

# Powick Times

A free monthly newspaper for Powick, Callow End and surrounding villages



Issue 26

August 2025

FREE



The Lionesses are victorious!

**E**ngland's Ladies' football team are Champions of Europe again. The popular Lionesses retained the title after beating Spain. On their way to the final, they won crucial quarter-final and semi-final matches with seconds to spare! The never-give-up English spirit was in evidence throughout the whole tournament and the win was a brilliant achievement, watched by a global audience of forty five million!

The summer sport has continued with another brilliant Test Match. The Wimbledon tennis and the Open golf championship were incredible to watch. We do stage these events well and they are very enjoyable.

We also celebrate the eightieth anniversary of VJ Day, the end of war in the Far East and the end of WW2. My Father and relatives were involved and it was a day of great rejoicing in Worcester. Many house parties

followed as family members started to arrive home, including street parties. A new life began with a father!

In local news, we have received reports regarding the South Worcestershire Development Plan. This mammoth project and its implications for local villages is concerning many people. Some appear to have similar feelings as they did towards the Tiddesley Wood development project. In this case, residents took to the streets in protest, including our MP, Dame Harriet Baldwin.

However, on appeal, the development was approved. So now there seems to be a feeling of inevitability about things, a feeling that this plan will happen anyway. There is a long way to go in the planning stages and some years before anything is implemented.

*August sees the annual Plum Festival in Pershore, this is always a well organised and well attended event. The weather forecast looks good and it should be another fantastic success.*



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# Rushwick Drama Group

In 2003, a band of Rushwick villagers came together and, under the guidance of theatre doyen, Ann Moore, founded a drama group to bring the joy and magic of live theatre to both those on stage and those in the audience. More than two decades later, many of the original members - and plenty of new ones - still meet at Rushwick Village Hall every Monday evening to plan, rehearse and stage a variety of shows. From humble beginnings, Rushwick Amateur Drama Addicts continues to present three shows a year, with their own impressive script library, costume department, lighting and sound systems, and a band of actors who can turn their hands to a wide variety of genres. Over the years, they have even

toured - once performing on the stage of Symphony Hall in Birmingham! From large-cast pantomimes (Beauty Sleeping, 2020, and The Wicked Witches of Oz, 2018) with lavish costumes, multiple sets and even some songs, to intimate dramas with just two actors and no set at all (Love letters, 2022), by way of one-act comedies and even a short recital of famous Shakespeare speeches, RADA constantly seeks to innovate and challenge themselves as a company. But time has also taken its toll. Audiences are still enthusiastic and production values higher than ever, but as the company has aged it has proved difficult to recruit new members to replace those who are inevitably lost. *Anyone who is interested in joining a friendly, dynamic and*



*ambitious company - whether you have a lifetime of experience or none at all, on stage or behind the scenes - should have a chat with Gill Robinson on 01905 943323.*

*Or just pop into a rehearsal one Monday evening between 7:30pm and 9:30pm to see what's happening and find out more. You would be very welcome!*

## Gregory Sidaway joins Hughes & Company!

Gregory first became associated with the Pershore Times as a Work Experience student when he was fifteen years of age and attending Pershore High School. He wanted to be author/journalist.

Alan Hughes, the proprietor, was so impressed with the work he did that he offered the schoolboy a monthly column. Gregory grabbed this opportunity and it was called 'Teenage

Focus', later 'Gregory's World'. He has been writing articles for our newspapers ever since. He won a place at Exeter College, Oxford University, where he recently obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree 2/1 in English Literature. A brilliant achievement. A few days after completing his final exams and before the results were published, Alan phoned and offered Gregory a full time position with the

company, and he immediately accepted.

He is being trained to assist in editing and making the newspaper. He will in addition be using his outstanding journalistic skills to the full. We consider this a major appointment in our company and, with five newspapers, a great opportunity for Gregory to develop his skills.

*Editor*



## Scheme to tackle homelessness highly commended

A life-changing scheme to help give homeless young people in Wychavon and Malvern Hills hope for the future has been highly commended at a national awards ceremony. Developing skills for independent living is the focus of the initiative, which was shortlisted in the Innovation in Housing category for the Municipal Journal's Achievement Awards 2025. Led by Malvern Hills and Wychavon's housing team, the scheme is a response to a dramatic increase in the number of vulnerable young people presenting themselves as homeless. Judges at the London-held awards ceremony described both councils' entry as 'demonstrating the impact local authorities can have on young people's lives through sustainable, supported housing and partnership working.' As part of the initiative, staff

have undergone specialist Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE) training to better understand and support those in need of a home. Wychavon also created its first supported youth homeless scheme in Evesham in 2021 in partnership with homeless charity, St Basils. Aimed at young people aged 18 to 25, support is offered to prepare them for living on their own, including with budgeting, independent living, education and employment. Building on the learning from the scheme, Wychavon converted five empty properties in the north of the district into temporary accommodation aimed for people aged over 25. Wraparound support is also offered to help people sustain their tenancy. In Malvern, fourteen bed spaces with on-site support for young



people at risk of homelessness have also been secured. The new approach is already paying off, with a fall in rough sleeper numbers across both

districts and 30 young people helped by the youth homeless support scheme in Evesham. Plans are in the pipeline to create a similar scheme in Droitwich.



# The Daily Telegraph Top 500 Pubs

## The Masons Arms, Wadborough



Such excitement in Wadborough after the beloved village pub, The Masons Arms, has been selected for the prestigious Top 500 Pubs in England list, compiled by Will Hawkes for The Telegraph.

What an achievement for a small village pub that only re-opened in 2021 after lockdown closure. Lydia and Simon, ably assisted by Tash and a small crew of helpers, ensure there's always a welcome. Wadborough itself is a village of only about 80 houses and the loyal band of pub supporters are delighted to see

regular non-villagers plus occasional passers-by swell the numbers. The pub provides such a friendly atmosphere, with a great range of expertly kept beers and ciders, a wine list to please all tastes, and just about every other refreshment you can imagine – alcoholic and non-alcoholic!

The menu covers all tastes with regular seasonal offerings, from summer specials to Christmas dinners and everything in between, including 'festivals' such as Mother's and Father's Days, Valentine's, Easter Sunday etc. Be sure to book for special occasions though as they soon reach capacity. Oh, and did I mention Sunday Roasts that are exquisite – but again need to be booked. Lydia wants the 'pub to be the hub' of our community, and it certainly fills that role. A village association, which includes Lydia and Simon; arranges celebrations that have included the late Queen's Jubilee and King Charles' Coronation, using the pub as the venue and focal point. The recent VE80 event brought villagers together for a poignant commemoration.

Funds raised during these events have supported a wide range of causes in addition to funding the village defibrillator, which is based – where else – on the front wall of the pub. Beyond this, donations have been made to support Ukrainian refugees, MacMillan, Alzheimer's Society, mental health support, UNICEF, Royal British Legion, St Richards Hospice – the list goes on. Regular pub-based activities include a very well supported golf society, monthly quiz nights, book clubs, bike meets and annual one-offs such as the Traitors Day and the Summer Party – all of which help create the bond so vital for a community. There's that word again – community – The Masons Arms offers everything a great pub needs and has been recognised for this. 'The Pub's the Hub' is the greatest priority. Next up, it seems our local MP is drawing up contenders for best pub in the constituency – nothing more to say! It's been difficult to find out how many pubs are still open in England, but it's likely to be something over 35,000. To be



within the top 500 is such a brilliant achievement – big cheers to Lydia and her team. Mind you, it'll always be the Number 1 pub in Wadborough, and a quick poll of customers places it top of the county and well towards the top of that 500 list! Cheers!



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

### Future of Malvern's Autism Free School

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP, has urged the Reform-led Worcestershire County Council not to cancel plans for a new school in Malvern. Baldwin has campaigned for a new specialist school for children with extra needs since 2015 and succeeded in making the case for a new school under the previous Government in 2022.

Dame Harriett has written to County Councillor, Stephen Foster, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and SEND, asking for an update on the status of the proposals after reports that the new school is under threat. The school is expected to open for new pupils in 2027 with 120 spaces for 5–19-year-olds

at its Poolbrook site in Malvern. Dame Harriett said: "I campaigned hard for a new autism free school in Malvern after speaking with local families and schools about the challenges in the SEND system. The Council currently spends millions a year on SEND services, with much of that going to out-of-county providers. This much-needed school has the potential to give a vital boost to both local special

and mainstream capacity, whilst delivering major cost savings. I am very concerned to hear that the school may no longer go ahead as planned under the new Reform administration. I was delighted when it was given funding and the green light under the last Government, a provider has been chosen and it is essential that it remains on track now."

### Worcestershire slowed by transport cuts

Swingeing cuts to the county's transport budget have been uncovered by a Worcestershire MP. The 2025 spending review has slashed the county's transport budget from £209 million to £74 million over the next five years. The council will now need to dramatically scale back its aspiration for projects to improve road and rail across the region, boosting growth and jobs.

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP, warned that major infrastructure

projects like improvements to the North Cotswold Line could be delayed for a generation with the news of the slashed budgets. The last Conservative Government and Conservative County Council delivered the successful doubling of the Carrington Road bridge, the Southern Link Road construction and opened the popular Worcestershire Parkway rail station with local county council transport funding. Dame Harriett Baldwin MP said: "This is shocking news

for local people and a body blow for travellers who want to see continued investment in our transport network. The Labour Government has instead sent much of this money to the areas where there's a Labour Mayor. Projects like the doubling stretches of the North Cotswold Line need significant long term financial commitments, and the figures I've uncovered today confirm that Worcestershire's budgets have been slashed and show declining investment over the next five years. This is a failure by our Reform-led

County Council and a Labour Government that does not care about areas like ours."





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## Cycle Challenge Smashes £12k Target



*G2G Cycle Challenge riders and support team at the finish line.  
 Top Centre of photo: Russ Walker*

In a challenge of a lifetime, Worcester-based Atwell International Ltd, took on a 320-mile mission on Thursday 26th June to cycle from Gheluveld Park in Worcester to Gheluveld in Belgium (Ypres), in a gruelling four-day journey to smash their fundraising charity target of £12,000. The G2G Cycle Challenge was the brainchild of Atwell International Managing Director, Russ Walker, to honour his Great Grandfather and the valiant men of the Worcestershire Regiment's 2nd Battalion, whilst raising vital funds for three fantastic charities. Now, with a fundraising total that exceeds £15,000, St Richard's Hospice, Alzheimer's Society and Mercian Regiment Museum (Worcestershire) will benefit from this incredible amount, giving invaluable support to the local community.

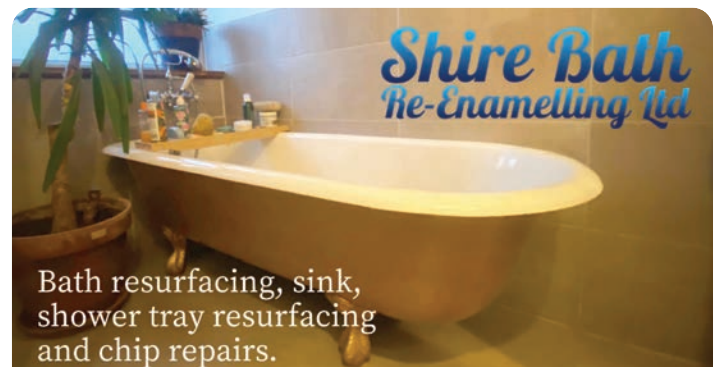
Russ Walker explains: "We knew [the G2G Cycle Challenge] was going to test the boundaries of all our riders both physically and emotionally and we weren't wrong. It was an unforgettable experience and I'm proud to be part of the team which included the riders, support team and

corporate sponsors ... Without them, this challenge wouldn't have been possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated, we are so pleased we are able to support three charities that are close to our hearts, thank you!"

The G2G Cycle Challenge commemorates the sacrifice of the Worcestershire Regiment 2nd Battalion at the Battle of Gheluveld on 31st October 1914, a World War I engagement fought near Ypres, Belgium, in a pivotal moment that helped safeguard the British Empire.

Atwell International Ltd, founded in 1996, specialises in supplying VG Safety Products and associated lift components, and is synonymous with quality standards, leading the field with integrity. They have a long history of supporting the local community, which is evident in their latest G2G Cycle Challenge.

*For more information regarding the G2G Cycle Challenge and Atwell International please email: [info@atwellinternational.com](mailto:info@atwellinternational.com)  
 Donations can be made here: [www.givewheel.com/fundraising/6316/gheluveld-2-gheluveld-cycle-challenge](http://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/6316/gheluveld-2-gheluveld-cycle-challenge)*



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## Our Historic Bridges

Tim Hickson



Worcester Bridge

These bridges, sometimes replacing fords, sometimes earlier bridges, have a rich history. Let us start with Worcester's bridge. In the C11th, there was no other bridge between Bridgenorth and Gloucester. Almost certainly, there had been a Roman wooden one before. In the C14th, the bridge was rebuilt with a fortified gate tower in the middle like that at Monmouth. These bridges crossed the Sever between the end of Tybridge Street on the west bank and Dolday on the east bank. Trade across the river made a large contribution to Worcester's prosperity. Then, in 1781, a bigger, new bridge, designed by local architect, John Gynn, was built further downstream between Bridge Street and New Road. The old bridge was then demolished. Later, the new bridge was widened to what we see today. However, there is, of course, another bridge south-west of the city, Powick Bridge, still there crossing the Teme. This is a late medieval structure with C18th additions. Here, at the beginning of the English Civil War, in

1642, the first major skirmish took place as Parliamentary cavalry crossed the bridge heading for Worcester. It seems they were unaware of the large body of Royalist troops camped on the north side. In the ensuing fighting, the Parliamentary soldiers could not retreat fast enough across the narrow bridge. Some tried to ford the river, which that day was high, and fifty were drowned. Interestingly, in 1651, fighting over this bridge was part of the Battle of Worcester, the final act in the war. This time, Cromwell was involved and, of course, he won. To see what the citizens of the loyal city thought of that, go and look at the front of the Guildhall. Going downriver to Upton upon Severn, there is another bridge. Looking at the geography, it is easy to see that a crossing here was important, as it linked drove roads. We know there was a medieval ferry that was replaced by a wooden bridge that was there in 1539, when John Leland visited, and then by a stone one in 1609. During the English Civil War, the Royalists in Upton



Monmouth Gate Tower

destroyed the central arch to prevent Parliamentary troops crossing and heading to Worcester up the west bank of the river. However, they put a plank across the gap so they could cross and then went to the pub. Guess what? Under cover of darkness, the Roundheads quietly crossed the plank and surrounded their opponents. Later, the bridge was repaired but in the great flood of 1852, it was swept away. Two years later, a cast iron arched bridge was built in its place. One arch of this could be slid away to allow tall ships to pass. However, this took a long time to do and, in 1882, that arch was made to swing, which was quicker. When cars and lorries came on the scene, that bridge was too weak so, eventually, in 1940, the current one was built further upstream. Visit the town or find an aerial photograph and you can see the abutments of the old bridges. Moving to the Avon (an Old English word meaning 'river!'), Pershore's old bridge similarly had an arch demolished during the Civil War to stop Parliamentary troops crossing.

Although it was repaired, the advent of motor cars and lorries meant that it was deemed sensible to replace it with the wider modern one that we use today.



The Roundheads crossing Upton Bridge

Finally, Eckington Bridge is still in use, battered but repaired. It still has its refuges where pedestrians can cower whilst horses, cars, lorries or buses pass. When I lived in Eckington there were no traffic lights at the bridge and the unwritten rule was that the first vehicle to the brow of the bridge had right of way. That caused a lot of fun.



Powick's Old Bridge



Eckington Bridge





## JAPAN: UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER

### MIDNIGHT BROADCAST BY MR. ATTLEE

### GEN. MacARTHUR TO ACCEPT CAPTULATION

### VICTORY DAYS TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW

Japan has surrendered unconditionally. This was announced simultaneously at midnight in London, Washington and Moscow—by Mr. Attlee, President Truman and in a statement broadcast by Moscow radio.

Gen. MacArthur has been appointed Supreme Allied Commander to receive the Japanese surrender, stated President Truman. Britain, Russia and China will be represented by high officers. In the meantime Allied armed forces have been ordered to suspend offensive action.

In Britain victory holidays will be to-day and to-morrow.

Mr. Attlee and President Truman both read the Japanese reply to the Allies' surrender terms. This reply was received through the Swiss Minister in Washington last night. President Truman said it was "a full acceptance of the Potsdam declaration, which specifies the unconditional surrender of Japan."

The Emperor of Japan was broadcasting to his people at midnight local time, four a.m. B.S.T.

#### JAPANESE REPLY

Mr. Attlee, broadcasting in London at midnight, said:

"Japan has to-day surrendered. The last of our enemies is laid low."

"Here is the text of the Japanese reply to the Allied Command:

"With reference to the announcement of Aug. 10 regarding the acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam declaration and the reply of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China, sent by Secretary of State Byrnes on the date of Aug. 11, the Japanese Government has the honour to reply to the Governments of the four Powers as follows:

"1. His Majesty the Emperor has issued an Imperial rescript regarding Japan's acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam declaration.

"2. His Majesty the Emperor is prepared to authorise and insure the signature by his Government and the Imperial H.Q. of the necessary terms for carrying out the provisions of the Potsdam declaration.

"3. His Majesty is also prepared to issue this communication to all military, naval and air authorities to issue to all forces under their control wherever located to cease active resistance and to surrender arms, and to issue such other orders as may be required by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces for the execution of the above-mentioned terms.—Signed, Togo."

"Let us recall that on Dec. 7, 1941, Japan, whose onslaught China had already resisted for over four years, fell upon the United States, who were then not at war, and upon ourselves, who were sore pressed in our death struggles with Germany and Italy, taking full advantage of surprise and treachery.

"THE TIDE TURNED"

### War Lasted 3 Weeks Short of 6 Years

The war lasted a little over three weeks short of six years, Britain's participation being from Sept. 3, 1939, to Aug. 14, 1945. For the four chief Allied nations its duration was:

China: 2,960 days, from July 7, 1937, to Aug. 14, 1945.

Russia: 1,420 days, from June 22, 1941, to May 9, 1945, and Aug. 9-14, 1945.

United States: 1,346 days, from Dec. 7, 1941, to Aug. 14, 1945.

Russia's war with Japan was over on its sixth day.

Hostilities between Britain and Germany in the last war began on Sept. 1, 1914, to Nov. 11, 1918.

### BONFIRES & SHIPS' SIRENS GREET NEWS

#### Cheering Crowds In London

News of Japan's surrender was received in the Thames-side districts by a medley of noise from ships' sirens. Many people were awakened by continuous blasts and firework explosions.

Across the Thames in Kent, as far as the eye could see, bonfires were blazing in a manner reminiscent of the nights of the blitz.

At 9 or 10 a.m. American forces in the main hall of the American Forces Bandstand in the West End of London were playing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

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### WEeping CROWD AT IMPERIAL PALACE

#### "OUR EFFORTS ARE NOT ENOUGH"

Waiting "Forgive us, O Emperor, our efforts are not enough," a weeping crowd of Japanese bowed to the ground before the Imperial Palace in Tokyo to-day after a message announcing an Imperial decision had been read in the palace grounds.

A report of this scene was broadcast by the Japanese News Agency to its offices in the Far East to-day and picked up in New York.

Then, without explaining what the Imperial decision was, the agency spoke of its transmission and asked listeners to hold up the radio. This implied that what was being broadcast was not to be used until the Emperor's decision was made public.

The Emperor's message, the agency said, was delivered to the people gathered before the Imperial Palace in Tokyo to-day after a message announcing an Imperial decision had been read in the palace grounds.

This is the latest point to the broadcast, which is believed to be a message of the Emperor's decision to accept the Allies' terms.

On Aug. 14, 1945, the Imperial Palace grounds in the capital of Japan were filled with a crowd of people who were waiting for the Emperor's decision.

The Emperor's decision was announced to the people gathered before the Imperial Palace in Tokyo to-day after a message announcing an Imperial decision had been read in the palace grounds.

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### PARLIAMENT OPENING MARKS END OF WAR

#### RECORD CROWDS EXPECTED FOR TO-DAY'S ROYAL DRIVE

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT  
The State opening of Parliament to-day will form part of the celebrations which are to mark the end of the greatest war in history.

Police arrangements have been made to cope with crowds far larger than had been expected when it was first decided to restore some part of the panoply associated with similar occasions before the war.

It is expected that all records will be broken by the number of spectators lining the route from Buckingham Palace to the House of Lords. In expectation of the announcement of Japan's surrender, several additional were made to the ceremonial previously arranged.

The King, in his speech from the Throne, will refer to the capitulation of Japan. He will follow in anticipation of Japan's surrender, but which he will announce finally to approve until the Emperor's decision is made public.

An alteration in Parliamentary business has been necessitated by yesterday's events. After the State opening has been carried through in accordance with previous arrangements, both Houses will adjourn. They will be reconvened at 4 p.m.

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### RADAR WAS WAR-WINNING WEAPON

#### "GREATER THAN ATOM BOMB"

10-YEAR BRITISH SECRET

A 10-year secret is lifted to-day with the disclosure of the story of Britain's war-winning weapon, radar.

It is the invention which, as Sir Stavros Carris, President of the Board of Trade and former Chairman of the Radio Board, said yesterday, contributed more than any other scientific factor to the victory over Germany.

"It has played a greater part in the war than the atom bomb," he said, "and holds far more immediate potentialities of service to the human race than the splitting of the atom."

Radar is entirely a British achievement. (Details, Pp. 4 and 5.) Born about the time of Hitler's rise to power, by means of a radio "echo," a precise method of detecting and identifying objects up to 400 miles away.

Added to many different purposes, radar has been used to detect and identify objects up to 400 miles away.

Britain is now revealing details of the story of the development of radar in the world, and in the time it began to have a complete course of radar "sentinels" watching her shores.

It was radar that enabled "the Prime Minister to win the Battle of Britain." It gave Britain mastery over the skies in the Battle of Britain.

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# Farming

Mike Page

I did say in last month's article that in life I try to remain optimistic. That approach has to be one of the bedrocks of farming life, because farming is an industry with little or no control over many of the major input factors that affect it, and one of the more important of those factors is weather. Between the seasons of 2023-24 and 2024-25, we have swung from far too much rainfall, preventing many fields from being used to grow crops or graze animals in 23-24, to prolonged semi-drought conditions in 24-25; crop yields at harvest – not so very far away as I write this in early July – will likely be sharply down, along with the increasing likelihood that both grazing and conserved forage for livestock will be in tight supply later this summer and into winter. It has rained this morning here (7th July – Pinvin) but something and nothing rain, certainly not enough to encourage any real recovery in growth; the latest weather forecast is for continuing dry conditions, perhaps the occasional shower. I am not talking 'drought' in the sense the word is understood in some other parts of the World – where in some areas it may not rain at all for months or even years; such parts of the World are not used for grain crop production, but might be used for animal grazing, but on a different scale to the UK; here



*Wheat crop changing colour already as it moves earlier than usual into the final grain ripening and bulking-up phase*

we might be thinking of grazing five sheep per one acre on good grassland; in the outback of Australia it is more likely to be one sheep per five acres, or very often even lower. Regrowth of grass fields harvested already for silage/hay has been poor as yet from lack of rain, combined with well above average temperatures drying the soil out yet more. Another result can be seen in the photograph, showing a wheat crop changing colour already as it moves earlier than usual into the final grain ripening and bulking-up phase; soil moisture has to increase through some fairly heavy rain very soon, or grain yields in this area and also much of England are likely to be low; combine-harvesters will already be on the move by the time this

is being read and perhaps they will show results better than those I am predicting. I hope so. But one way or another, farmers cope with difficulties as they arise, because coping with such circumstances is what the job is all about. We can but hope that the present Government will not push further troubles our way as their tax and other policies have in the time they have been in office. Perhaps a general election and some other Party elected into office? They all have been promising: "It will all be so marvellous, with everything sorted out, if we are in power." I have my doubts! A quote – and meant as a joke (I hope!) – that has always stuck in my mind is: "It is better in life to be a pessimist, at least that way you are never going to be disappointed in the way

things turn out." But I will stick with being an optimist and I am sure that cattle and sheep think the same way, ever hopeful that there is 'better stuff' in the next field than in the present one. In the times I have gathered sheep or cattle together to move them, once they as a group, realise that your intention is moving them onto a new field, they are enthusiastic to make that move, ever hopeful of the promise of something better and ready and willing to go through the gate full of optimistic enthusiasm. Occasionally, it does not work out, but that does not seem to dull their optimism when the next opportunity arises. Like them and regardless of this year's outcome, you are likely to find me still here farming come next season!

## A magical summer visitor

Karen Rose

It's August and the long, hot, early summer means that the fields around Pershore are sun-scorched and already harvested. This is a time of change for nature, as we move towards Autumn. Hedgerow fruits and berries appear, birds start to depart and the long summer evenings begin to get shorter. Some of our summer visitors are still with us though, so keep an eye out for a very exotic bird imposter. If you've ever spotted what looks like a tiny hummingbird darting among your garden flowers, chances are you've encountered the Hummingbird Hawk-moth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*). With its rapid wingbeats, hovering flight, and long proboscis for sipping nectar mid-air, this day-flying moth is a wonderful summer

surprise. Unlike most moths, the Hummingbird Hawk-moth is active during the day, especially in warm, sunny weather. That's why we've been getting reports of them visiting local parks and gardens. It's a migrant species, often arriving from southern Europe, though in recent years warmer UK summers have encouraged some to stay and even breed. Their favourite nectar stops include honeysuckle and buddleia, making our gardens a perfect stage for their aerobatics. With their tiny wings beating up to 85 times per second, they hover with astonishing precision - just like a hummingbird - and their orange hindwings flash as they dart from flower to flower. So, next time you're in the



garden on a warm August afternoon, keep your eyes peeled. That blur of wings and flash of orange might just be one of nature's most charming

imposters—the Hummingbird Hawk-moth. *Karen Rose is a biodiversity officer for Wychavon District Council*

## Sunny Sunflowers

It's August, which means it's Sunny Sunflower season! Their joyful blooms really brighten up the garden and make fabulous cut flowers too, but there is so much more to the humble sunflower than first meets the eye. I love looking at the centre of the sunflowers and the patterns created by the seeds - it's called the Fibonacci Sequence. This is where the sunflowers arrange their seeds in spirals, with two sets of spirals winding in opposite directions from the centre, which means space is optimised and it maximises seed production by ensuring each seed gets sufficient sunlight. Isn't nature amazing! So whether you're after a statement plant for a wildlife-friendly border or a compact bloom for a container, there's a sunflower variety to suit your space. Sunflower 'Titan' is a whopping variety with a flower head that

could reach 60cm in diameter. It's perfect for competing in 'the tallest sunflower' competition. Most sunflowers are annuals which means you need to sow seeds every year. However, if you're looking for a perennial variety that will bloom year after year, try the Helianthus 'Happy Days', which is a stunning dwarf variety with dramatic bright yellow flowers, with double centres, and blooms from July to September, on stems approximately 90cm high. Another favourite is Helenium autumnale 'Short and Sassy' - which technically isn't a sunflower, but they're both members of the Asteraceae family. They're great for the front of borders and pots as they only grow to around 45cm tall, so don't need staking, and they have a fabulous common name of 'sneezeweed'. Ideal for late summer colour too. An interesting fact about

sunflowers is that they can clean up toxic soil and were planted at Chernobyl to absorb radioactive isotopes after the disaster. In 1994, researchers planted sunflowers on floating rafts in a contaminated pond near the reactor. Within just ten days, the plants had absorbed about 95% of the radioactive isotopes from the water. This technique has since been explored in other contaminated sites, including Fukushima in Japan and industrial areas with heavy metal pollution. It's a low-cost, eco-friendly way to help heal damaged landscapes. Sunflowers are the perfect plant for a wildlife friendly garden as not only are the flowers loved by bees and other pollinators, but their seeds are adored by finches in the autumn. They're edible and nutritious for us humans too and are packed with vitamin E, magnesium, and selenium. So add them to your granola for



Nikki Hollier

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www.borderinabox.com

extra taste, fibre and protein at breakfast time and if you have any left over, pop them into your bird feeders.

I'm off to the Sunflower Fields at Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park, open until Thursday 31st August, which will be an absolute treat.

For more information and to book tickets check out their website:

[www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk)



## August gardening tips

### Early in the month

Keep dead-heading flowering plants and picking beans to maintain production. Liquid feed bedding plants in tubs and baskets but switch to high Nitrogen feed, which stimulates new growth for flowering later. If carrot fly bothers you, grow the crop under garden fleece or insect barrier mesh for excellent control. Thin out overcrowded water lily foliage on ponds. Start preparing the soil for laying new lawns next month. Vine Weevils will be laying eggs in tubs and containers now. One sure remedy is to water the compost with Bug Clear Ultra Vine Weevil Killer which makes the compost vine weevil proof for two months. For natural control, use nematodes or put a half inch deep layer of horticultural grit on the surface of the compost to deter successful egg laying and larvae development.

### Mid-Month

Take cuttings from Geraniums, Fuchsias, Penstemons and other semi-hardy plants. Keep Camellias, Hydrangeas, Magnolias, Pieris, Azaleas and Rhododendrons well watered to prevent bud drop later. Semi-ripe cuttings can be taken from a wide range of shrubs. These are short side shoots, which have slightly woody bases. Pot some strawberry runners into 18cm (7in) pots. Leave them outside until January, then put them in the greenhouse for an early crop. Trim over lavender, Santolina (cotton lavender), Helichrysum (curry plant) lightly after flowering. Sow last outdoor carrots, lettuce, radish and spinach beet in the vegetable garden. Sow Japanese onion seeds soon or buy autumn planting onion sets next month. Summer prune Wisteria - cut

back all new growth to five leaves up from where it arises from main branch, unless it is required to extend the plant. Sow Browallia, Schizanthus and Calceolaria in the greenhouse for winter pot plants. Plant young strawberry runners for cropping next year. Take Hydrangea cuttings - they could make a flowering pot plant for next year. Try collecting some seed from your own garden plants - you could get a new variety. Take cuttings from heathers. Use 2.5 cm (1in) long shoot tips. Root in gritty compost. Look out for specially stored early seed potatoes, plant soon for new potatoes for Christmas dinner. *Later this month* Spring flowering bulbs will be around now. Buy Colchicums, Madonna lilies and Autumn-flowering crocus soon. Gather up and dispose of

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester



diseased rose leaves as they fall. Prune rambler roses. Summer prune trained forms of fruit trees. Clean and check over greenhouse heaters. Pot up some herbs dug from the garden ready to bring indoors in October for winter use. Sow a final batch of parsley seed outdoors and some spring cabbage. Check over any bulbs e.g. tulips that you have in store to ensure that they are fit to re-plant.

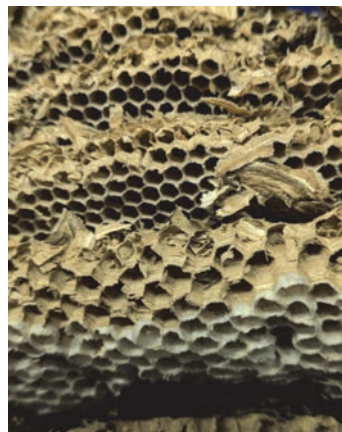


# Bees versus Wasps

Martyn Cracknell



*A tiny phase one wasp nest with just seven cells in a shed roof*



*A mature phase three nest with horizontal layers of cells for raising workers.*

Like many people in this part of England, I have taken advantage of the fine weather, dining alfresco and enjoying an occasional barbecue. Until July, we had seen virtually no wasps, and we were certainly not bothered by them, and neither were the bee hives. Then suddenly, in the first week of July, I noticed action at the entrance of one small colony. Further examination revealed that the bees had been raided and killed, and some hundreds of wasps were pillaging the remains of the honey stores. It is not unusual for wasps to attack, destroy and strip a beehive. More often than not, there is some underlying problem which has led to the bees failing to defend

themselves. In this case, the colony had a newly hatched queen and no brood to defend. I reduced the entrances of all other hives to a single bee passageway and checked that there were no other gaps through which wasps could enter. Prevention is always better than cure.

What was so surprising was the timing of the attack. Normally, mid-August is the critical time, coinciding with the removal of the summer honey crop. The intervention by the beekeeper in opening the hives and taking the boxes of honey inevitably creates an aroma of honey around the hives and breaches the hive's structure, thus attracting wasps and then permitting their entry. We have various strategies to

minimise the risk, but wasps can be a serious problem, and bees have to spend considerable time and energy to defend themselves. Even so, some hives will succumb under the relentless attack. Wasps are very strong and it may take six bees to wrestle an invader and drag it out of the hive.

As soon as ivy starts to flower and plums and other fruit start ripening, usually in September, the wasps can get a sweet reward without a fight, so they leave the bees in peace. A look at social media revealed that many other beekeepers had noticed the onset of wasp attacks and there was a lively debate about the deployment of wasp traps. So why do wasps change their behaviour from barely noticeable to positive nuisance? Wasp biology is discussed in detail for each of the species of British wasp listed by BWARS (Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society). Their website describes eight species of social wasp which all have a broadly similar life history, and can be divided into five phases.

1) Large mated Queens emerge from hibernation and begin to build a nest of paper made from chewed wood and saliva. They lay a few eggs and hunt for flies or caterpillars on which to feed the grubs. They feed themselves on nectar from flowers.

2) The queen stays at the nest and lays eggs. The first cohort of new wasps chew wood to make paper to expand the nest. They also forage for caterpillars, flies, etc. to feed the grubs. When they feed a grub, it exudes a drop of sweet liquid as a reward, which reinforces the workers' foraging behaviour. These grubs are often poorly fed and hatch as rather small wasps.

3) The nest expands. With more workers, the income of food into the nest is better, resulting in better growth of the grubs and larger wasps. Their predation on aphids and other garden pests is a valuable service to gardeners and fruit growers. After the nest has reached peak size, the queen produces drones (male) and virgin queens. These leave the nest and mate. The queens seek somewhere to hibernate. The males die after a few weeks.

4) The nest now has fewer young grubs to be fed. Workers returning with a meaty offering are unable to find a grub to feed and do not get their sweet reward, so they begin to search for sweetness directly. They attack ripening fruit, such as plums, they rob honey from beehives and try to get in our drinks at picnics and outdoor cafes.

5) The nest dies out and the paper structure will not be re-occupied.

*To be continued ...*

## Village Life

John Driscoll

The summer of 2025 continues to provide long hot days (and nights!) that have encouraged many of us to adopt a slower pace of life while seeking shade and a cool drink. All very well if you don't have pressing activities to fulfil, but of course many have jobs requiring them to keep going no matter the temperature. Hopefully, we've all had the opportunity to enjoy at least some of the long lazy days the summer keeps giving!

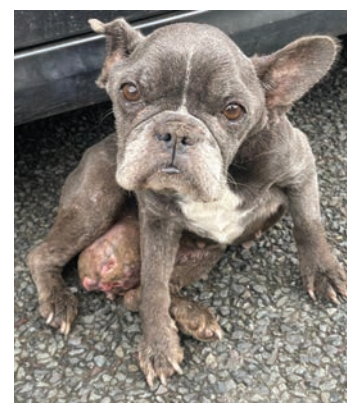
Our amazing community has once again shown itself in its best light after helping a poor little canine friend in need of help. An afternoon walker found the poor dog abandoned at the side of a road just outside the village. She was in very poor condition, showing signs of hunger as well as infections and other likely health problems. A heartbreaking picture on our WhatsApp village chat received immediate supportive responses.

Within a very short time, two village residents had taken her to a vet in Pershore where she was fed and treated for immediate ailments. She was microchipped, efforts would be made to contact the owner, and, if there was no response, she would have been placed in the care of the dog warden. Sadly, she was more poorly than originally thought and had to be laid to rest to save her further suffering.

I know a sad situation like this would have been dealt with similarly in years past, but our local telegraph – WhatsApp – meant the story could be shared in real time. There would have indeed been no shortage of volunteers if help was requested on the village chat, especially as the enormous eyes staring up from this little dog would have melted many a heart.

Reflecting on life in our village and how lucky we are to live in such beautiful surroundings led

a few of us to think about unravelling some of our local history and stories that long-term residents have to tell. A visitor asked which was the oldest property in the village and some speculation followed. Tempting to say it would be the pub, but then who would build a pub unless there was a nearby community to support it? It will almost certainly be either associated with farming, the nearby estate or the church. We are mentioned in the Doomsday Book, so there are quite a few possible candidates. Luckily, we have some senior residents who can recall life in the village spanning quite a few decades, so maybe we should promote a project to create a record of their stories and recollections of village life – even if some names will need changing to protect dignity and avoid embarrassment! One for the winter months ahead perhaps. Which leaves me wondering



how many of our predecessors in the village were lucky enough to be able to say they were 'living the dream', as our redoubtable pub landlord often says? Without resorting to viewing the past through rose-tinted spectacles, it can only be hoped that was the case for many of them. Let's see if we can bring some of their stories back to life and can all be allowed a glimpse into their dreams. Here's hoping!



# Calling All Writers!

## Short Story Competition!

*We are keen to read and celebrate talent of all ages.*

*There are categories for writers aged under-18 and writers aged 18 and over.*

*The two winners will be published in the October magazine.*

*Write about whatever inspires you!*

*Word Count: Up to 500 words*

*Deadline:*

**Monday 15th September**

*Please hand in or email your submissions to:  
news@hughes.company,  
including your name and category  
(under-18 or 18 and over)  
by Monday 15th September*

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



## Ailsa's Kitchen Ailsa Craddock

BBQ time - when the men of the house take over and say they've done all the cooking – apart from the planning, shopping, salads, puddings, drinks and inviting! Anyway, here are a few suggestions and, hopefully, harmony will reign over the flames.

### BBQ Spiced Chicken with corn and cos lettuce

8 chicken drumsticks\*  
2 tbs sea salt flakes\*  
1 tbs smoked paprika\*  
1 tbs ground coriander\*  
1 tsp chilli powder\*  
1 tsp ground black pepper\*  
1/2 tsp ground cloves\*  
1/2 tsp ground allspice\*  
Extra virgin olive oil to drizzle  
4 corn cobs  
Chilli oil to serve (optional)  
Lime wedges to serve  
Cos lettuce wedges

(\*Spice Rub)

Preheat barbecue to a medium heat. For the spice rub, place all the ingredients in a container and shake to combine. Extra spice mix will keep for up to six months in a sealed container. Brush the chicken with the olive oil then rub over 2 tbs of the spice rub. Place chicken and corn on the barbecue and cook for 15-20 minutes, turning, until chicken is cooked through and corn is slightly blistered. Remove from barbecue. Drizzle chicken with a little chilli oil and serve with corn, lime and grilled cos lettuce.

### BBQ Salmon with dill, capers and lemon

1.5 kg salmon side  
1/4 cup olive oil  
2/3 cup baby capers, rinsed, chopped  
1 small red onion, finely chopped  
1 cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped  
1/2 cup fresh dill leaves, chopped  
2 tbs finely grated lemon rind  
1 tbs Olive Oil

**Lemon wedges to serve**  
Preheat barbecue to medium-high. Place a large sheet of foil on bench and top with baking paper. Place salmon on paper. Brush all over with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Fold baking paper and foil over salmon to enclose. Transfer parcel to barbecue. Cook for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, combine capers, onion, herbs, lemon rind and oil in a bowl.

Remove salmon from barbecue and rest for 5 minutes. Unwrap. Transfer to a serving platter and spread with herb mixture and serve with lemon wedges.

### Vegetarian Bean Burgers

1 can of pinto or black beans (other varieties also work)  
3 tbs tomato paste or ketchup  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 grated garlic clove



1 onion, chopped finely  
2 tbsp flour  
1/2 cup cooked diced vegetables of choice

Spices of your choice paprika, cumin, curry powder to taste  
Drain, rinse and mash the beans. Stir in all the other ingredients to form patties, adding more flour if too soft. Preheat your bbq cook on a greased sheet of foil for 7-8 minutes per side. Serve with your favourite burger toppings—ketchup, mustard, avocado, onions, etc.—on buns or in lettuce wraps for a lower carb option.

### BBQ Pineapple with chocolate dip

1 star anise  
1 cinnamon quill  
5 whole cloves  
8 Szechuan peppercorns  
100g unsalted butter, melted  
1 pineapple, peeled, cut lengthways into 8 wedges  
Finely grated zest of lime  
100g dark chocolate, finely chopped  
125ml of single cream

Place the star anise, cinnamon, cloves and peppercorns in a dry pan over medium heat. Toast for 3 minutes or until fragrant.

Transfer to a spice grinder or mortar and pestle, and grind to a fine powder. Place half the spice mixture in a bowl. Add the butter and stir to combine. Set aside. Preheat a barbecue to a medium-high heat. Thread the pineapple onto skewers and brush with the spiced butter. Grill, brushing frequently with spiced butter, for 10 minutes or until lightly charred. For the chocolate dip, place the chocolate in a heatproof bowl. Place cream and remaining spice mixture in a saucepan over medium heat. Bring to the boil, then pour through a sieve over the chocolate. Set aside to cool for 1 minute, then use a spatula to stir until smooth and combined. Stir in a pinch of sea salt. Serve pineapple skewers with the chocolate dip, grated lime zest and extra sea salt.

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# Campers and Candles

Angela Johns

We are just back from a successful frolic to France in the campervan, where every little town looks like a WW2 movie set. After last year's trip to France, my partner playfully suggested a budget just for votive candles. Another French town, another church, another candle lit and contribution made. The cathedral or church will usually be the most ancient part of the town. I love the architecture, stone masonry and wood carvings, the stained glass and the gargoyles, the sheer size or the simplicity – all that history moves me. I pay my euro or two, light my candle and then recite the names of all those that have gone before me, picturing each person in turn. I have nothing to say, just an acknowledgement that they were in my life and now they are not. The world continues to turn regardless, just as the flame continues to flicker as I stand there, the small candle serving to represent simultaneously both a continuity and a vulnerability. The act of paying, choosing my candle, lighting it and watching the flame dance as I recite the names, is a ritual that makes me pause a moment. I feel love and gratitude, occasionally regret and sadness. It is a small private moment of remembrance and connection. I am so disappointed, therefore, if I creak open the door (or file in with everyone else) with my coins at the ready in my pocket, and I see rows of electric candles. This change in tradition feels so soulless to me. You put your money in the slot (or wave your smartphone over the card reader) and a candle alights. You don't know which one it



will be and it looks identical to all the others, a fake flicker in unison. I have to send a wry message to the Ones That Have Gone Before telling them they will have to wait. Another day, another church to visit, until I'm all churchied out and my candle budget is blown. Luckily, with this kind of change, I can choose whether I accept it or not. I walked away on this occasion. I can honour the dead and feel grateful to still be alive by feeling the tingle of the sun rays on my skin, by hearing the leaves being rustled by a welcome breeze in a heatwave, by smelling the warmth of a freshly baked baguette, and tasting the perfect balance of cream and strawberry in a tartlette fraise. I don't need a candle – but it is really, really nice to have one.

*Currently training as an Emotional Therapeutic Counsellor with the AETC, Angela is a qualified Reflexologist, Aromareflex Practitioner and Reiki Teacher/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](http://angelajohns.co.uk)*

# Navigating Change

Emily Papirnik

Is it time for change? How might you know? Sometimes, it's a quiet whisper: a restlessness, a sense of misalignment, or the feeling that you've outgrown an old way of being. Other times, it shows up louder—a repeated emotional pattern, a physical place or situation you keep returning to, even when it no longer nourishes you. It may be subtle or stark, but the invitation to change often begins with awareness. Many believe change only happens when we hit rock bottom. While it's true that crisis can be a catalyst, change doesn't always need to come from collapse. It can emerge incrementally, through conscious intention and small, steady steps. Conviction plays a role—when we know deep down that something must shift. However intention is equally powerful. It is the energy we bring to the change, the way we hold it, nurture it, and allow it to grow. For example, I once worked with a client who felt stuck in a cycle of self-doubt. Rather than waiting for a breakdown, they chose to explore that feeling gently, journaling, working with their energy and creating 'Truths' in a weekly exercise, and slowly shifting their inner narrative. Over time, that intentional practice



reshaped their experience of self-worth. Another client faced a sudden life transition and had to make a clear, bold decision. They chose conviction—stepping into a new chapter with courage, knowing that the discomfort of change was necessary for growth. Whether change comes in waves or whispers, the most lasting transformations often involve both conviction and intention. We must allow ourselves to see what is no longer working, focus on what we do want, and then take loving action toward it. If you're wondering whether it's time for change, trust your inner knowing. Tune into how your body responds to certain patterns or choices. Listen to what your heart is asking for. And know that small, intentional steps can lead to the most profound, lasting shifts. Change doesn't have to be overwhelming. It can be a gentle unfolding.

"Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion. You must first set yourself on fire."

Fred Shero



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# Romy's Uni Life

Romy Kemp *Liverpool University*



## Thoughts over summer

The majority of my summer break so far has been meeting up with friends and family. I am currently trying to organise a university house meet up so that all seven of us can catch up and spend the night in our flat. Since we are all scattered around the United Kingdom, it is hard to organise a meet up with everyone because people are busy and the distance is certainly a factor to think about for the majority of us. By the time my article has come out, I will have gone up to the house - so I will give an update next month!

I honestly cannot wait to move into my flat in September and decorate my room and make the house our home. This is one of the best parts of moving in to a new flat/house because you can really make it your own which, I think, really helps students find out who they are as a person and it truly shows our growing independence as young adults. As much as I will truly miss my housemates from my second year, we all decided on different living arrangements for third year. I will stay in contact with both of them for life and will definitely meet up with them regularly throughout my final

year of university, and beyond. I will especially miss living with them because I had lived with both of them for two years (first and second years of university) so it will certainly be a change for me, but I plan to invite them over a lot throughout third year.

## More work experience

In my last article, I wrote about the work experience that I did in a secondary school, and wanted to do some more work experience in another school. I decided that I should go back to my old school and do some work experience there. I went back for the final week of school before the summer holidays began. This meant that my work experience worked a bit differently to how it would at any other time of the school year. I worked with some Year 10s all week as a helper. Instead of helping in the English department, it was more of a work experience week for them. I really enjoyed going through activities with them and helping them reach their full potential for the week.

I also really enjoyed going back to my school because I was able to see my teachers and how the

school has changed. It was lovely to catch up with the teachers and get to know them not just as a former student, but as an adult who is thinking of going into teaching. They treated me with the utmost respect and I truly appreciated that as it made me realise that I could certainly be a teacher making an impact on the students.

Quite a few businesses from outside of the school came in to talk to the students about what avenues they could take in the future - from apprenticeships to talking about pensions, it was lovely to see the students learn about careers that they didn't know they could do. Even I learnt things about what I could've done before university, but also what I could do after university. It was lovely to go back to the school I grew up in and see a different side of it. I was welcomed back warmly and enjoyed every second of the day, and it is all I've been able to talk about! I will definitely go back and do some more work experience at my old school because I enjoyed it so much and it was lovely going back to my old school.

## Beach Safety



Taking your dog to the beach can be a fun and enriching experience for you and your pooch. However, going to the seaside comes with certain dangers for dogs.

### Make some preparations

Make sure that you have got poo-bags, water and toys at the ready? Can your dog swim? Do they even like water? Is the beach you plan to visit a pet-friendly one?

### Prevent jellyfish stings

If your dog is stung by a jellyfish, the seawater can do a great job of preventing the release of further toxins.

### Avoid heat exhaustion in dogs

Make sure you give your dog lots of fresh water to drink and take regular shade breaks.

### Prevent wasp stings

If your dog is stung by a wasp, keep a close eye on them. It's a good idea to visit your vet to have the sting checked over.

### Watch out for sharp objects

Broken bottles or discarded sharp items aren't so easy to spot when you're at the beach so you'll need to take extra care.

### Don't let your dog drink salt water...

Bring your dog's bowl along with you, plus their own bottle of water, and make sure you offer it to them regularly.

For more information on keeping your pet safe and comfortable at the beach, or any aspect of their welfare, have a chat with us.

Best wishes *Eliza*



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

## Hot off the Press

We've voyaged far and wide together, fellow reader. These last few years have seen the map of Gregory's World grow, filling with detail and colour, knowledge and experiences. Now, I'm gaining knowledge and experience closer to home. I've submitted articles for the Pershore (later Upton, plus Kempsey, plus Powick, now Whittington) Times for about six years. But for the first time since my week of Year 10 work experience in 2019, I'm writing to you from the inside, from the citadel of local news that is Hughes & Co. I have my own desk, my own comfy swivel chair, and even my own mug that says: 'Start the day with a smile ... it irritates people.' To my left, Tash is assembling a book called James Balfour's *Reminiscences of Golf*, binding it in blue Buckram, impressing the cover with gold foil, and carefully gluing in five folded maps by hand; she'll have to repeat this meticulous process for another hundred or so copies of Balfour, but she also told me she has Audible, so the hours should fly by. To my right, Andy is busying away at a hundred jobs a minute, ping-ponging between the phone, the computer, the photocopier, the

guillotine, and the till; just when he thinks he's found a quiet moment out in the yard, the phone chirps and he's back at it again. I'm sitting in a nook of paper, pens, and printers, and frequently ringing Simon; he's our tech wizard, training me in the ways of the force (otherwise known as QuarkXPress, the programme used to assemble each month's issue). I was surprised at the number of people who are involved behind the scenes in contributing to, producing, and distributing the paper you're now holding – many of whom often poke their head around the shop door like relatives popping by to say hello. Meanwhile, all of this takes place under the watchful eye of Alan, who assured us only this morning that he's never worked a day in his life because working at Hughes & Co. feels like a holiday! It certainly feels like a new chapter. After battling through Exam season (and finding my way out of that Thai massage), a calmer, cooler, suppler version of me enjoyed a honeymoon period of four final weeks at uni before the end of Trinity term. Four weeks of punting, pubbing and sleeping made for a fitting epilogue to these last three years. I even got to experience another Oxford

tradition: the schools dinner. This is essentially a victory dinner you have with your tutors and the rest of your subject cohort after exams are done and dusted. It's highly anticipated and fabled by students because of its two desserts, decanters of port, and snuff. The snuff was passed around the dining table in a small wooden box. A divider in the middle separated a lighter and a darker variety, the milder stuff from the stronger stuff. My tutor showed me how I should spoon a molehill of it into the dimple beside the base of my thumb – the same dimple you sprinkle and lick salt from before necking a tequila shot, but you were probably already thinking of that, fellow reader. Then I sniffed the snuff. My nostril fizzed. You only live once, so I opted for the darker variety. Also, you only live once, so I decided that was the first and only time I would ever do that. I was more taken with the Bath Oliver biscuits that were then passed around in a silver tin, and the cup of coffee that topped it all off – because it was only ten o'clock at night. Thinking about it one month on, I already appreciate what a wacky and wonderful bubble universe I'd got used to sliding in and out of over the last three



years. A trilogy is enough for me, brilliant, exhausting, inspiring, but enough. So, it was fortuitous when the phone buzzed and Alan reached out once again with an opportunity. This time, a nine to five at Hughes & Co. My first week on the job hurled me straight in at the deep end – thank goodness, that's where there's no faffing around and you learn quickly. I helped add the finishing touches to each of the five papers, before sending them to the printers and uploading them online. Six years after a shorter, specklier, school-uniformed me first stopped by to discuss a work experience placement, here I am, printing off proofs and about to take them upstairs to M. He'll make short work of any flowery language with a deft stroke of his fountain pen. Anyway, I'd better get cracking. Let the holiday begin!

## Evie's Teenage Focus

*Evie Aubin Oxford Brookes University*

As you know, I've been to many concerts. It seems that every other month, I'm writing to you about someone I've seen or am going to see. And, unsurprisingly, this is going to be another one of those times. But hey, at least I'm consistent! Last time I wrote to you, I mentioned I was going to BST Hyde Park in London to see a variety of different artists; some of which I had seen play before, some I had been wanting to see for what feels like forever, and some people I had never heard of before, but now don't know what I would do if I was never introduced to their music. The first weekend I went to Hyde Park, was the Friday that Olivia Roderigo was headlining the show. My day started bright and early, meeting Daisy at the train station and getting the 10:30 train into London Paddington. I always forget how busy trains are supposed to be, since going to university I

usually only get the train up to Oxford (and on what seem to be quieter days). This train to London however was absolutely packed with regular commuters, as well as a few people we spotted going to the concert as well. Once we made it to Paddington, we got the tube to Victoria, where we met up with one of my friends from university and a friend she brought from home. After what felt like an eternity of trying to find each other, calls and text messages not going through, we finally found everyone and headed to Spoons for lunch before making our way over to the venue. By the time we got there, our gates had been open for about half an hour and so, after a brief security check, we were in! We had a quick walk around, scoped out a few spots where we could be for the headlining acts and then walked across the grassy field by the rainbow stage to get some drinks and listen to some music

in the shade. Whilst seeing Olivia was obviously a massive highlight from the show, I think the best moment was finally seeing The Last Dinner Party. I was supposed to see them last year but after the concert was cancelled, the group never rescheduled the show, and so this was the first time I had the opportunity to see them. To me at least, that was a very special moment. Olivia was of course amazing; she sang some of her hits and even brought out Ed Sheeran as a special guest. The weekend after followed a very similar schedule. I went to London on my own this time though, meeting a different friend from university when I got to London. We saw a bunch of my favourite artists, such as Gigi Perez, Sydney Rose, Asha Banks, Finneas, the Favours and, of course, Gracie Abrams and Noah Kahan, who I had seen before but will jump at any opportunity to see again. They



were amazing as always, Gracie bought out Aaron Dessner as a surprise guest and Noah bought out Lewis Capaldi. However, what made the night more amazing than anything else was when he played my favourite song of his: "strawberry wine". The song isn't on any of his set lists so I had never heard it live before and hadn't expected him to play it. When he did, I just started crying (very over dramatic I know but that's just me!). I promise you, this will be the last time I yap about a concert ... at least for a few months. Until next time, toodles!



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## Do you want a VAT invoice?

Carol Draper



It sounds like a simple question, and it is one that gets asked in numerous situations but what is a VAT invoice, when should one be provided, who needs one and what does it contain? If you are buying something as a private individual, the answer is straightforward – in most circumstances, you do not need a VAT invoice. While we all pay VAT, only VAT registered businesses can reclaim it.

If you are a VAT registered business making a VAT rated supply to another VAT registered business, you are required to issue a VAT invoice. In the same way, if you are a VAT registered business and wish to reclaim VAT, you require a VAT invoice to support your claim for VAT. The format of the VAT invoice depends on the value of the supply.

For supplies with a gross value of £250 or below, it is possible to reclaim VAT with a less detailed tax invoice. Such an invoice must show the name, address and VAT registration number of the supplier, the nature of the purchase, the gross amount paid, and the rate of VAT included in the supply. Common forms of such supply include restaurant receipts, fuel and retail shop receipts.

For any supplies with a gross value greater than £250, in addition to the details included in the less detailed invoices, a valid VAT invoice must show:

- the name and address of the customer,
  - the date of supply of the goods and date of issue of the invoice,
  - an identifying, sequential number,
  - a description which identifies the goods or services supplied, the quantity of the goods or the extent of the services, and the rate of VAT and the amount payable, excluding VAT.
  - the unit price (where relevant),
  - the rate of any cash discount offered,
  - the total amount exclusive of VAT (the net amount) and the total amount of VAT charged.
- Of all the above requirements, the address of the customer is probably the information that is most often missed. If the required details are missing HMRC could legitimately reject a claim for VAT, so it is worth checking the documentation you have.

Carol Draper FCCA  
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Margaret Thatcher



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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the June edition of "Thoughts from the Snug", which pointed out the lack of common sense that exists in society today.

A few examples of this spring to mind. Firstly, why does a jar of peanut butter carry the warning "may contain nuts"? I would be disappointed if it did not contain nuts. Secondly, why does a box of cornflakes have a picture of said flakes in a bowl with the caption "serving suggestion". Really? One of my pet hates is when people press the button on a pelican crossing even when there is no traffic about. Or won't walk until the green man flashes, even though

there is no traffic about.

On a larger scale, the fact that the U.K. is not "allowed" to drill for gas in the North Sea because of the mad "net zero" agenda - instead we BUY most of our gas from Norway who obtain it from ... Oh yes, the North Sea. Or the fact that in April this year, our so-called government purchased coal from Japan to fire the last remaining virgin steel plant in Scunthorpe. How has an island that is surrounded by sea and has vast reserves of untapped natural resources become reliant on other countries at vast expense to the tax payer? I feel that the overriding reason for this is that people have

become accustomed to not thinking for themselves because it is so much easier not to. They have been programmed to farm out responsibility for everything in their lives, predominantly through the overreach of technology and governments. Many nefarious government agendas create problems, then supply people with the solutions to the problems that they created. If you are encouraged not to take responsibility for your own life, you become unable to think critically and listen to everything you are told without ever questioning anything. In the West, we are constantly told

that everything must be for our convenience, often just because we have become lazy; or that we are "worth it", which has created a self-obsessed culture. A dangerous combination when combined with the lack of responsibility for your own thoughts and actions.

The mainstream media should report the facts and express an opinion, but not mix up the two. It is up to us to take responsibility and do our own research, not just blindly go along with a narrative that is not always for our own good.

Yours sincerely,

*Julie Reynolds*

Dear Editor,

The Parkway project, part of the South Worcestershire Development Plan, is now in the advanced stage. It is going to happen! With the Parkway being the focal point, we will in time see a development the size of Droitwich. The area will extend or impact across the parishes of Whittington, Norton, Littleworth, Stoulton, Drakes Broughton, Wadborough and White Ladies Aston. It is not just about houses. The proposals include schools, community hubs, medical centres, shops, retail parks, business parks, safe cycle and pedestrian routes, and green spaces. The impact will be significant.

The positives include much needed homes, employment and business opportunities, recreational facilities, transport links and alternative means of travel. The concerns will be many: the delivery of the infrastructure required to support a new town, the impact and potential for disruption (particularly during construction) on existing residents, the road network, public rights of way, wildlife and open countryside. I have lived and worked in the District of Wychavon for many years. I have been involved in one way or another with the SWDP process from the start and recently represented the communities of Whittington at

the Government Planning Inspector's public hearing. I have for fifteen years, been a Parish Councillor and I am currently a member of the Joint Parishes Committee.

We all want this to be a success. We want this project to achieve the best, with minimum disruption to existing residents and road networks.

Consequently, Landowners, Developers, Homes England, Highways, Planning Officials, District and County Councillors have formed the Wychavon Garden Community Project Board.

The purpose of the Board is to guide the development and accelerate delivery of the Wychavon Garden Community

Settlement through a cohesive approach to planning and on-site delivery including infrastructure.

I have been invited (along with two other community representatives) to be a member of the Wychavon Garden Community Project Board.

*If anyone has any thoughts, issues or concerns regarding the development that they believe should be subjects of representation to the Board, then I invite you to contact me via email: [slbrookerwgcpb@gmail.com](mailto:slbrookerwgcpb@gmail.com)*

*Steve Brooker  
Whittington*

## Talk the talk: learning a new language pays off

When we think about language learning, we often picture schoolchildren reciting verb conjugations or teenagers cramming for exams. But what if I told you that now might actually be the perfect time to start? Whether you're learning French for a long-awaited trip, brushing up on Italian to connect with your grandchildren, or simply looking for ways to keep your brain active, picking up a new language later in life is not only possible - it's incredibly beneficial. Studies have shown that it can strengthen memory, boost mental agility and even help protect against cognitive decline. It can be fun too! Gone are the days of endless grammar drills. Today's language learning is designed to be fun, interactive and focussed on real-life

conversations. And of course, language is all about connection. Joining language classes is a great way to meet people with shared interests as well as gaining insights into new cultures. And there's no pressure to be perfect. The joy is in the journey. Take Sue Peasgood, from Malvern: "Having dipped in and out of learning Italian at home, I eventually took the plunge and joined one of Louise's classes. What a refreshing change it was to be in a supportive, stimulating environment. When learning alone, it is all too easy to lose direction and to find the intricacies of a foreign language tedious, but Louise provides such a wide range of interesting activities that it becomes both motivating and achievable. It's

such a fun way to learn." Sally Morgan from Worcester agrees: "I never felt I could master languages at school, so the fact that I now love Louise's lessons and the Italian language is really wonderful. I recently travelled

to Tuscany and was so thrilled when I found everyone could understand my Italian. I loved it!"

*To find out more, contact:  
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Louise Lilly: [louiselilly49@gmail.com](mailto:louiselilly49@gmail.com)



# From the Boundary

Peter Jewell, Resolve Law

Who ever said test cricket was boring? In England, test cricket is appreciated and followed. Test grounds should always include Lords, the Oval and Edgbaston. They are always full, allowing the ECB to charge more to assist with ground root cricket. The third test at Old Trafford has become interesting. At lunch, England were talking 600 runs by tea on the fourth day, but in the event England lost Pope and Root going to Washington Sundar. I cannot give you any more because the editor is chasing me for copy. Worcestershire are dead and buried in the Division One. However, they are doing better against Warwickshire, and they have an outside chance of qualifying in the T20 . I watched some of the ladies' football quarter-final against Sweden, that was a close one!

However, some of the penalty taking was pathetic. What was admirable was how they bounced back from injury, including the Keeper, who was bloodied and bruised with cotton wool up her nose to stop the bleeding. Now, the men are more worried if their hair gets out of place, and they roll about in pain without being touched, such wimps. Well done to the Lionesses for the semi-final victory against Italy. Now, we await the final against Spain, who are quality.

It seems the appeal over the Littleton County election is in the High Court. The council seem to be doing everything to stop it and frighten off the Reform candidate with costs. More of that at a later date.

Talking about a shambles, the government now have '30 in and 30 out' scheme, an arrangement

undertaken by Starmer with his new chum in France. So what about the other 500 to 600 a day? And who is paying? Labour and the Tories are doing nothing. Starmer has changed the voting age to 16. Most children of that age are (or should be) at school, and learning about life. 99% of them are still in the stage of taking and not contributing. Let's be controversial. Why should someone not contributing to the state have a vote? Retirees who have contributed for 25 years should be able to vote. People who are disabled, excluding those who are on the lazy scam, should also be able to vote. Let's have a look at the politicians. I have met a lot and I would employ very few of them.

Here's something I did not know: Starmer's father was a toolmaker and his mother, a nurse. I had

heard it perhaps fifty times but ignored it, because he still seems out of touch. Ministers on both sides of the house clearly do not know what really goes on and that the civil service runs everything (Yes Minister). So now we have immigrants here by the thousand, some who are here illegally. Just announced. Corbyn's new party have more members than Reform? God forbid that this no-named party gets a stronghold in this country, then we are really finished.

Come on, you readers, let's hear from you! Send your letters to the Editor!



## A View from the Middle

As another month passes by, I am sadly still confined to watching cricket from the sidelines and coaching rather than playing. I made some misjudged attempts to join in with my protégés from time to time, until a jolting pain and stern words from my physio put a stop to that. It is remarkable to watch others put their skills into practice and so interesting to find out how each responds to the various different coaching methods and pressures of attention and competition. It turns out that I get far more satisfaction in seeing a player respond positively to my coaching than I ever did playing, so this enforced absence from playing may become permanent. Happily, I passed my latest university module and can move onto my studies in sports and exercise psychology, which

I am very excited about. I'm a strong believer in lifelong learning and can't wait to discover new things. One thing my injury has allowed me to do is walk, and this enabled me to enjoy a terrific time with our neighbours at Tewkesbury Medieval Festival. Every year, I am astonished by the scale of the event but, this year in particular, I was full of admiration for everyone involved given the weather. Shielded by a large golf umbrella, I still sweltered in the heat but could barely imagine how much the participants were suffering. During one of the marches to battle re-enactment, we spotted one soldier spraying water under his armour in a battle to stay cool and wondered how authentic to 1471 that method might have been! Tewkesbury

Abbey, always so popular for its grandeur and solemnity, was a cool haven for weary (and toasty) festival goers. I was struck by a sense of calm and serenity, even if the sign at the door asking visitors to please leave their weaponry (including axes, maces, bows, and arrows) on the table before entering was a little alarming.

There is such a wealth of history in and around Pershore that it can sometimes be forgotten among the hubbub of everyday life. It reminds me of the impermanence of things and how every age has built on the one before. We are as technologically advanced now as we have ever been, but the same was true of our medieval forefathers, who could not have imagined space travel, the internet, or artificial intelligence. This makes me wonder how life on



Earth might develop over the next 800 or so years. Or will it be life on Mars by that point?!

## Thoughts from the Snug...

Here in the Snug, conversation regularly turns to the topic of food and drink; we are, after all, Hedonists! Good places to eat out and intriguing recipes often send Snug members into flights of ecstasy and, on one occasion, even poetry. This, in turn, prompted a suggestion that we should each come up with a poem that reflected our hedonistic

fascination with food and drink. Frankly, although a grand and noble aim, the results were, in poetic terms, rather shallow.

For example:

*'Round the teeth,  
Then round the gums,  
Look-out guts,  
Cos here it comes!'*

Definitely the worst example, but two others (just suitable for print) followed:

*'There was a young Woman from Clyde,  
Who ate a green apple and died.  
The apple fermented inside the lamented,  
And turned into cider inside her inside.'*

## Food, drink and poetry

And ...

*'I love a Martini said Mable,  
I only have two at the most.  
At three, I'm under the table,  
At four, I'm under the host.'*

Pathetic! Can readers provide better examples? Contributions welcomed by the editor.

Buddy Bach



## What's on . . .

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For more information, contact:

Len Evans at the Soldiers of Gloucester Museum, Gloucester Docks Tel. 07801 472 396 or

Steve Lewis, Q&C Militaria Shop, in Cheltenham on 01242 519815

We look forward to welcoming you to our next meeting!

## Jazz Event

**Wednesday 6th August**

Featuring the Will Powell Quartet plus singer Penny Powell. Raffle.

The quartet is led by much-admired Leeds-based guitarist Will Powell and also includes Birmingham-based saxist Catherine Gulati.

**Starts at 7:30pm - Free admission**

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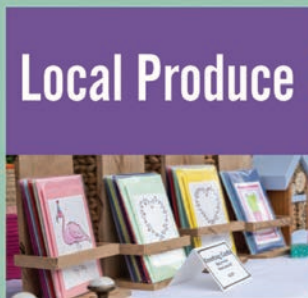
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### Malvern Festival Chorus Open Rehearsal

**Tuesday 2nd September 2025**  
at 7:30 pm

We invite you to our 'Open Rehearsal' in the Music School, Malvern College (Priory Road end of College Rd)

We are looking forward to the 2025-26 season and keen to welcome new members!

More details about MFC can be found at: [www.malvernfestivalchorus.co.uk](http://www.malvernfestivalchorus.co.uk)



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Persore & District

No Meeting in August  
Our next meeting is on :

**Tuesday 16th September at 2pm**  
*Inside the mind of a cryptic crossword setter...*

With Mark Hartshorne, known as "PostMark" in his crossword life, delving into the world of words.

All welcome, including non-members  
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For more details, contact Sally Whyte  
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email: [u3apershoresally@gmail.com](mailto:u3apershoresally@gmail.com)  
[www.persore.u3asite.uk](http://www.persore.u3asite.uk)



## Down on the Farm

Brian Johnson-Thomas



Some forty years ago, as journalists we used to treat the nascent Glastonbury Festival, “in Farmer Eavis’s fields” (which I recall as being slightly shambolic at that time), with a certain amount of amused disdain, little appreciating that it would metamorphose into the entertainment giant it is today. Perhaps fortunately, there’s still space for more local music festivals which still cater for up-and-coming bands (the Glasto headliners of tomorrow?). A local one of these is the Down on the Farm Music Festival at Abbey Dore in the heart of Herefordshire’s Golden Valley. Starting as a one-day event in 2012, it’s now a three day festival under the tutelage of the owner of Gwatkin Cider, Denis Gwatkin, who has played in several bands since his teenage years with most of the practice sessions and performances being at the farm. Their aim is to give local up-and-coming bands the opportunity to play live on stage alongside more established names on the live music circuit. Over the years, they’ve hosted such names as the fantastic tribute acts: Hats Off to Led Zeppelin,

Guns n’ Roses Experience, and many, many more. Hot and cold food will be available, along with a diverse range of ciders and perries (all made onsite), a full bar, and tea and coffee. Camping is included free of charge when a weekend ticket is purchased and the campsite is close to the festival, with toilets and showers. Children are welcome. *For details, visit [www.musicglue.com/down-on-the-farm](http://www.musicglue.com/down-on-the-farm).*

Note that last bit about children being welcome, because what to do with the little darlings during the long school holidays can turn out to be a bit of a problem. Even going for a family walk can be problematic, as some recent research for the outdoor chain, Mountain Warehouse, makes clear. (We have just seen their new store in the Cotswold Designer Outlet retail park just off the M5 at Tewkesbury, worth a browse). They say that the typical Family Walk Formula is revealed as one hour and eleven minutes long, up to two tantrums, three ‘treasures’ picked up and at least two snacks consumed per child. In more detail, the formula



reveals: tantrums start fast. The first meltdown hits just 19 minutes in – barely out of the car park. Top triggers? “I’m too tired”, “It’s too long”, and of course, “I need the loo.” Snack strategies? One in three parents bring two to three snacks per child. Parents do the heavy lifting. Nearly half carry all the bags, and a quarter end up hauling the child and their rock collection. Kids collect an average of three random items – from flowers to ... old rubbish. Only 18% of walks go to plan. Weather, snack shortages and emergency loo stops are the top culprits. Forewarned is forearmed! *For more family walk ideas, see [www.mountainwarehouse.com/community/walking-3/the-family-walk-formula/](http://www.mountainwarehouse.com/community/walking-3/the-family-walk-formula/)* You could well find the family visiting nearby Croome Court, where the National Trust have planned a whole series of family days out at Croome as part of their Summer of Play. They say, for example, “we’re celebrating all things bugs and biodiversity, with critter-themed fairground games, hands-on creative workshops and a mini theatre for performers big and small.

*Just go to: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) and scroll down to find Croome.* Don’t forget the other conservation charity, English Heritage, either! Nearby, Witley Court offers not just romantic ruins but a wilderness play area, the chance to wander the woodland walks and, of course, the opportunity to picnic in the superb gardens and watch the giant fountains (Perseus and Andromeda) fire off every so often. *Visit: [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk) and scroll down to Witley Court.* For those of us who are rather more mature, then the season at Longborough Festival Opera is, sadly, drawing to its close. We were fortunate to see a sparkling performance of Debussy’s *Pelleas et Melisande* last month and it was especially nice to see and hear Kateryna Kasper (Melisande), Brett Polegato (Golaud) and Karim Sulayman (Pelleas) making the Longborough debuts. The last performance of this season is Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, with the curtain coming down for the last time this year on 2nd August. *For details, see: [www.lfo.org.uk](http://www.lfo.org.uk)*

## Worcestershire’s biggest free art event is back!



Worcestershire Open Studios Art Week returns this summer for its 10th anniversary, running from Saturday 16th to Monday 25th August 2025. This popular event offers a rare opportunity to explore the studios and creative spaces of local artists and makers and it’s completely free to attend! Set against the stunning Worcestershire countryside, visitors are invited to step inside creative spaces, meet the makers, and discover a wide range of artistic disciplines. From painting and ceramics to jewellery, textiles, and printmaking, there’s something

to inspire everyone. Throughout the week, many artists will be offering live demonstrations and workshops, giving insight into their techniques and inspirations and perhaps even encouraging you to have a go yourself. Whether you’re an art enthusiast or simply curious, the event is a fantastic way to meet the artists and makers on your doorstep and also further afield. You might even discover your new favourite artist or a unique piece to take home. Many studios will have original artworks, prints, cards, and unique pieces available to buy

perfect for adding something special to your space or gifting to someone else. Don’t miss this inspiring celebration of local talent - a creative journey through Worcestershire you won’t want to miss!

*To help you plan your visits, the official event website features an interactive map, a digital guide, and a full artist and maker directory: [www.worcestershireopenstudios.org](http://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org)*



## A Turn Around the Ground

There is still time to sign up to be part of a fundraising event being staged in aid of The Baker Foundation, the organisation set up following the tragic death of Josh Baker last year. "A Turn Around the Ground" is a sponsored meander around New Road, Worcester, on Saturday 20th September where you can do as many or as few laps of the ground as you want to do – every circuit will make a difference. Weather permitting, the walk

will take place on the outfield around a course set out following the boundary line. Walkers will be able to start their laps from 8am onwards with The Chestnut Marquee available for toilets, rest breaks and refreshments.

*Entry and registration is just £20 inc a commemorative t-shirt to wear on the day. If you fancy joining in, please contact Mark on 07506 747619 or via email: ma004g2691@gmail.com*



## Cancer Trust expands podcast platform



The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust has relaunched its podcast, 'Young Me vs the Big C', now available on Spotify, Amazon Music and Apple Podcasts. This exciting step makes the podcast more accessible than ever, allowing young listeners to tune in from home, download episodes for hospital visits, or listen on the move with their families. The podcast was created to offer a safe and stigma-free digital space for children and teenagers diagnosed with cancer, helping them feel less isolated

and more connected to others with shared experiences. The first episode features 14-year-old Ewan, who completed treatment for Acute Lymphocytic Leukaemia, offering a powerful and honest account of his journey. Two episodes are already live, with five more scheduled for release, one each week over the next five weeks. They share a variety of perspectives from young people who've experienced cancer themselves, as well as siblings and parents who all speak with warmth and courage.

Each episode offers listeners a chance to hear stories that reflect the challenges and strength found in the face of childhood cancer. Dr Jen Kelly, CEO of the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust, said: "Being diagnosed with cancer is an incredibly isolating time for any child or young person. 'Young Me vs the Big C' is one of the ways we're helping them find connection, reassurance and a sense of community during a difficult journey." Now streaming on Spotify,

Amazon Music and Apple Podcasts, the podcast is set to grow in both reach and impact. Future episodes will explore a range of topics, including coping with diagnosis, returning to school, mental health and friendships. Listeners will also hear from parents, siblings, teachers, healthcare professionals and others whose lives have been touched by childhood cancer. There are exciting plans ahead, with themed episodes, guest speakers and opportunities for young people to take part in conversations that matter to them. The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust hopes the podcast will continue to spark important discussions and celebrate the resilience of young people facing extraordinary challenges. The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust welcomes anyone interested in sharing their story or getting involved. By contributing, young people can help others feel seen and supported, while being part of something uplifting and empowering.



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# Jazz News

Peter Farrall



Pershire Jazz on a Summer's Day, again at Number 8 this year and themed "jazz royalty", presented a mini Debrett's of the jazz world, generating many queries as to how such a host of noble names and titles came to be. None of them are genuine, but mostly nicknames bestowed by fellow musicians, fans or critics with reference to physical appearance or some individuality in style of playing or lifestyle. Joe "King" Oliver, New Orleans cornetist, was so called simply because of his exceptional mastery of his instrument but it's sad that such a giant of early jazz eventually died in abject poverty. Edward Ellington was dubbed "duke" by early childhood friends because of his already gentlemanly demeanour and tidy way of dressing; he liked and adopted the name and so it was

Duke for the rest of his life. One of Ellington's closest friends and musical rival was William "Bill" Basie, who was being introduced on a radio show where the presenter thought Bill Basie sounded too mundane and jokingly said: "Can I call you Count?". Basie non-committally agreed but the name stuck, and the band soon became world renowned. Did the name change stimulate this rise to fame – probably? Earl Hines was not nicknamed Earl, that was his real name, but he was called "Fatha" (father) Hines in recognition of his huge part in the development of jazz piano. Greatest among the aristocratic ladies of jazz has to be Ella Fitzgerald, whose incredible vocal talent justifiably earned her the title "Queen of Jazz" right from the early days of her

long and stellar career. Friend and rival of Ella was Billie Holiday, called "Lady Day" by her great friend and often musical collaborator, Lester Young, who admired her sophisticated style and pronounced her a "real lady". Billie returned the compliment by calling him "Prez" (president) because he was "the greatest". So, there we have a brief acquaintance with the jazz "royals", but there were jazz musicians bearing genuine titles. Bhumbol Adulyadej, the king of Thailand, was an avid jazz fan and accomplished musician playing mainly alto saxophone but also clarinet, soprano sax, trumpet, guitar, and piano. He spent some time in America, appearing with many of the leading musicians of the day including Benny Carter, Lionel

Hampton and Stan Getz. Here in Britain, Lord Anthony Colwyn, trumpeter, band leader and crusader for jazz appreciation in the House, was a real hereditary peer. Sadly, he died of Covid-related problems in 2024. Pershire Jazz Club continues with an eclectic programme for 2025, culminating in a very special Christmas event. *Pershire Jazz Club Last Wednesday of the Month in the Function Room, Pershire Football Club* Doors open at 7pm, music at 8 Admission £12.50 to include a raffle ticket. Book in advance and pay on arrival, email: [club@pershirejazz.org.uk](mailto:club@pershirejazz.org.uk) Tel: 01527 66692 or find us on Facebook. Check out our website [www.pershirejazz.org.uk](http://www.pershirejazz.org.uk)

## Music Matters

Steve Ide

Glastonbury kicked off the summer festival season in style, with the weather matching some unforgettable performances. There were many highlights, including Pulp sounding as good as ever and Ezra Collective with one of the most joyful and uplifting performances you will see for a while. Other notables are Wet Leg, Neil Young and Wolf Alice, all available on the BBC iPlayer if you want to spend a happy evening catching up. Oasis have started their much anticipated run of comeback gigs with their typical swagger. With such well known tunes, there's lots of love for the band and they seem to be enjoying being back performing again to rave reviews. The Gallagher brothers always come with a feeling of

jeopardy. Will they fall out again? Definitely? Maybe? There are countless festivals to attend and gigs from Coldplay, Stevie Wonder, Billie Eilish and many more. We're spoilt for choice this year, it looks to be a scorching summer of music and sun. **Notable new albums** *Moisturiser* by *Wet Leg* This highly anticipated album has managed to live up to the hype. They return with a new look and their simple, fun songs about relationships, with some killer snubs. Coupled with the deadpan, sarcastic delivery from Rhian Teasdale and killer guitar tunes, this is an album of great pleasure. Notable track: Catch these fists

All Asimov and No Fresh Air by *Half Man Half Biscuit*

Nigel Blackwell works his magic again, with satirical, funny lyrics. This album pulls off the difficult trick of being witty without trying too hard. Also where else will you find a song about the history of Rawplugs? Notable track: McCalligog and his hens

Self Titled by *Kae Tempest*

A typically honest and open album by Kae, covering the changes in their life and the journey they've been on. Notable track: Know yourself

**Add to playlist** Mr Bojangles by *Nina Simone*

Dignity by *Deacon Blue*

She brings the sunlight by *Richard Ashcroft*

Dead stick by *King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizards*

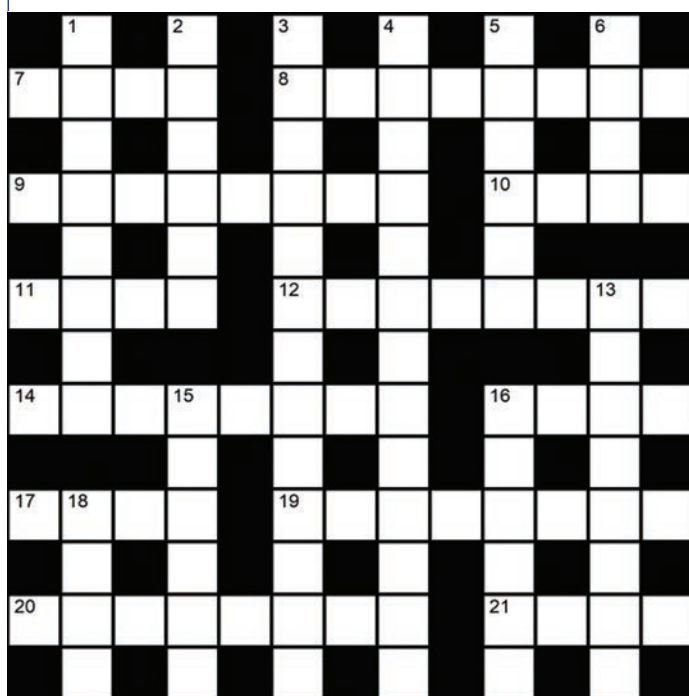
Songbird by *Fleetwood Mac*





## Coffee Break

## Crossword



## Across

- 7 "Good heavens!" (2,2)  
 8 Poll's findings (8)  
 9 Cross rats veer all over the place (8)  
 10 Corn covering (4)  
 11 "Private Benjamin" actress (4)  
 12 Annoy (8)  
 14 Wine crops (8)  
 16 Where tadpoles might be found (4)  
 17 Botanical balm (4)  
 19 Yesteryear (3,5)  
 20 Militant supporter (8)  
 21 "It's good for what --- you" (4)

## Down

- 1 Lost one's query (5,2,1)  
 2 Abounding in trees (6)  
 3 Accommodation for paying guests (8,5)  
 4 No.2 who oversees moral weakness? (4-9)  
 5 Million seller, for example (3,3)  
 6 Burden of proof (4)  
 13 With affection (8)  
 15 Unlawful removals (6)  
 16 Earliest (6)  
 18 Desired by detectives and salespeople (4)

## Sudoku

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

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

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

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

## Wordsearch

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

ANVIL  
 BANJO  
 BELL  
 BONES  
 BUGLE  
 CHIMES  
 CRWTH  
 DRUM  
 FIFE  
 GONG  
 HARP  
 LUTE  
 LYRE

MOOG  
 OBOE  
 ORGAN  
 PIPE  
 REBEC  
 REGAL  
 SHAWM  
 SHENG  
 SITAR  
 TABOR  
 TUBA  
 VEENA  
 VIOLA

## Brainteaser

What is the missing letter ?

B	D	2
W	?	3
C	G	4
A	K	10



## Poets' Corner

### XLVIII

Be still, my soul, be still; the arms you bear are brittle,  
Earth and high heaven are fixt of old and founded strong.  
Think rather, -call to thought, if now you grieve a little,  
The days when we had rest, O soul, for they were long.

Men loved unkindness then, but lightless in the quarry  
I slept and saw not; tears fell down, I did not mourn;  
Sweat ran and blood sprang out and I was never sorry:  
Then it was well with me, in days ere I was born.

Now, and I muse for why and never find the reason,  
I pace the earth, and drink the air, and feel the sun.  
Be still, be still, my soul; it is but for a season:  
Let us endure an hour and see injustice done.

Ay, look: high heaven and earth ail from the prime  
foundation;

All thoughts to rive the heart are here, and all are vain:  
Horror and scorn and hate and fear and indignation-  
Oh why did I awake? when shall I sleep again?

### XLIX

Think no more, lad; laugh, be jolly:  
Why should men make haste to die?  
Empty heads and tongues a-talking  
Make the rough road easy walking,  
And the feather pate of folly  
Bears the falling sky.

Oh, 'tis jesting, dancing, drinking  
Spins the heavy world around.  
If young hearts were not so clever,  
Oh, they would be young for ever:  
Think no more; 'tis only thinking  
Lays lads underground.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

## Quiz!

- 1) Which is the largest ocean - the Pacific or the Atlantic?
- 2) Brian Lara played international cricket for which national side?
- 3) Which pop star was born in Gary, Indiana on August 29th, 1958?
- 4) Which smoked fish might you expect to be served with cream cheese and lemon juice in canapes?
- 5) Which TV character was first portrayed by William Hartnell in 1963 and more recently by Peter Capaldi?
- 6) Which former England footballer scored against Morocco in a pre-World Cup 1998 friendly to become, at the time, England's youngest goalscorer?
- 7) Russell Crowe plays Inspector Javert in which 2012 film?
- 8) Which colour gives it's name to the region of spacetime that has such strong gravitational effects that nothing can escape?
- 9) Which American actor and political activist is known for playing Moses in The Ten Commandments and Ben Hur as the title character?
- 10) Who is the Roman goddess of love?
- 11) Cordozar Calvin Broadus Jr. is the birth name of which US rapper known for hit singles 'Gin & Juice' and 'Drop It Like It's Hot'?
- 12) Appaloosa, French Trotter and Mustang are all breeds of which animal?
- 13) Which singer had a 2011 hit with Born This Way?
- 14) Which Steve Carell movie has the tagline 'The longer you wait, the harder it gets'?
- 15) Kurt Cobain was the lead vocalist with which US rock band?
- 16) In which sport might you compete for the Claret Jug?
- 17) Wolfgang Amadeus is the first names of which Austrian composer?
- 18) An Anglophile is a supporter or admirer of what?
- 19) The logo for Chang Beer features two of which animal?
- 20) Which former Question of Sport captain was known for his 'flying dismounts'?

Answers: 1) The Pacific 2) West Indies 3) Michael Jackson 4) Salmon 5) Dr. Who 6) Michael Owen 7) Les Misérables 8) Black (Black holes) 9) Charlton Heston 10) Venus 11) Snoop Dogg 12) Horses 13) Lady Gaga 14) The 40 Year-Old Virgin 15) Nirvana 16) Golf 17) Mozart 18) English (or British) customs or people 19) Elephant 20) Frankie Dettori

## July Answers



August Brain teaser: W plus 3 is 26, or Z

## Did You Know?

Worcestershire boasts the oldest newspaper in continuous and current production in the world? 'Berrow's Worcester Journal' began as the 'Worcester Post-Man' in 1690 and has been in print ever since.

## Word of the Month

**'Addlepatied'**

Definition: to be confused; eccentric; flustered

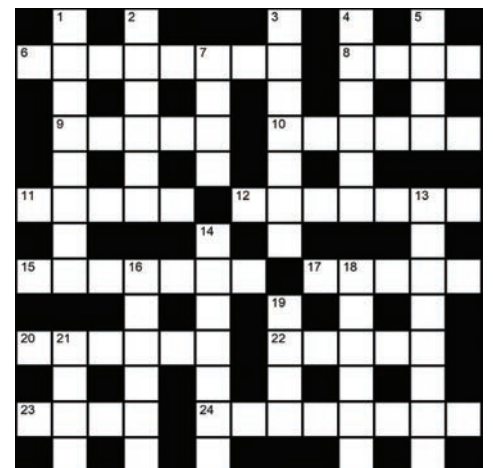
## Anagram Crossword

### Across

- 6 His toast (2,4,2)
- 8 Puss (1,1,2)
- 9 Rules (5)
- 10 End-all (6)
- 11 Swede (5)
- 12 Cabinet (3,2,2)
- 15 Toilets (1,1,5)
- 17 Dig in (5)
- 20 Mauser (6)
- 22 Gable (5)
- 23 Coat (4)
- 24 Baseline (8)

### Down

- 1 Plasters (8)
- 2 Phaser (6)
- 3 One farm (7)
- 4 Clue in (6)
- 5 Nope (4)
- 7 Sots (4)
- 13 Noblesse (8)
- 14 Coulomb (7)
- 16 Ill - woe! (3,3)
- 18 Gun dog (6)
- 19 Able (4)
- 21 Raja (4)





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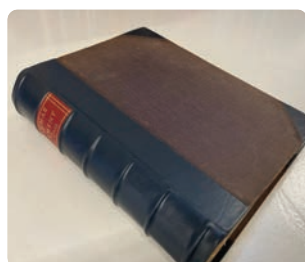
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***Copy Deadline for  
September Issue - 21st August 2025***



# Recycling makes music



A live recording for the B.B.C.  
(Birlingham Bottle Company)

In 2014, to raise money for our local jazz club, I came up with the idea of putting on a lunchtime Music Special, with the help of my wife, Margaret and friend, John Hellings. John played the recorded music and I presented the show. 33 people attended and we made £100 profit. Those who attended enjoyed the music and the lunch, and many asked when the next one would be. I enjoyed presenting the show, but realised it needed a focal point for the audience whilst the music was playing.

So here's where recycling the plastic bottle idea came to me. I painted it yellow, stuck an old cabinet handle onto it, fixed three felt nails on the top to represent the valves, and it became my 'trumpet'. Margaret found a tin can guitar in a charity shop, and we were ready to make our first appearance.

The first venue was The Blue Bell at Callow End, near Worcester where Sue, the landlady, was very supportive,

and helped make our Music Specials a huge success. The smallest was Malvern's Little Theatre of Conveniences that only holds twelve people. The theatre used to be a gents' toilet and you might say we were flushed with success, even having three American tourists turn up!

Quite soon, the format changed a little and I decided to hire live performers, the most high profile ones so far being Spats Langham and Remi Harris. To date, we have put on 43 such occasions at different venues in the Worcester area, always in aid of a charity, and so far have raised well over £7,000 for various charities, including Acorns Children's Hospice, The Stroke Association, Macmillan Cancer, Asperger's Association and the Royal Lifeboat Association.

So, the next time you put a plastic bottle in the recycling bin, think of me using it to perform in front of a live audience!

"My interest is in the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there."

Charles F Kettering

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## Callow End WI

Callow End WI held their A G M and garden meeting on Thursday 3rd July in the beautiful garden of one of our members. We enjoyed tasty cream scones and strawberries, baked and prepared by our members. A fun quiz was won by a team of four, receiving prizes of chocolate.



Our next meeting will be held in Callow End village hall on Thursday 7th August. This will be our 'Pudding night' when we invite other WIs and friends to join us.

### Spot & Shop - July Winners

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Thersea Millward   | 5) Liz Coward          |
| 2) Clive Spencer      | 6) Mrs Sheila Shettard |
| 3) Sonia Dorrell      | 7) Hillary Price       |
| 4) Mrs Derreth Thomas |                        |

Last month's answer:  
Worcester Podiatry

SPOT  
&  
SHOP!

### COMPETITION TIME!

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

Chance  
to WIN  
£50  
CASH

This  
month's  
anagram  
OR  
SMALLER  
VAN

#### 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!

**Powick Times closing date: 22nd August 2025**

Answer:

Name:


Telephone/email:

Return to: Hughes & Company/Powick Times

8 Church Street, Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1DT



## Story Time With the classics



**Whittington Church**  
Inside the Church with a Craft. If nice we can sit outside.

Thursdays 10am: 24 Jul, 31 Jul, 08 Aug, 14 Aug, 21 Aug

Church of St Philip & St James, Whittington,  
Worcester WR5 2RQ



**Quiet music  
for a Summer Afternoon**  
A concert of light classical music  
**Joanne Jefferis & Mike Elden**  
'Cello & Piano  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 3.00pm



Followed by refreshments  
Free entry with donations to  
Church funds & Mentorlink  
Local parking will be signposted

[www.whittingtonchurch.co.uk](http://www.whittingtonchurch.co.uk)

Powick Community Choir

The award winning  
**Powick Community Choir**

is looking for new members from  
across the Worcestershire area.  
Open to all vocal parts, but tenors and  
basses are especially welcome!  
No auditions, but previous singing  
experience desirable.

Rehearsals at Powick Village Hall  
Sundays from 16:15 to 17:45  
Thursdays 19:00 to 20:15

**Come along and  
give us a free trial**

[www.powickcommunitychoir.info/join-us](http://www.powickcommunitychoir.info/join-us)  
Tom Wells - 07702 996203




**Rural Reels Films**  
Callow End Village Hall  
Doors open at 7.00pm -  
Films starts at 7.30pm  
Tickets £5 each

Tickets can be bought on-line and will also be  
available on the door subject to availability.

No bar. You are welcome to bring your own  
drinks and snacks.

Tea, coffee and squash will be served.

[www.callowendvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.callowendvillagehall.co.uk)

**Malvern Folk  
Dance Club**

Wednesday afternoons  
2pm - 4pm

at St Andrew's Church Hall,  
Churchdown Road, Malvern WR14 3JX

Gentle dancing, no partner necessary

Admission £4

If you would like more information  
please contact:  
Marion Couston  
01684 310378




**Community hedge for Callow End playing field**

The roadside hedge at Callow End playing field is old and slowly dying  
from Dutch Elm disease. To act on this PACE has applied for 420 free  
hedging saplings from the Woodland Trust with the intention of creating  
a new hedge within the boundary fence. The plants will be delivered in  
the autumn and once established the new hedge will be of mixed species  
providing a varied, colourful and nutritional habitat for wildlife.

We will need help to prepare the ground, plant the saplings and to  
nurture the new hedge as it becomes established.

We would like the community to join us with this project, if you can  
help please contact:

Felicity Williams  
Tel: 01905 830425  
Email: [fwilliams@powick-pc.org.uk](mailto:fwilliams@powick-pc.org.uk)

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The Hall (Next to Tewkesbury Abbey),  
50 Church Street, Tewkesbury GL20 5SN

WEDNESDAYS  
**Malvern i-Sing Choir -  
10.15am until 11.45am**  
Eden Church, Grovewood Road,  
Malvern WR14 1GD

**Phone: 0845 838 2202**  
**Email: [helen@i-singchoirs.co.uk](mailto:helen@i-singchoirs.co.uk)**



# Care home residents celebrate Wimbledon final



*Pictured – Lesley & Hugh Richards, Valerie Wilson and Emma Steel*

Residents at Elgar Court Care home welcomed and hosted guests from the Malvern community for the Wimbledon finals on Sunday 13th July between Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz.

Tennis fans at Elgar Court Care home were delighted to be able to watch this year's 138th Championships with their local community whilst enjoying the traditional Wimbledon treats of strawberry and cream in the comfort of their air-conditioned cinema and lounges – which was a definite plus in this summer heat!

Sarah Cadwallader, General Manager at the home, said: "We've had a fantastic time

celebrating the Wimbledon final today, it is always a firm favourite with our residents. Residents and families and community guests have been enjoying every minute!" Resident, Lesley Richards commented: "I absolutely loved watching Wimbledon, it is definitely my favourite annual sporting event. It was lovely to celebrate the final with everyone at Elgar Court and to enjoy the delicious strawberries and cream while we watched this exciting match."

Elgar Court Care home is run by Barchester Healthcare, one of the UK's largest care providers and offers residential care, respite care and Dementia Care.

# Improvement works start on Malvern Town FC

Improvement works have commenced on the main car park at Malvern Town Football Club. The works, which started on 9th July and will take twelve weeks, will involve the resurfacing and reconfiguration of the club's main car park, along with the installation of an overflow car park. The project's aim is to improve the accessibility, safety and visual appearance of the club, as well as reducing the amount of on-street parking around the local community during match days.

*Improvements include:*

- Main car park - providing spaces for 51 vehicles, with four accessible bays and bike storage, improved pedestrian walkways, drainage, fencing, a wider entrance.

- Overflow car park, located behind the south-side goal end - providing additional 33 vehicle spaces.

Malvern Hills District Council

has invested over £425k for the upcoming project, which forms part of the Community Infrastructure Investment Plan that was adopted by the council in March 2025. The Plan will see over £3m invested into the council's own assets, including the Hill Community Centre, Sport Martley and new community open space adopted by the council in Leigh Sinton. A further £1m will be invested into community-owned assets through the Community Legacy Grant Scheme.

"This is a great project which will really benefit the club, its visitors and the local community," says Cllr Jennie Watkins.

"It's important that we continue to invest in community hubs to help support and improve the health and wellbeing of local residents."

Chris Pinder, Chairman at Malvern Town FC, adds: "We're hugely grateful to

MHDC for backing our grand vision for the club. This project will benefit everyone who uses the stadium and further strengthen the club's role at the heart of the community. We can't wait to cut the ribbon on the new arrival experience in just twelve weeks' time."



## Church Services and Online Worshipping Opportunities for Your Church in the Old Hills Malvern Churches

### AUGUST 2025

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Trinity 7

9.30am Living Communion at GUARLFORD

11.00am Living Communion at POWICK

(Both with Revd Gary Crellin)

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August

Trinity 8

9.30am Living Communion at CALLOW END

(With Rev Dr William Rumball)

11.00am Living Communion at MADRESFIELD

(With Father Chris Sterry)

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August

Trinity 9

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at POWICK - CANCELLED

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at GUARLFORD

(With Rev Stephen Sealy)

11.00am VJ 80 Service at POWICK

(With Rev Canon Eric Knowles)

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August

Trinity 10

9.30am Living Communion at CALLOW END

(With Rev Dr William Rumball)

11.00am Living Communion at MADRESFIELD

(With Father Chris Sterry)

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August

Trinity 11

10.30am Café Church at CALLOW END

Midweek Communion at The Orchard Room in Colletts Green

Thursdays 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> August from 10.30-11.30am

01905 830270 [www.aldhillsmalvern.co.uk](http://www.aldhillsmalvern.co.uk)

For Zoom Access codes and links, please contact us via [revgarycrellin@gmail.com](mailto:revgarycrellin@gmail.com) or [aldhillsmalvern@gmail.com](mailto:aldhillsmalvern@gmail.com)



## Powick Times

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# Powick Times



## Powick CE Primary School

We are a friendly school community with our children and their families at its heart. All of our pupils benefit from a broad and engaging curriculum which has been carefully designed to ensure our pupils have every opportunity to progress in their knowledge and skills and to build a lifelong

love of learning. As a Church of England school, we work closely with our local church community and have a distinctive Christian vision which places our pupils, staff, families and communities at its heart.

Ofsted May 2025 rated Powick CE Primary School as 'GOOD'

in all areas: 'Pupils enjoy school and the wide range of additional activities on offer ... Pupils live up to the school's intention for all pupils to do well'.

Places are still available for our Reception Class to start in September 2025 and across some other year groups in school.

Please contact Powick CE Primary School on 01905 830336

or email: [office@powick.dowmat.education](mailto:office@powick.dowmat.education) from the 1st September.

Term Starts for pupils on the 4th September 2025.



## What's on in your local club

### ✳ Exciting News for June!

We are launching our first-ever Immersive Movie Night Experience with the feel-good classic: **Mamma Mia!** Sing along, dress up, enjoy a Greek Mezze buffet and dance in the aisles, it's a movie night like no other!

### Coming Soon:

We are proud to introduce the award winning **Hawkstone Premium** lager to our taps this month — another exciting first for the club!

**Hawkstone**



### Regular Events:

- Live Music
- Monthly Pub Quizzes
- Darts, Pool & Snooker Tables
- Movie Nights (**Mamma Mia! 28th June**)
- Foody Friday: Showcasing, exciting street food vendors
- Club available for hire for events & private parties
- Well stocked bar and a warm welcome

Ran by volunteers for the local community! Membership £12.00 per year!

Come and see us, get involved, and be part of something special!

Check our social media pages above for regular updates and further information.



[thecallowendclub.co.uk](http://thecallowendclub.co.uk)



[thecallowendclub](https://www.facebook.com/thecallowendclub)



[thecallowendclub](https://www.instagram.com/thecallowendclub)



01905 830640



[info@thecallowendclub.co.uk](mailto:info@thecallowendclub.co.uk)