised £5,500, which will be split evenly over the three charities, giving each £1,800. We are grateful to the Editor and team at Pershore Times for giving us the space to promote our 2024 Appeal. Our thanks go to many local businesses for their friendship and support: *The Riverside Fish Bar, Thomson & Bancks, Solicitors, Johnson's Property Consultants, K C Carpets Ltd, Memory Lane Memorials Ltd, CJC (Worcester) Ltd and A G Redman & Son Ltd for their sponsorship. To the managers and staff of the Co-op and Asda in Pershore for allowing us to pitch our stands outside their stores in the run up to Christmas.*

To Sugar n' Spice for looking after our Christmas tree with all the hearts. To Number 8, Pershore for holding the lists of those being 'remembered' and to Jacqui Marler at Pershore Football Club for allowing the bands to use some their chairs.

Collecting outside in the weeks before Christmas can be a challenging time. The weather will be unpredictable and the hours long, but this year we were privileged to have several choirs and bands join us to lift our spirits and bring their own style of festive cheer to our fundraiser. Despite the first Saturday in December being a total washout due to the weather, we were delighted to welcome Pershore's Vocal High and Feel-Good Chorus, Piano Hedgehog, Pershore Brass, U3A Ukulele Band, the Evesham Concert Band and the Pershore Abbey Choir to Chapman Court, to entertain us with their Christmas carols, songs and music. Thank you to all of you for transforming our Asda collection day into a truly memorable event. You really did make a big difference. But we shouldn't forget that as well as supporting our charities, this was Christmas, and we chose to remember those that we have loved and lost.

In particular, we remember:

John Adams, Pauline Aldington, Christopher Annis, Lilian Austin, Harry Badger, Mary Badger, Stephen Badger, Linda Beard, Ann Beard, Dennis Bent, Olive Bent, Edwin Bick, Elma Birmingham, Shelia Birmingham, Scott Bowering, Dave Bowering, John Bowers, Zilpah Bowers, Millie Brant, Rueben Brant, Jim Brown, Kathy Bullen,



Mick Carswell, Shane Church, Anne Corrigan, Janet Corrigan, Matthew Corrigan, David Cresswell, Bernard Cresswell, Edward Cross, Eileen Cross, Keith Crouch, Daphne Crouch, Mary Davis, Colin Edmunds, Bryan Edmunds, Glenn Edmonds, Graham Edwards, Ro Farr, Robert Faulkner, Kenneth Felstead, Sylvia Felstead, David Finch, Adrian Fletcher, William Ford, Joyce Gardner, Ian Gardner, Pat Gardner, Ian Gerrard, Lindsay Gerrard, Tony Giles, Wendy Giles, Ruby Gould, Fred Gould, Geraldine Green, Raymond Griffiths, Matthew Hagley, Geoffrey Halls, Shelley Hancox, Barbara Harber, David Harber, Ron Harber, Vera Harber, Mary Hardwick, Gordon Hartley-Bennett, Raymond Heeks, Cliff Heeks, Reg Hemming, Gladys Hemming, John Hemming, Liz Hemming, Roy Heritage, Nicholas Heritage, Colin Heslop, Joan Hurdman, Ann Jenkins, Eileen Lambert, John Laud, Susan Leadbeater, Connie Lees, Denis Lees, Marjorie Lees, Kerry Lewis, Jean Llewellyn, Donald Lloyd, Martin Long, Ann Long, John Lynch, Gerald Maynard, Marjorie Maynard, Brian Maynard, Flo McKinstry, Andrea Mendez, Juan Mendez, The Family Milward, Pat Morris, Gordon Morris, Julia Morris, Patrick Newman, David Newman, Walter Palfrey, Evie Palfrey, Chris Palfrey, Peter Parker, Tony Perry, Joan Pittaway, Ceri Powell, Handel Powell, Maheroon, Nissa Pradhan, Lilian Raven, James Rawles, Garth Raymer, Charles Raymer, Christine Raymer, Robert Raymer, Betty Raymer, John Rosier, Nicholas Rust, Simon Rust, Pat Rust MBE, Bill Shellam, Bill Shepherd, Edward Simms, Beatrice Skyrme, John Spearing, Ian Stokes, Rosemary Swift, Betty Tardrew, Fred (Fen) Taylor, Richard Taylor, Greta Taylor, Stanley Taylor, Betty Taylor, Robert Wilson Taylor, Jenny Thomas, Cyril Thomas, Frank Thould, Winifred Train, George Train, Henry Turner, Fred Twigg, Mary Twigg, Doll Verrall, Ted Verrall, Gerald Webb, Peter Westby, Paul Whitehouse, Majorie Wood, John Stafford Wood, Leon Wooldridge, Eddie Yap and Linda Young. Pershore Rotary lost two of its most loved members last year in Helen Whitwell and Gordon Hartley-Bennett. Their memories live on through the fun we have, the friendships we enjoy and the support given to us by our community.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was very interested in two articles in your November issue 99, 1st the story by Roy Albutt about James Payne in Italy 1944 and the war cemeteries, my step-father was in Italy from January until the end of April fighting to hold the Gustav Line at Monte Casino, the German Cemetery was not built until the late 1950's a few kilometers away from Casino. The other article was Refugees by Tim Hickson about Springhill House and Springhill

Lodge POW Camp, My step-father was there and he did go out and work on the land at Broad Campden where he met my mother, he left the camp December 1947 went to Cambridge another camp. 18 months later they got married. Also, I was working in Evesham at Coulters Garage 1950/60s there were people from the Springhill camp came to have work done.

Anthony Wittenberg

Dear Editor,

I have only just read the December/January copy of The Powick Times ... I found them in a box on a shelf under the sugar at The Shop at The Top in Callow End! I do hope lots of people actually read your magazine - it really is excellent! Some very inciteful articles in this issue for sure. Not least the excellent explanation in layman's terms about the Agricultural Property Relief by Mike Page. I am sure most people have no idea what this is or means to farmers and to the future of food production in this country, which is at the least an utter travesty and at the worst truly terrifying. Your "View From the Boundary" also eludes to some interesting points happening on the World Stage. By the time you receive this letter, Donald Trump has been sworn in as 47th President of America. The gnashing of teeth and meltdown of much of the main stream media is telling, but I wonder at the behaviour of many people that I speak to who are similarly distraught by the news. When I ask them why they are so concerned, most have absolutely no idea. In actual fact most say "Oh, I'm not interested in politics really, I just don't like him" Personally, I think that if more of us had taken an interest in politics instead of just waiting to be told what to think and what to do by corrupt people in positions of power we would

not be in the mess that we are currently in. You are absolutely on point by stating your dread of the Deputy "Leader" of this country in debating anything. I wonder at the apparent lack of intelligence of most of the MP's - they appear to be just useful idiots toting the narrative. We should return to the days when MP's took no money for their services to their constituents, or maybe, like Reform MP Rupert Lowe they should contribute (at least some!) of their enormous tax payer funded salary back to their constituency. They are supposed to work for us!!!! I also agree that Local Councilors should be voted in on meritocracy and not what party they represent! Surely they should know something of the area and the people who live there if they are to represent them? There are too many career politicians sitting in Westminster who have no grasp on the reality of how the people of this country live their lives or what is important to them. Back to Donald J. Trump. I tend to agree that it can only be a good thing for this country (could it be any worse I ask myself?) Perhaps the wise answer is "wait and see" - I sincerely hope that he follows up on the promises he has made and that the World becomes a safer, happier and more healthy place as a result. Keep up the good work With My Very Best Regards

Julie Reynolds

Gardener wanted

Mainly weeding and some pruning

Call Brian on 07919 662401

In memoriam

BARBER. Michael John

Brother, uncle, loving partner to Sarah and step-father. Sadly passed away on 19th December 2024, aged 78 years. Funeral service took place at the Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Tuesday 7th January 2025. No flowers or donations by family request.

HAYES. Lilian

27.1.1925 - 12.12.2024

It is with sadness that Gillian, Ivy and Joan have to announce that their mother, Lil Hayes, died peacefully at her home in Pershore on December 12th 2024. Just short by six weeks of being 100, she finally gave up the fight and has gone to be with the two men in her life, Pete Hayes and their son Billy. A legend to her large extended family whom she loved with all her big heart she will be missed and cherished forever. A Scouser till the end. Rest in Peace. Funeral service at the Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Friday January 17th 2025 at 11am. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for WAH Charity specifically for the care of premature babies at Worcester Royal Hospital may be made online.

MASON. Eddie (Edgar George)

of Crophorne. Passed away peacefully on 23rd December 2024, aged 89 years. Much loved husband of the late Olive, dad to Sallyann and Karen, father in law to Rex and Scott, loving grandad to Jessica, Alex, Charlie, Phoebe and Emily. Eddie will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service at the Church of St Michael, Crophorne on Monday 20th January 2025 at 12 noon. Followed by Burial. Flowers welcome. Donations, if desired, for Abbottswood Medical Centre for the care and compassion shown to Eddie may be left at the service or made online.

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



Saturday 8th February 2024

at 7 pm, in Great Malvern Priory

Nelson Mass - Haydn

Cantemus Igitur - Rory Boyle

*Composed for our centenary year in 2020 with
Overture to Egmont - Beethoven, The Heavens are Telling - Haydn
Laudate Dominum and Ave Verum - Mozart*

Malvern Festival Chorus - Conductor Jonathan Brown

Soloists from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Soprano Louise Hales - Alto Mairi McGillivray

Tenor Daniel Marles - Bass Charles Murray with Malvern Sinfonia

Tickets: £18 / 17-21s £12 / 16 & under Free with paying adult

www.trybooking.com/uk/EDCJ and on the door

For more information visit: malvernfestivalchorus.co.uk

Pershore Flower Club

LOWER 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 February

CLAIRE BOND, Tile Cross, Birmingham

'Winter Wonders'

**In memoriam notices are
Free of charge**

email: news@hughes.company

Pershore Carers & Bereavement Social Group

Meets on the last Tuesday of the Month

(except August & December)

1:45pm - 4:00pm at the Riverside Centre
King George's Way, Pershore WR10 1QU

Mrs Vivienne Breed

Tel: 07901 826245 email: vmg157@live.co.uk



Pershore Death Cafe

Death Cafes are a safe,
supportive way of talking about
death, dying, and our finite lives.
They are a facilitated
discussion with no agenda.
They are not grief counselling.

**Each first Tuesday of the month 3:00pm - 5:00pm
from 4th February 2025**

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

For more information

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

QUIZ NIGHT

BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO TEST YOUR
KNOWLEDGE, ENJOY AN EVENING WITH
SOME FRIENDLY COMPETITION

★ JOIN US FOR A FUN QUIZ NIGHT! ★

Date: Saturday, 1st March 2025

Time: 7:30 PM

**Venue: Pershore Sports Club, Defford Road,
Pershore, WR10 1HU**

★ TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE ★

Price Per Person: £2.50

Raffle Tickets will also be on sale with great prizes to be won!

**Get your Quiz on and help raise funds for
the Pershore Carnival**

**pershore
carnival**



**Tuesday 18th February at 2pm
The Wonder of Worcester**

Colin Millett will give an illustrated talk
about the history of Worcester Porcelain from 1751-2009

Tuesday 18th March at 2pm

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

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)

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

D Lusted trading as

Roly Poly Ltd. of

2 Holloway, Pershore

Worcestershire WR11 2QZ

is applying for a licence to use

Upper Haselor Farm,

Haselor Lane, Evesham WR11 2QZ

as an operating centre for

5 goods vehicle(s)
and **1** trailer(s)

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the
operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that
land would be affected, should make written representations to the
Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds,
LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.
Representors must at the same time send a copy of their
representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of
this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from
the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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Pershore Times



Pershore R. F. C.



Pershore 1969 Rugby match Pershore v Tewkesbury in the Templar Trophy. A lineout during the game shows Pershore players (scarlet and black) from the front of the line, Ray Cropper, Pete Maple, Clive Howse, Roy Hiron (jumping) gets the ball back to Chick Peck (scum half). Martin Herridge is behind Roy and Bill Carey at the tail of the line. Pershore won 8-3.

Interesting facts about the photo -lifting in line-outs was not allowed until 1999 when it became legal to do so, there was also no metre margin between the teams in the lineout. The Match was played on Pershore's first ground situated at Cornmore on Defford Road. Cornmore was the former National Hunt Steeplechase course which ran from 1899 until 1935 when racing moved to its new course opposite the railway Station until the course closed in 1939 due to the 2nd world war and never reopened. Pershore played on the old race course from when the club was formed in 1962 until 1970 when the club moved to Wyre Piddle. Keith Robinson, first club secretary 1962, Club Trustee, Life Honorary Member.



For the first time in 1964 Pershore formed a second team known as Pershore R F C. A team. Later in the club's history Pershore could often put out four teams. R F C A team players in the team above are, standing left to right, Gwyn Butler, (Gwyn was the first Captain of Pershore in 1962), Roy Hiron, (first club chairman in 1962) Ron Davis, Peter Rice, Bob Simmonds, John Clarke, (John became a key first Player and was the first player to win a County cap as a colt whilst playing for Pershore) David Annis, S Walton. Kneeling left to right, Mick Pugh, Phillip Thomas, Roger Wharton, David Gait, A Soldier, Micky Winwood, (Micky progressed in to the first team and became a seasons top try scorer). Malcom Bullock. The photo was taken on the pitch, at the old racecourse on Defford Road. The club continues to thrive at Piddle Park, Wyre Piddle, running men's and women's contact teams, touch rugby for adults and juniors and Pershore Pups for children aged 2-6 years, also 3rd Age Touch. Find out more at: www.prfc.co.uk or email: enquiries.pershorerfc@gmail.com

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