

Powick Times

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



Issue 23

May 2025

FREE



Spring Lamb

We have launched a new newspaper, **The Whittington Times!** This gives us a residential population in the five postal areas we cover of nearly 90,000 citizens. We look forward to establishing this new project very much indeed, to join our Pershore, Upton, Powick and Kempsey newspapers. Exciting times ahead! Summer is here! Lovely sunny days, the countryside looking fantastic. The sights and sounds are wonderful, yet all the news seems full of doom and gloom! We have to keep on going in spite of all this madness and no better place than in our lovely county of Worcestershire.

We have so much to enjoy, with great history, sport, fabulous

hostelries and countryside with an abundance of wildlife.

One aspect that is disturbing though is 'Social Media'. I am sure many people have been shocked at the way young people are horribly manipulated online! Some of us do not like or take part in any form of social media. We at Hughes & Company have even cancelled our website! Hopefully the new legislation will be successful in protecting young people. We will be celebrating the VE and VJ Day 80th anniversaries, street parties and all sorts of local festivities are taking

place. They were amazing, unforgettable times. Against the odds we did it, somehow the 'Brits' always manage to come good in the end! We will remember forever, those who didn't come home.



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Easter Message from Rev Gary

Dear Friends

As we move through this joyful Easter season, I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who helped make our Holy Week and Easter services so meaningful across the Old Hills Malvern Churches. From Palm Sunday at Guarlford, the Maundy Thursday liturgy (thank you to the Vicars' Wives that volunteered for foot washing ...yes, two Priests were involved!) to Good Friday, and finally to the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter morning, there was a real sense of togetherness and faith running through our churches. I was very pleased that each church managed to open at some point on Good Friday, and the Tenebrae Service at Powick was very well received. Every church had an Easter Day service and all were better attended than normal. We even had an Easter baptism at Powick too. And I made it up the tower to see the Powick bellringers - to the cry "he is risen indeed".

There was something especially powerful about gathering on Easter morning - the early light

breaking through stained glass in our churches and the bells ringing out at Powick and Madresfield. In a world that often feels weighed down by uncertainty and loss, the resurrection reminds us that hope always has the final word. Thank you to everyone who prepared the churches, arranged flowers, played music, read scripture, and welcomed visitors. It takes many hands and hearts to create something so special. We also had a splendid collection for St Richards and SightSavers - amassed from our Lenten Groups, School Assemblies and Sunday worship. Of particular note was a generous donation of £170 from Madresfield Primary School.

Now, as we look ahead, the journey continues. The season of Easter stretches for 50 days, culminating in Ascension and Pentecost - two events that remind us that God's story isn't finished. Ascension Day, which we'll mark on Thursday 29th May, is a moment of holy mystery. Jesus leaves the disciples in body, but not in spirit. He entrusts them—and

us—with the mission to be his hands and feet in the world.

The Deanery will be recognising the work of our Licensed Lay Ministers across Malvern and Upton at a special service at Upton Parish Church at 7pm.

Then, just ten days later, on the 8th June, we'll celebrate Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples, empowering them to speak boldly and live courageously. It's sometimes called the Church's birthday, and it's a chance for us to think about what it means to be the Church today: not just a building, but a people sent out in love, justice, and compassion. This is poignant as the Diocese begins its Health and Vitality Assessment of each and every church across the Diocese in May. Do hold those being interviewed, on behalf of their churches in our parishes, I'm in your prayers. Talking of Health and Vitality, I will be away for a few weeks in May as I am having surgery on that troublesome gallbladder. There is good cover for Sunday worship in place - I am so grateful for the colleagues that will be covering for me whilst I am away.

And as we reflect on the promise of new life, we also pause to remember the sacrifices of the past. Our village VE Day services on Sunday 4th May will be



moments to honour the courage, endurance, and community spirit of those who lived through the Second World War. We remember not only what was lost, but what was preserved: freedom, peace, and the hope of a better world. It will be good to see you attend the Church Services at Powick and Guarlford on the 4th May. The Royal British Legion will be in attendance at Powick, and they will be marking VE Day itself on the 9th May at the Callow End War Memorial - which I hope will be renovated to good order in time. In all of this - celebration and remembrance - we find the threads of our faith woven through daily life. Christ is risen, yes, but He also goes before us every tomorrow. As we move from Easter to Ascension and Pentecost, may we be open to the Spirit's leading, rooted in love, and ready to bring light where it's needed most.

With every blessing,

Rev Gary



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

MAY 2025

Sunday 4th May

The Third Sunday of Easter

9.30am Easter Communion at GUARLFORD
11.00am Easter Communion at POWICK

Sunday 11th May

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Easter Communion at CALLOW END
11.00am Easter Communion at MADRESFIELD

Sunday 18th May

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at POWICK
9.30am BCP Holy Communion at GUARLFORD
11.00am Morning Praise at POWICK

Sunday 25th May

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Easter Communion at CALLOW END
11.00am Easter Communion at MADRESFIELD

Thursday 29th May

Ascension Day

7.00pm Deanery Ascension Day Service at UPTON PARISH CHURCH
A Celebration of Licensed Lay Ministry

Midweek Communion at The Orchard Room in Colletts Green
Thursdays 8th & 22nd May from 10.30-11.30am



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A few words from...

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP



Dame Harriett Baldwin MP (left) with Alan White.

Blueprint for Malvern Jobs Growth

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP has welcomed a plan which will help entrepreneurs to create new jobs and growth in Malvern. The MP met with Malvern Hills Science Park chief executive Alan White to hear about plans to support companies to thrive and grow in the town.

The popular science park has seen a boost in requests for space with business people choosing to base their businesses at the heart of Malvern.

And the delivery of the dual carriageway Southern Link Road by Worcestershire County Council has enabled easier car journeys to and from the M5 and made sites like Malvern Hills Science Park much more attractive. Dame Harriett was also updated on the long-term plan to add extra capacity to the popular science park which will support businesses of all sizes to set up and grow. Dame Harriett said: "Malvern Hills Science Park has been quietly supporting businesses to thrive and it has been the secret weapon of the

Worcestershire County Council's economic growth plan. Working with a Conservative administration at the County Council, I've witnessed significant growth ever since I was first elected to the MP for West Worcestershire in 2010 with the science park sitting at the heart of the strategy. Alan White has done an amazing job ushering in two entire new blocks on the site and dovetailing into a strong local growth strategy. There are more exciting plans on the table, and I took the opportunity to thank Alan and his team for the great work they are doing to secure economic confidence for the whole county. Malvern Hills Science Park chief executive Alan White added: "I am very grateful to Dame Harriett who has been an exceptional advocate for businesses in Worcestershire in general, and Malvern in particular. She has strongly promoted our work at the science park, supporting the delivery of our new developments, and helping us to attract more businesses to the site."

Children & Residents Easter Bunny Hunt



One lucky girl with an armful of eggs, other children with their prizes! Residents at Elgar Court Residential care home, on St Andrews Road in Malvern, celebrated the start of the school Easter holidays with children, on a giant Easter Egg Hunt to find the hidden bunnies inside. Residents enjoyed joining in and watching the children hunting for the eggs-tensive number of brightly coloured Easter eggs hidden around the gardens. Children had to find twelve easter bunny tickets in the eggs to gain their prize of a choice of chocolate eggs. The children had so much fun and loved hunting around the gardens and chatting to residents. One resident didn't realise the Easter Egg hunt was on and tidied up all the eggs outside his patio

doors – he quickly hid them again and couldn't stop laughing! General Manager, Sarah Cadwallader "we love having children visit our home and chat to residents. They are such a joy and we always welcome them at these seasonal celebrations times throughout of the year – the residents love all the colourful Easter eggs and even the residents joined in and won an egg each too. It's really was an eggs-cellent Easter Egg hunt" Jenny Fletcher, resident at Elgar Court Residential care said: "It was so wonderful to see everyone go to so much effort. I really enjoy the events the staff put on, and it's been so lovely to spend time running around with the little ones, though like every Easter, I think I've eaten too much chocolate!"



Students join forces for new partnership project



Students from University College Birmingham at the Council House in Malvern.

Students from University College Birmingham have joined forces with Malvern Hills District Council to help deliver a new tourism and hospitality project. The new project aims to attract younger visitors to The Malvern, as well as promote the area as a tourism destination and a location with great employment opportunities. The students, currently studying International Tourism Management and International Hospitality and Tourism Management at the University, recently visited the Economic Development and Tourism Team at The Council House in Malvern, they will be creating a marketing strategy together, along with developing initiatives that target young people (aged 18-35).

Project features include:

- Highlighting The Malvern as an exciting, dynamic destination and an appealing, must-visit location for younger generations.
 - Promoting youth friendly activities, festivals and events.
 - The development of targeted campaigns.
 - Creation of digital and social media campaigns that connect with younger audiences, showcasing The Malvern as an adventure-filled and culturally rich destination.
- Victoria Carman, Visitor Economy and Towns Manager at Malvern Hills District Council, said: "The district offers an excellent opportunity for tourism growth, and employment, and we are really looking forward to working in partnership with the University on this great new project".



Worcestershire Parkway - A-buzz with excitement over bee-friendly exhibition

Great Western Railway is hosting a display of bee-friendly skeps designed by artists and local schoolchildren to promote bee conservation along rail networks. In partnership with Worcestershire Community Rail Project (CRP), Platform and the Bee Friendly Trust, the Bee Friendly Skep Project has arrived at the station in the form of eight beautifully decorated bee skeps, which are bringing a warm spring welcome to visitors to the station.

A bee skep is a traditional form of beehive. They are typically made from wicker or straw, woven and coiled tightly into a bell-shaped or flat-topped structure.

Worcestershire CRP received £1,000 from the Community Rail Development Fund to host educational workshops for pupils from Norton Juxta Kempsey CofE Primary School and the aptly named Honeybourne Primary School.

Three workshops were held; two in classrooms where the children decorated the skeps and one at Worcestershire Parkway station. The Bee Friendly Trust facilitated the workshops in conjunction with Platform, a rail education scheme that works with schools to empower young people in accessing the railways. Platform delivered important rail safety education and also brought children by train to the station workshop.

The station workshop featured a hive of activity where children learned about bee conservation, took part in gardening and unveiled the display of the eight uniquely designed skeps, with artistic contributions by themselves as well as professional artists. One of those artists, Sarah Hoyle, is no stranger to GWR's stations having also painted a bee-themed mural at Oxford station in partnership with the Bee Friendly Trust back in 2021.



Local schoolchildren taking part in the workshop at Worcestershire Parkway Station



The Great Horse picture

Tim Hickson

The recent racing at Cheltenham reminded me of the picture at the top of the main staircase in Croome Court. This was from the days when races were between just two horses unlike today's races where the field may have many horses. This race took place near the Chateau Impney and was to settle a bet between two local landowners as to whose horse was fastest. The loser had to build a set of almshouses in Droitwich and, furthermore, to name them after the winner's owner. If you go to Droitwich, to a street named The Holloway, you can find the almshouses. Look, online for the Coventry Charity. Croome's huge picture shows the Coventry's winning horse and its rider. If you look closely at it you will notice that the jockey's right arm looks oddly twisted. As a result, that area of the picture was X-rayed. The images gained showed that the picture had been re-painted. Originally, the artist had made the horses neck too long and the man's arm looked normal. However, clearly the horse's image was more important, so its neck and head were re-painted. The painter was John Wootton and this was one of his early paintings; he was still learning. We understand that Wootton began working as a page to the Beaufort family and there he showed a gift for drawing and painting. As a consequence, when the family brought a Dutch master painter to make the family portraits, he was paid extra to give some lessons to the boy. I have a copy of the autobiography of an C18th



footman, John Macdonald, in which he makes clear that servants were treated as 'junior members of the family'. So to pay to encourage a young servant's talents would not be unusual. At Croome it is also clear that the Coventrys really looked after their staff in the same way. An example of this can be found in the kitchen in the Service Wing, known today as the Red Wing. In kitchens of this period the main food, meat, was cooked on a rotating spit in front of an open fire. The heat was so great that it was normal to have a large screen to shield the staff working in that room. Anything cooked in a saucepan had to be heated elsewhere and this was done on charcoal stoves. In every other kitchen of this time that I have visited, the charcoal stoves are found out in the room. We know, from



Hampton Court Palace charcoal stoves

contemporary writings, that the staff in those kitchens acquired respiratory problems later in life. At Croome, instead, the 6th Earl and Lancelot Brown had an opening made in the north wall into which were placed the charcoal stoves. Above them a slot went up the wall to ventilate the poisonous gases. After all,

we do not use barbecues indoors today! Other evidence is to be found in the Court of the care taken of the welfare of the staff. John Wootton went on to become a fine artist. Look on the internet for his pictures. He became the C18th's version of the C19th John Stubbs for his paintings of horses.



Almshouses



Croome Court charcoal stoves were here

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Donald Trump continues with his war on trade, wherever he feels the US is getting a bad deal. Trade with the UK has been on a fairly equal and friendly basis for many years; but almost undoubtedly President Trump will be looking for ways and means to put pressure on our Government by offering to reduce tariffs on British goods exported to the US in exchange for reductions in the standards/charges imposed by us on importation of US goods. The use of hormone implants to boost growth in beef cattle, done years ago on this and thousands of other farms across the UK (by the implantation of a small hormone pellet underneath the soft tissue of the ear), was eventually banned as its effect on human health, though not proven to be negative, was open to question. Producing beef this way is still practiced widely across the World, including the USA. Chickens are produced in the USA under far more intensive housing regimes than here in the UK; the move towards less intensive housing (and also towards 'free range') here in the UK was a move towards higher welfare standards for the birds. Much more intensive housing in

the US, combined with lower cleaning standards, means that chickens are likely to be carrying far higher levels of skin bacteria, and this is controlled by 'washing' the carcasses in chlorine towards the end of the slaughter and preparation process. Both hormone implantation of beef cattle and chlorine washing of chicken carcasses are measures that would be illegal if either formed part of the overall farming and food production process here, and the NFU and other organisations representing UK farmers have been fighting hard to have any importation of beef or chicken produced in this way banned. I am certain in my own mind these two practices will be bones of contention when US/UK tariff rules come under intensive discussion.

World reserves of grain stand at around 750 million tonnes—which might sound a lot, but that figure has been going down slowly over the last ten years or so. But in World annual consumption figures it is not a huge figure and countries such as Russia, a major grains producer, are increasingly ready, it seems, to use threats to control their exports as a means of achieving political objectives. We live in a strange



world, and certainly one where the UK being as self-sufficient as possible in basic foodstuffs provision is important. Having said everything above, it is good to see the weather this time round is behaving itself in a more usual fashion, with crops and grass growing nicely and fields starting to fill with flocks of ewes with lambs at foot and herds of cattle let out from their winter quarters and free to graze. But one matter for further thought has emerged just recently there: the possibility of 'growing' meat in the laboratory. It has been on the news recently as a possible means of making food available to those astronauts

living on the International Space Station, without the need of repeated trips by rocket, at huge expense estimated to be around £20,000 per person per day. Is it possible that in years to come, with advancement in production techniques, food will be grown in the lab on such a scale that millions of acres will no longer be needed and allowed to revert to nature? The realist in me says, "no," But would a farmer mowing an acre a day for hay with a scythe 100 years ago have ever imagined the tractor powered mowing machines of today being able to achieve cutting rates of 20 acres an hour?

The Home Wrecker

Visitors to Pershore's Avon Meadows were probably alarmed when large machines appeared last month and started clearing reeds in the pond. Just one month on though the fresh green shoots of new reeds are appearing, and the birds seem untroubled by the disruption. It's a hot spot for birds, some of whom breed in the reeds and will build their nests there. Among them are the tiny reed warblers, who have flown back from Africa, swiftly followed by one of our most iconic birds – the cuckoo. Listen for cuckoos in the willows around the wetland. They are now endangered birds but you can often see and hear them here in Spring. They are

looking for reed warbler nests where they will lay an egg; once the cuckoo chick emerges it will tip all other eggs and chicks out of the nest, taking all the food brought in by its foster parents and giving rise to one of its nicknames – the home wrecker! They only stay here briefly – as the old ditty says, 'The cuckoo comes in April, he sings his song in May, he changes his tune in the middle of June and then he flies away.' So head down to Avon Meadows and, if you are lucky, you might hear this amazing bird, right here on your doorstep. *Karen Rose, A biodiversity officer for Wychavon District Council*



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Gardening to save our butterflies, bees and birds

Newly released data by the Butterfly Conservation has shown that 2024 was one of the worst years on record for butterflies in the UK and, for the first time on record, more than half of butterfly species in the UK are now in long-term decline. Last year our spring weather was really wet which was followed by a cool summer, which isn't conducive to butterflies, so the numbers were depleted further.

So, what can we do to support our pollinators and wildlife?

Here's my Top-Tips ...

- Have a wide variety of habitats which will welcome a wider variety of wildlife to your garden. Include a tree and shrubs if you can. Birds need places to roost, nest and escape to.

- Choose plants which flower, seed and bear fruit at different times of the year as this will give year-round food for the different wildlife that live in your garden.

- Create a watering-hole for the insects and birds. Keep a container with water and stones in it (so insects can rest without drowning) - remember to keep it topped up and clean.

No Mow May is here, and I've read mixed advice on this topic. Some reports say don't mow until September to support insect egg laying. But this is only doable if you can leave a section of lawn to grow wild – not everyone has the luxury of space to do this. Also, some of our favourite garden birds need places to forage and a mown lawn is easier for them to find food such as grubs and worms. It's about balance!

According to the results of the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch, our favourite garden birds are also declining even though the most sighted bird in our gardens are the sparrows, these are reducing in numbers. Bear in mind different birds eat different things!

Birds such as Woodpeckers and Blackbirds are ground feeders and will feed on grubs and worms in the soil. Worms are a good indicator of healthy soil, so it's important not to use chemicals such as slug pellets and lawn feeds as most contain toxins which are harmful to birds. Grow sunflowers as these are brilliant for pollinators when they're in flower, followed by fabulous seeds which Finches love to feast on.

Shrubs with lots of berries such as Cotoneaster, rose hips and Holly supply vital food sources during the autumn and winter months so don't cut these back until the spring.

If you can, grow a natural hedge and include varieties such as hawthorn, beech, spindle and alder (plenty more to choose from). But avoid cutting hedges between March and September which is the main bird nesting season. Under the Wildlife and



Nikki Hollier

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Countryside Act (1981), wild birds' nests are protected from intentional damage, destruction or removal when they are in use or being built.

As you can see there are lots of little changes, we can adopt easily to help our wildlife and help stop the decline.



May gardening tips

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester

Early May

Keep all newly planted items well-watered. This includes ones planted last autumn.

Sow seeds of herbaceous plants. Sow or turf new lawns and keep mowing established ones – but not too low.

Treat difficult lawn weeds e.g. clovers, black medic with Weedol Lawn Weedkiller, it has the right ingredients for these weeds.

Hang up a codling moth trap in your apple tree, or a plum moth one in your plum tree, to reduce the number of maggoty fruit.

There is also now a trap readily available for catching box tree moths which are now quite widespread in our area.

Plant out cabbage, cauliflower and other brassicas but take precautions against root fly. Keep on top of pest and disease outbreaks, as well as controlling weeds.

Don't forget your houseplants

feed and water them regularly. Control algae and blanketweed in ponds.

Mid May

Sow suitable varieties of pansies to flower from autumn throughout the winter. Sow biennials for flowering next spring onwards e.g. wallflowers, myosotis, sweet williams, foxgloves and honesty. Plant out chrysanthemums for flowering in borders or for cutting. Plant out summer bedding plants when frost risk is minimal.

Tie in wallshrubs and climbers to their supports try to train them at 45 degrees or horizontally to encourage flowering.

Trim over aubretia and arabis after flowering to keep them neat. Prune wall trained pyracantha and chaenomeles after flowering. Keep strawberry fruits off the soil using straw or mats.

Cut down spring flowering perennials – e.g. pulmonarias and doronicums after flowering

to produce a neat mound of new foliage. Untrimmed plants often become mildewed.

Sow swedes, beetroot, carrots, parsnips, French and runner beans outdoors.

Plant out sweet corn in blocks, rather than a long row, as they are wind pollinated.

Take cuttings from dahlias and chrysanthemums for flowering later in summer.

Plant tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, cucumbers etc. in a cold greenhouse or outdoors if in sheltered site.

Make up summer flowering hanging baskets and containers.

Late May

Brighten up your patio with some spectacular frost tender container plants, like brugmansia.

Prune clematis montana straight after flowering, if they are getting out of bounds.

Plant out leeks, marrows,



courgettes and melon plants.

Enjoy more herbs by sowing Basil, Coriander and Parsley every fortnight.

Spinach often runs to seed if sown after mid-May – so sow leaf beet instead.

Sow some half-hardy annuals for use a winter pot plants e.g. calceolarias, schizanthus and cinerarias.

Sow ornamental cabbage and kale for winter colour in tubs and borders.

Beware of houseplants getting scorched on sunny windowsills. Listen to the weather forecast in case of any nasty late frosts.

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Ailsa's Kitchen *Ailsa Craddock*

British asparagus and Jersey Royal potatoes! The potatoes have been grown on the island for 140 years and today there are approximately 20 island farmers who grow them (and often no other crops) on approximately 7,300 acres and can only be grown on Jersey to have the name. As for the asparagus, we are very lucky to live in the Valley of Evesham, one of the homes of British asparagus. I know you can buy this most of the year from abroad - but there is nothing like the Real Thing from just around the corner! These three recipes are using our two British stalwarts - but with a twist.

New Potato Salad with aioli -

Crisp, golden new potatoes, paired with fresh radish and a zingy aioli – for when you can't get enough of them and don't need any meat.

1kg baby new potatoes
80g salted butter
1 large onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tsp yellow mustard seeds, lightly crushed
2 tsp coriander seeds, lightly crushed
1 tsp Dijon mustard
Juice of a lemon
200g radishes, thinly sliced
a bunch dill, roughly torn
2 egg yolks
2 large cloves garlic, crushed
Juice and zest of 2 (more) lemons
250ml olive oil, plus extra for frying

Cook the potatoes in a large pan of boiling salted water for 15-20 minutes or until tender. Drain and cool. Cook the butter and onion in a large frying pan for 5 minutes or until turning translucent. Add the garlic and fry for another 5 minutes. Add

the mustard seeds and coriander seeds, and fry until starting to smell fragrant.

Add the Dijon mustard and juice of 1 lemon and mix. Transfer to a bowl. Tip the cooled potatoes onto a clean worksurface and use the flat side of a knife to lightly squash each one. Fry the potatoes in a little more oil in a large non-stick frying pan for 10-15 minutes or until starting to crisp up.

Tip onto kitchen paper to drain. In the meantime, make the aioli. Put the egg yolks, garlic, lemon juice and plenty of seasoning in a small blender, and whizz until smooth.

Slowly drizzle in the olive oil while still blending on a low speed, until it emulsifies, thickens and is smooth.

Put the crispy smashed potatoes into a bowl and mix in most of the onion butter and sliced radishes.

Spread the aioli across a platter and pile the potatoes on top.

Finish with a drizzle of the remaining butter and lots of fresh dill.



Crab and Asparagus with Thai Mayonnaise

Asparagus spears
crab meat
sliced sourdough bread
olive oil
handful of rocket leaves (I eat spinach nearly every day so you could use this instead)
2 - 4 tablespoons of mayonnaise
1 garlic clove, peeled and crushed
1/2 - 1 red chilli
freshly grated zest of 1 lime
1 tablespoon fish sauce (if this is the first time you have used it please don't be put off by the smell - it tastes much better!)
chopped coriander

Cook the asparagus in boiling water for 2 - 4 minutes, drain and refresh under cold running water. Stir the garlic, chilli, zest, fish sauce and coriander into the mayonnaise. Season if necessary, fold in the crab meat and set aside. Toast the bread, drizzle with olive oil and scatter over rocket or spinach leaves. Pile the crab mixture on top. Toss the cold asparagus spears in a little olive oil and arrange over the crab meat.

Alternatively, you could cook LOTS of asparagus and serve, on the side, hot with lashings butter - using any leftover toast to soak up the juices.



Changes to local government

You may have read that the Westminster government is changing the structure of local government to something called Unitary Authorities. These already exist in parts of the country, including Herefordshire. A Unitary Authority is a single tier of government, sitting between central government and local parish and town councils. Currently in Worcestershire, we have a county council that deals with things like education, transport, social care and libraries. Below them sit six district councils. Ours is Wychavon, which is responsible for services including planning

applications, waste collection, parks and green spaces and collection of Council Tax. Below the district tier are parish and town councils. Whittington Parish Council aims to reflect local opinion and works to improve the lives of its residents through liaison on local issues with district and county councillors. Parish councillors are unpaid, non-political volunteers. On 31st March 2028, Worcestershire County Council and the six district councils will be abolished and replaced the following day with either a single unitary authority, probably called Worcestershire Council or possibly a North

Worcestershire Council and a South Worcestershire Council. This is still under discussion. A unitary authority managing all the services previously controlled at County and District level should make it easier for the public to report issues. Discussions are ongoing regarding combining several unitary authorities, including Worcestershire into a 'region' with an elected 'Metro Mayor'. London, Birmingham and Manchester have had Mayors for many years, but now there are others covering places like Sheffield, East Midlands and West of England. Some services currently

managed by Wychavon may be offered to parish and town councils in the next three years, including car parks, play areas and green spaces, so the role of Whittington Parish Council may broaden to take on more responsibility. Whittington Parish Council has a vacancy on its team of nine, so if you'd like to shape the look of your parish as we go through these changes together, contact the Parish Clerk, David Hunter-Miller at clerk@whittingtonparish.gov.uk for more information or go along to their meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 27th May at Whittington Community Hall.

The Lungs of Worcester will be concreted over!



The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) named as 'The Parkway Railway Development' is the brainchild of Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council and Worcester City district Council. It has proposed 26,300 houses and over 350 hectares of employment land over the next 40 years. The plan will engulf the existing villages of Whittington, Norton, Littleworth, Drakes Broughton and Wadborough. It will impact less directly on Pershore, Kempsey and Upton on Seven, but they too will not escape the increased traffic flow, pollution and disturbance to wildlife this plan will provoke. The Parkway development will be larger than the current size of Droitwich. The countryside will be lost to an urban sprawl, becoming a suburb of Worcester.

The creation of this huge project will cause 40 years of disruption. An area larger than the current size of Pitchcroft Racecourse will be allocated to warehouse and industrial units (similar to the monolithic units currently being developed at the Ketch roundabout near Kempsey) that will overshadow Whittington. The land next to the motorway and rail station has played a large part in its selection of this development. At this time, however, there is very little planned to deal with the increase in traffic volumes that thousands of houses, distribution centres, construction traffic and railway parking expansion will bring. Gridlock on the M5 and surrounding road network is already a regular occurrence

and it will rapidly get worse. The planning inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State are currently reviewing the results of the 2022 public consultation. It is important we do not let our fears and concerns rest on this consultation alone. It will need regular repetition and re-assertion of local opinions over the next 40 years. It is fair to say Wychavon has not adopted a totally NIMBY response. Some change and development are essential and arguably, desirable. However, the authorities need to be kept abreast of our concerns. Indeed, several concerns already exist before a single turf has been cut: - Traffic flow and congestion is getting worse. Increased traffic has created 'rat runs' through Whittington, drakes Broughton, Norton and Wadborough as commercial traffic and commuters seek to avert delays.

Air and noise pollution increases and road safety for cyclists, school children, horse riders and pedestrians are put at risk. Parking at the new rail station is now inadequate, as in Pershore.

It is undoubtedly going to get worse as construction begins. Developers have also intimated they plan to build a West Midlands Distribution Centre including large warehouses on Pershore road adjacent to Whittington residential homes. It is understood these warehouses and distribution centres will operate 24 hours a day.

The impact on the village will be devastating; not only light, noise and atmospheric pollution but views obliterated.

- Schools and medical facilities are already at breaking point. There is no provision for Worcester Royal Hospital mentioned and the increase of 26000+ inhabitants must be a priority. Already Children from Whittington are unable to attend their local school because it is over subscribed. They currently travel to Worcester, Littleworth and Pershore for education. Schools, and medical facilities must be established simultaneously as housing is developed.

- When the Warndon Villages were developed a 'Green Space Officer' was appointed to coordinate the green spaces within the development. The Parkway development is twice the size of the Warndon Villages, yet no plan for such a provision has been made.

Indeed, the developer has firmly rejected the idea! What can we do?

It is true to say many residents in the area will face the rest or their natural lives existing on a construction site when development begins. The enormity of the SWDP and its 40-year gestation may seem too much for many. Some may feel there is little point in trying to protect what we currently value when faced with such a daunting challenge.

However, do not fall victim of defeatism. Keep your finger on the pulse of news, keep up to date with developments via local press and media. Exercising your democratic right to discuss issues with friends and neighbours, write or email your concerns, lobby your local councilors, MP and members of the local authority, organise or sign petitions. This is best done early, rather than late; it is easier to prevent something before it has begun rather than stop it when its underway. Support local Councilors who agree with you. In the meanwhile, it may be interesting to consider these questions:

- 1) Was Wychavon too generous and lenient in letting this development become so big? Could other areas of the county see such schemes developed?
- 2) The new development will have a town centre and at least four neighbourhood areas, plus business areas. Will the local population be consulted on this, or did our consultation stop after 2022?



Spring Bees

The overwintered hives have taken advantage of every sunny spell this spring, to get out and harvest pollen and nectar from the tree blossom. The cool wind and showers have not deterred them and there has not been any torrential rain to dilute or wash away the nectar. The quantity of blossom has also been good with no night frosts to destroy it. The combined result of all this has been a dramatic growth in the number of bees and the amount of stores in the hives, so I have been busy adding extra boxes to prevent overcrowding. Some bees are collecting dark red pollen from horse chestnut whilst others have pale yellow from apple or bright orange from dandelion. When there is an abundance of flowers, bees tend to work on just one type of flower resulting in the distinctively coloured pollen loads on the hind legs. This is called flower fidelity and is quite different from the random behaviour of flies. When a particular plant comes to the end of its flowering period the bees which had been working on it will have to find a new source of flowers. They could

just fly about to try and find a new crop but bees are able to communicate a new source to their sisters using their 'waggle dance' language. Bees returning from a good source will offer a taste to their sisters and then perform a dance on the comb resembling the shape of a capital D. The deviation of the back of the D from the vertical, corresponds to the deviation of the flower direction from the direction of the sun. Whilst making this pattern on the comb the forager waggles its abdomen and the number of waggles indicates the distance of the flowers from the hive. It then repeats the dance in a mirror image. The combination of these elements enables the bee to tell its sisters what can be found, in what direction and at what distance. The overall vigour of the dance also gives an indication of the quality of the source so that poorer sources are likely to recruit fewer foragers. By sharing information, bees can minimise the time and energy spent searching for new sources of nectar or pollen. When a bee visits a flower and takes all the nectar it leaves a scent trail

on the flower which persists for a few minutes and indicates that the flower is 'empty'. Other bees detect the scent and go to another flower and thus avoid wasting time. Bees can efficiently forage on flowers over two miles distant from the hive, giving a foraging area of over 12 square miles, and in extreme cases perhaps up to 25sq miles.

Wasps do not have communication dances. They rely on strong oily footprint scent signals which they leave at the site of food sources. These are detected by other wasps as they fly around. In experiments, they will fly to their nest and return to feeding stations very directly showing that they are very quick to learn the route. In Spring they hunt for small caterpillars and grubs to feed their young and do not need to revisit a specific location time and time again. However in autumn they will attack beehives and take the bees to feed their young and their footprint pheromone plays a part in directing their sisters to unguarded entrances or gaps in the hive woodwork.

Martyn Cracknell



This 1st Class stamp was issued in 2015



Village Life

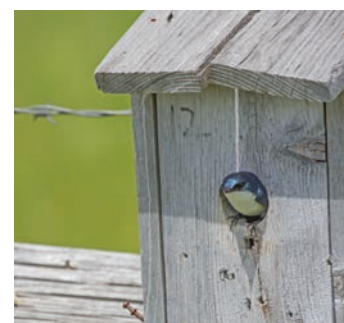
Recently our Village Association funded a dozen bird houses for our village. We were lucky enough to be drawn out of the hat and now have one in my garden. Sadly it is still vacant occupation with no takers so far. May be something to do with the magpies who have built a nest in a cherry tree close to our avian 'des res' and the smaller birds writing us off as a bit of a rough neighbourhood! Time will tell – but please spread the word there is at least one unoccupied house waiting for new residents – rent free with no deposit required! My wife and I moved our family from south London to Worcestershire many years ago when our children were young. London schools were not getting their hands on our precious children! Quite a culture shock awaited us but we soon settled and now know it was the best possible move. One of the early surprises was how long it takes to buy a loaf of bread or the weekly vegetables – people talk and are interested in who you

are. Many years in London had meant we had built walls of self-defence around us and in no way expected anyone in the street or in shops to pass the time of day. Far from it, any attempt at friendliness was likely to be regarded as intrusion into personal space and to be discouraged. I recently spent a day in London visiting former work friends. London days are now (thankfully) rare and this trip reminded me why. Who knew so many people could cram themselves into one city? My new-found rural self was genuinely shocked by the crowds milling around just about everywhere. Many seemed to be tourists or just enjoying a day out in the sunshine, but greater numbers appeared to be awfully important people focused on very serious business. Humbling (?) – or a major relief that I no longer need to identify with that tribe. Of course, one significant change since I moved away is that everyone now walks around with a mobile device inches

from their face. No awareness of others or their trajectory as we try to navigate the same pavement space, and certainly no attempt to step aside. Is this a desire to zone out of the general maelstrom they find themselves in or is it just a reflection of modern manners? I suspect a combination of both. How sad for those who miss out on their surroundings and contact with fellow humans as a result.

The highlight of any day spent in London, for me, is finally taking a seat on the train home from Paddington. Huge sigh of relief that I've made it to the train, but it's far more than that. A day of crowded streets and underground carriages during which not a single soul has made eye contact let alone exchanged a look. Then the first person you vaguely look towards on the 17.34 from Paddington smiles and you both silently know you're sharing an immense relief! On that particular journey I took a seat next to a lovely person who struck up conversation

with me when she saw me looking at a video clip of my grandson enjoying himself on a swing. We chatted for a good 20 minutes about her children and mine, sharing enjoyment of the safe zone in which we could connect with a fellow traveller for the first time that day. We're unlikely to ever meet again, but how reassuring to know we're not alone and can share refuge on our escape train! Now, to convince those magpies to roll out the welcome mat and to stop spreading rumours that we're hostile neighbours! Not much to ask.



John Driscoll

Romy's Uni Life

Romy Kemp *Liverpool University*



The Easter Break

Having three weeks off in April is great to get back into the rhythm of normal life without the stress of university essay writing. I had an essay due just before leaving to go back home and I have one due just after the Easter break. I have had quite a busy break. I've been on holiday to Newquay where the weather was nice on arrival but storms followed. It was a lovely holiday and I had been looking forward to it for months whilst at university. It was my dad's birthday whilst we were on holiday (that's why

we went on holiday) and unfortunately the day of his birthday was terrible weather of strong wind and heavy rain but a fabulous Thai takeaway made up for this!

I also visited some family in Clacton-on-Sea for a couple of days and was nice to catch up. Since it is about a five hour train journey, we do not see each other often. I will be going back to university soon after the break and it isn't long until exam season begins, so revision is underway and secondary resources are being found. The Three Counties Showground had the flea



market on recently and my friend and I went to it and had a great time. I bought two pieces of sterling silver amber jewellery pieces.

I've got my English Society Ball coming up at university and I'm extremely excited for that but am underprepared (I haven't even got a dress yet but at least I have the shoes)! I went to the ball last year and had a blast. It's a great opportunity to dress up and chat with friends in a more formal environment than university or the pub.

Recently I have been trying to find out what I want to do with my future. I still don't know

what I want to do and it is very nerve-racking because I haven't got long left at university. My mind is all over the place with what jobs and careers I would want to get involved in.

Thankfully, my university offers help and support around this topic. I will need to go to them when I return to university to discuss my options and what I would want to do with my future. I have an academic advisor at university who checks up on me every semester to check that I'm alright and doing the best I can do. She is also there in case I have any questions or concerns.



VETERINARY ADVICE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!



The Importance of Vaccination

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

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

Recommended vaccinations:

Dogs

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

Cats

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

Rabbits

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

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

Best wishes *Eliza*

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



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

Absolutely Norway

Inside the sauna, the air wrapped around my face like a hot, damp cloth. I could almost taste the coarse timber walls and slatted benches. I hadn't been in a sauna for years, not since I was much smaller and my hair much curlier, and that had been in a hotel in a faraway land called Milton Keynes. Back then, I'd had to close my eyes or wear goggles inside, otherwise the hard, grainy heat made my eyeballs dry out and tingle. Now, though, I had no goggles to hand – I'd left mine in my bedroom drawer over 700 miles away. I definitely couldn't close my eyes either. There was too much to see. Fellow reader, we weren't in Milton Keynes any more. Taking shallow breaths, me and my mates shuffled inside the sauna. We laid out our towels and perched on the tiered seating, the air dense in our lungs, the heat lulling us into a warm, sweaty stupor. Among our group, was Natdog – who you've met before – and, towering over us all, was Big Man Sam. Just when I thought interrailing would be the spectacular finale to a year of adventure, Natdog and Big Man Sam hatched a plan for a Christmas city break in Oslo. We'd taken a train from the TORP Sandefjord Airport

through the snowy woods of Narnia just to get here. Bolted into our coats, we hopped between pockets of central heating, from authentic Norwegian bakeries to less authentic 7-Eleven stores. (Oslo has a staggering number of them, about as many as there are Pret a Mangers in London). The night before, we'd gone ice skating at the Christmas market, where I was critiqued on my technique by a six-year-old who could skate and speak a second language far better than me. At the indoor market hall, Mathallen, Big Man Sam tried an elk burger with cloudberries, while I enjoyed a Frydenlund Pilsner. Now, we began a new day at the Oslo Badstuforening sauna. You see, this was a floating sauna, buoyed on the leaden waters of the Oslofjord. Across the water, stood the opera house. Its snow-capped roof slopes upwards from ground level around a jutting, geometric atrium. Icy stairs offer tourists the opportunity to watch the sun as it sets over the fjord, then to break their necks as they slip on the way back down. Norway definitely commits to winter more fiercely than Britain, and it took some getting used to. No wonder these warm, cosy saunas were so popular. I admired the stoic calmness

exhibited by a man sitting beside me, one leg crossed over the other, reading the morning paper, becoming shinier and shinier. Imagine doing this routinely, the self-control, the mindfulness you could attain. People came and left to take the plunge, while we had fun ladling water onto the coals and steaming up the place. Each person's exit was followed by a moment of high-stakes tension when they forgot to close the door properly and compromised our bubble of precious warmth. Inevitably, one of our group – maybe it was Big Man Sam – made the announcement: "I'm actually quite hot in here, lads." The sauna is clever like that, slowly roasting you until you feel stoked-up enough to brave the water outside. Being with a group of mates also bolstered my confidence – I don't know where newspaper-man (sitting alone beside me) had honed his steely self-determination to be here without peer pressure. So, out we marched. The clipped voice of newspaper-man: "Please close the –" I pulled it to. The frigid air rallied every goose bump on my body. Ice crinkled on the water. Earlier, we'd seen a bulky giant of a man (a descendent of Vikings, I



imagined) last barely ten seconds in the water. How would we fare? We made our way along the gangplank. I descended the ladder. Deep breaths ... de-eeppp b-b-b-breathsss – aahh – oooh – take the photo! In one of the photos immortalising this experience, Natdog and Big Man Sam tense their arms like Mr Universe, while I manage a rictus grin of shock. Adrenaline coursed through us. I managed three separate plunges in all. We got so psyched up that some of the others kept wanting to jump back in. Nope, no way! Three times was plenty for me. We scurried back inside the sauna to take stock of ourselves. My body tingled in the newfound heat. (Newspaper-man thumbed his page calmly.) Time for another day of adventure, for thick socks, warm coffees and cinnamon buns. Grinning, dripping and panting, we left to get changed – closing the sauna door behind us!

Evie's Teenage Focus *Evie Aubin Oxford Brookes University*

A few months ago, I was telling all of you how nervous I was to go to university. Now I'm almost at the point where I'm moving out, and to be completely transparent, it all seems rather absurd to me. As I write this, I am nearing the end of my two weeklong Easter holidays. When I go back to university, I will have only one week left of teaching before my first year at university is over. I have a couple of assignments due around the start of May, but after that I will be completely finished. My friends however, still have exams till the end of the month. At the moment my plan is to stay with them until they are done as well. Despite being in Oxford for almost a year there are still a bunch of things that we all want to do before our first year is over, and

now that the weather is getting warmer it's the perfect time. One of those things that we are still desperate to do, is to go river punting. Every time we get the bus on our way to Westgate, we go over the bridge, see the boats, and think wow, we should do that. And then we never do. So we have made it our goal that by the end of the year we will go on the punting boats and get ourselves down the river. However, after that, I don't know what I will be doing the rest of the time. I think that it's been mentioned that once we are all finished, we might go lake swimming as it's meant to be a "popular" thing to do, but I'm not entirely convinced yet, the thought doesn't really thrill me all that much. Even though my friends have insane ideas such as

swimming in a dirty lake, the thought of moving out and away from them and university, even if I'll be back in a few months for my second year, now seems just as daunting as moving in. Of course I cannot wait to be back home and be with my family again but now, I have the same problem I did as when I was back home over Christmas, that I'll miss all the new and amazing people that I have met at university. Of course we are all planning to meet up lots over summer, either for day trips in London or at each other's houses, but after getting into a rhythm where we see each other every day it's a rather large change. But as always, I will keep myself busy, I have a bunch of friends here that I cannot wait to catch up with again. In



addition to that I've just started a new job! I've gone from McDonald's to Costa coffee. I know it isn't that drastic of a change, but I've had two shifts there so far and I can already tell that there will be a massive difference (a good one I think). By the next time I write to you I might have already moved out, so wish me luck, and I will tell you how it goes next time. Until then, toodles!

The Walled Gardens at Croome Court



Chris & Karen Cronin, photo by Kitchen Garden Magazine

Nestled within the stunning landscape of Croome Court near Pershore, The Walled Gardens are a hidden gem of historical and horticultural significance. Dating back to the 18th century, these Georgian gardens were once a thriving hub of cultivation, supplying exotic fruits and vegetables to the Croome estate. However, years of neglect saw them fall into ruin. In 2000, Chris and Karen Cronin embarked on an ambitious restoration journey, rescuing the gardens from decay and lovingly bringing them back to life. Now privately owned and carefully maintained, The Walled Gardens at Croome Court stand as one of Britain's most important restorations of its kind, beautifully blending heritage with contemporary gardening practices.

This year marks a momentous milestone as the Cronins celebrate 25 years since they first began their journey to rescue these historic Georgian walled gardens from ruin. Over the past quarter of a century, the transformation has been nothing short of remarkable, thanks to their dedication, vision, and tireless efforts.

The story of The Walled Gardens at Croome Court is one of passion, perseverance, and a deep appreciation for history. The gardens, once part of the Coventry family estate, were among the largest Georgian walled gardens in Europe. By the time Chris and Karen encountered them, the gardens were almost unrecognisable, overgrown with wild brambles, the remnants of agricultural buildings in disrepair, and little more than a shadow of their former glory. To many, the restoration seemed an insurmountable challenge, but the Cronins saw something few others could, the hidden potential beneath the decay.

With a clear vision and an insatiable curiosity for the garden's secrets, the Cronins

committed themselves to the immense task of restoration. Over the past 25 years, they have worked meticulously to restore not only the natural beauty of the gardens but also their rich historical significance. This involved careful reconstruction of the landscape, preservation of original features, and a sensitive restoration approach to maintain the gardens' authenticity while ensuring they thrive for future generations. Throughout their journey, Chris and Karen have uncovered historical treasures and long-forgotten secrets hidden beneath the years of neglect. The project

has been a labour of love, culminating in the opening of the gardens to the public, allowing visitors to experience the awe and wonder that first captivated the Cronins. While the primary restoration is complete, the project continues to evolve. As the garden matures, it reveals new elements and hidden features, ensuring that its story, and the Cronins' dedication, lives on. The Walled Gardens at Croome Court are not just a restored historical site; they are a living testament to the power of vision, dedication, and the enduring beauty of nature.



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

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



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

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

All proceeds support the ongoing restoration of this historic landscape. Exclusive group tours outside regular hours are available for parties of 15 or more. For enquiries, email info@croomewalledgardens.com.

Discover a hidden gem and explore centuries of history in bloom.

Website: www.croomewalledgardens.com

Facebook: The Walled Gardens at Croome Court

Instagram: @croome_walled_gardens

X: @Croome_Gardens

Sweet dreams are made of this . . .

Angela Johns

I ditched New Years Resolutions years ago. They seemed only to be something with which to berate myself when, a few months down the line, I had dismally failed to keep them. Instead, not long ago, I made a vision board, a manifestation board, a dream board. This shifts the focus from the whats to the hows. It gives a visual of your ideas and dreams.

I spent an evening with a couple of friends cutting pictures out of magazines and getting glue all over my fingers and everything else. We hunched over large pieces of A5 paper in full concentration and mine is now stuck to the side of my fridge with magnets. We three were so engrossed on our own creations that we didn't really look at each other's until we were done. We were all rather amused to see that what we had produced had unintentionally reflected our personalities quite well. Amazing how a collage can do that.

My vision board is colourful and I have already manifested several things on it. (One friend had illustrated "More Sex" on hers, the other "New Car" – both have succeeded already ha ha!). I made three areas of focus: travel, relationships and home. My realisation whilst making my board was that these three areas of my life are not distinct and separate but overlap. The lines I'd created to separate, I had to blur. Somehow that felt so good. Success in one area fed through to another. A challenge in one could be supported by another. And my final piece was more beautiful and flowing. When you move from a goal-oriented list of "whats" that seems to sit there in judgement



until it gets done or gets thrown in the bin, you can move to a creative scene of "hows" that can spark the imagination and free the mind. As it happens I can't let go of my love of making lists so I've ended up with a mix of both - I wrote on the back of mine ways I could take action to manifest my wishes. That was the best thing about it. The pictures and colours I chose brought my ideas to life, which sparked more ideas and gave me solutions to the things that might hold me back. Rather than be prescriptive, my pictures symbolised what I wished for so that I could reshape my plans and change my mind with more ease. The blurring of the categories has helped me see a more integrated life.

I don't consider myself particularly artistic or gifted in crafts but I spent a lovely evening with friends dreaming, creating, laughing – which just happened to be one of the themes on my finished vision board. How nice! *Angela is a qualified Emotional Therapeutic Counsellor registered with the FETC and NCPS. Also a Reflexologist and Reiki Practitioner, she is passionate about her therapies and spends quality time with her clients to facilitate their wellbeing. You can find her at www.angelajohns.co.uk*

To collaborate or not?

Emily Papirnik

How often do we find ourselves trying to do it all—create, achieve, struggle, or simply survive—alone? There's an underlying belief many of us carry that we shouldn't bother others with our needs. That reaching out is an inconvenience to others, or a sign of weakness. But what if collaboration could bring not only more ease, but also greater creativity, joy, and momentum?

For most of my life, I held tight to the idea that I had to handle everything on my own—not because I thought I had to prove anything, but because I didn't want to impose on others. Whether I was creating something new, facing a challenge, or working through a personal hurdle, I rarely reached out for support. I believed that asking for help was a burden. That mindset recently shifted, and interestingly—it wasn't even because I asked for help. Instead, people began to come to me offering support with one of my ventures. They believed in what I was doing, and more importantly, they believed in me. They saw my struggle in areas they found effortless and offered their skills willingly. It was eye-opening. Finding collaborators who align with your vision and genuinely want to see you succeed can be a game changer. It doesn't mean handing over control of your dream—it means



welcoming in fresh energy, new perspectives, and complementary talents. It means allowing others to contribute their genius so that your own genius can shine even more brightly. Collaboration doesn't make you less capable. It makes you more connected. It prevents you from getting stuck in problems that others can solve with ease. It transforms creative blocks into opportunities for growth and forward movement. With the right collaborators, momentum builds naturally, and your ideas can flourish in ways you might never have imagined alone. No one ever said you had to do it all yourself. Maybe it's time we let go of the belief that we have to stay quiet about our needs. Maybe those around us—friends, colleagues, even unexpected allies—hold the keys to unlocking the next level of our creativity and purpose. So the question isn't just "to collaborate or not?"—it's "why wait any longer?"

"If you want a thing done well, do it yourself"

Napoleon

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Let's hear it for heat pumps!

William Jenkin



Did you know that the UK government is going to ban new oil-fired boiler installations in homes from 2035?

So, if your boiler is showing signs of age, maybe now is the time to consider a heat pump? Get valuable space back in your kitchen, as heat pumps go outside! Not only that, heat pumps are much more efficient than a boiler, being around 300% efficient, compared to a condensing boiler which is around 85% efficient. This means that for every 1kW of energy put into a heat pump you get 3 to 4 kW of heat, while with a boiler you only get 0.85 kW of heat.

If you add solar PV panels and a home battery to a heat pump installation, then the cost of heating your home with a heat pump drops significantly. This is what I call the 'holy trinity': where in conjunction with a suitable heat pump electricity tariff, you can really get your heating and electric bills right down. Don't forget that the average payback time in the UK for a 3-6kW system with battery is 8-10 years. After that all the electricity you generate is free! The government now obliges the major power supply companies to offer tariffs with a 'Smart Energy Guarantee'. This means you can get paid for exporting electricity which you don't use. I use the 'Agile Outgoing Octopus' tariff and I think of the reduction on my bills from April - October as off-setting the cost of running the heat pump during colder months.

Have you got 300mm of loft insulation?

Now, let's look at home insulation. This is a great step to take to get your bills down, no matter what energy source you have for your home.

Improving your loft insulation is by far the most cost effective (and easiest) measure you can do. As we all know, hot air rises, so if you stop it leaving your home you stay warmer. It's a simple as that. The government has a couple of schemes for encouraging home owners and tenants to improve their insulation and so reduce energy bills. The ECO (energy company obligation) is aimed at tackling fuel poverty. To be eligible you need to be receiving at least one of a list of benefits, such as child benefit or income support. The ECO scheme cannot be used on conjunction with the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (more on that at the end.) Then there's the Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) which is aimed at occupants of houses with an EPC rating D-G (ie. houses with poor levels of insulation and therefore high heating bills.) Importantly this scheme covers the cost of loft insulation as well as cavity wall and either external or internal wall insulation.

Get on the BUS

Finally, the most important grant available from the Government at the moment is the £7,500 boiler upgrade scheme (BUS) grant which is available to owners of homes and businesses replacing any fossil fuel based boiler with a heat pump. This means that if you're taking out a oil-fired boiler you'll get £7,500 off the price of your new heat pump installation. It's a serious incentive to reduce your CO2 emissions. And don't forget to think of the 'holy trinity'! *For friendly, no obligation advice and cost effective installations of heat pumps, Solar PV and home batteries please call Malvern Solar 01684 437060*

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Are benefits taxable?

Carol Draper FCCA

All benefits are paid without tax being deducted. However, just because no tax is taken off does not mean that all benefits are not taxable.

The standard tax-free personal allowance is £12,570 and it has been at this level since April 2021. While the personal allowance has not changed in the last four years, many benefits have continued to rise meaning there is the possibility your benefit income could exceed your personal allowance and present you with a tax liability.

The most common taxable benefit is state pension. The full rate for the new state pension for men born after 6 April 1951 and women born after 6 April 1953 is £230.25 per week making a potential total annual income of £11,973, just £597 short of the personal allowance. If your state pension is calculated on a different basis, it is possible your personal allowance may already have been exceeded. Other taxable benefits include bereavement allowance, carer's allowance, contribution-based employment and support allowance, jobseekers' allowance, incapacity benefit, widowed parents' allowance and pensions paid by the Industrial Death Benefit scheme. If you are in receipt of taxable benefits and believe you have exceeded the tax-free allowance, it is your



responsibility to inform HMRC.

Even if your state pension or benefits exceed your personal allowance, HMRC does not have the capacity to tax this income at source. To collect any tax that may be due, HMRC will either amend an existing tax code or, if you are in the position where you do not receive any other income that can be taxed at source, HMRC can issue a tax demand or may request that you complete a Self-Assessment return.

While tax codes may be difficult to understand and requests of any type from HMRC can be worrying, neither should be ignored. It is not unheard of for HMRC to make a mistake, so if you are unsure of the figures being used, do not understand HMRC's calculations or are confused by their demands, speak to someone who will be able to both analyse and explain it fully.

Carol Draper FCCA
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Napoleon



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When can I use Trading Standards?



In England If you think a business has broken the law or acted unfairly, you can report them to Trading Standards.

Trading Standards use the information you give them to investigate unfair trading and illegal business activity, like rogue traders and scams.

Trading Standards can take businesses to court or stop them operating, but they won't help you fix your problem - for example, they can't help you get a refund. You can get help with your consumer problem from the Citizens Advice consumer service.

They can be reached on:
0808 223 1133

What sort of things can I report?

You should report a business to Trading Standards if they sold you something:

- unsafe or dangerous, like an electronic appliance with faulty wiring or food past its use-by date
- fake
- not as described - for example, you bought a package holiday but something advertised wasn't included
- you didn't want to buy - for example, they put pressure on you

You can also tell them about a business if:

- they scammed you - for example, you paid for something online that you didn't receive and you couldn't contact the seller
- they tried to stop you using your legal rights - for example, they said you can't return faulty goods

- they weren't clear about the price or added on extra costs - for example, they advertised theatre ticket prices without booking fees

- they sold products to people who looked underage without asking for ID - for example, alcohol, knives or fireworks

- they didn't carry out work properly - for example, kitchen fitters left your home in a dangerous state

To report to Trading Standards, you need to contact the Citizens Advice Consumer service. They will pass your report to Trading Standards and can also give you advice about your problem.

Trading Standards will use the information you give to decide if they'll investigate. They'll only contact you if they need more information. Even if Trading Standards don't contact you, they might use your evidence to take action against the business in the future. For example, if other people make complaints about the same business.

If a business isn't helping you fix something that went wrong, you could:

- try making a formal complaint
- get help from a dispute resolution scheme
- take them to court

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From the Boundary



Well done to both Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose on their performance at the Masters. The writer has been over the course (not played it). A calmer more patient McIlroy fought off Bryson DeChambeau who doggedly stuck to McIlroy. However, it was Rose who, after leading the first two days fell away on the third day. He fought back and came back on the rails to lose by a short head. McIlroy has now lost the monkey on his shoulder and has become one of the few. He can play with gay abandon now and hopefully the Ryder cup The snooker carries on but still without Ronnie O'Sullivan which does not make for the same interest without him. We will see if he gets his head right for the World championship. Formula One has started with Norris and Piastri leading

championship the field at present with George Russell doing well. Leclerc leads the Ferrari chase; it is clear that Hamilton is not what he was. Lastly Never underestimate Verstappen who is without doubt the best driver on the modern circuit.
Cricket
The test and one day internationals will start soon against Zimbabwe and it is a case of who is fit to play. Worcestershire county cricket continue with their problems. The board have no knowledge of Cricket, let alone the deep history of Worcestershire County Cricket, about the only thing they are is the board is Diversity compliant, oh dear.
OUR Country
The migrants keep coming and despite Starmer saying he will stop it they keep coming, 7000

so far in his reign. More importantly to us in Worcestershire we have County Council elections, The County Council is in financial difficulties, why? because it is the same people year after year. Let's change things and have people who understand big budgets, procurement. Huge money could be saved if only we had the right councillors who can control the officials. A number of people have said that there are too many "brown envelopes" "flying about". Therefore, please before you vote look at the persons CV not their party affiliation and ask yourself can they cut it? My open-ended question regarding the death penalty has, as it was designed to cause some interest and not surprisingly all were for and not one against (keep writing to the editor) Hashem Abedi is serving life for 22 yes 22 murders in HMP Frankland. How on earth could he be able

to cook in a kitchen is unbelievable. No special food, forced to wear overalls and in a cage. Some prisoners in Long Lartin in Evesham are converting to Islam for an easy life from the gangs. The prisons need a massive review and maybe Chikurubi is not such a bad idea. Mr Starmer is not going to invoke a full-scale independent inquiry into the grooming gangs, why because he will lose the Asian vote. Well, you lost it already they are forming their own party. This country must become strategically independent, we have oil, Coal and Gas we must make our own high-grade steel. Mr Miliband is an XXX instead of shipping frozen gas ore from Australia. Are there no strategic thinkers? Dumb question. Keep those letters coming, it is a free society (at the moment) HOT OFF THE PRESS google Jim Davidson and regarding our Prime Minister with Lord Ali

A view from the Middle

As April slowly drifts into May, so the outdoor cricket season flickers into life. Pavilions which have been locked up since September are opened and tidied up and the groundsman's work begins in earnest (although they would tell you it's year-round job). Players of a nervous disposition (including yours truly) will spend hours fidgeting with kit and panicking about whether we have forgotten how to hold a bat in the last seven months or so. (Which end am I meant to hold again?) It is all worth it for the reassuring sound of leather on willow and a chance to be out in the sun again enjoying a day spent with your mates. Sometimes I

wonder how we can get away with calling in a sport when I'm lounging around doing the crossword waiting to bat or enjoying another splendid cake when we break for tea. It is a good reminder to enjoy yourself, and the company, as much as you can and try not to focus too much on the technical fallibilities. To me, the great joy of cricket is that people of a huge range of abilities, not to mention age or gender, can join together and take part on a level playing field each week. And those of us that play are indebted to a huge team of volunteers who prepare the ground, umpire, score, prepare the teas, staff the



bar, and any number of other things. That's not even mentioning long-suffering partners who are unlikely to see much of us for the next five months. (And, even when physically present, we will

probably be practicing cover drives in our heads.) I wish all involved a happy, healthy, and successful season and say a huge thank you to those who make it possible. Go well everyone.

Thoughts from the Snug... Trump Trump Trump

President Donald Trump has provided much stimulation for debate in the Snug. His unpredictable policies and tweets have caused almost as much humour, amusement and exasperated incredulity as serious debate. A recent ambassador to the USA recently tried to reassure folk by saying, "He's already been in office for 4 months. Only another 44 months to

go!" Hardly reassuring we agreed. Nevertheless, we try to remain cheerful by recalling his gaffs and outrageous statements. Our favourite to date involves Trump's condemnation of poor old Jo Biden and Hillary Clinton. Trump says, "I know these old Democrats. They're crazy. Keep on repeating themselves. They're crazy!" Fake news, or a projection

based on his reflection seen in a mirror? We wonder if he ever has any self-doubts. How could he? Donald tells us he is the most intelligent and charismatic White House incumbent in the history of this great nation. It's too easy to totally dismiss, with derision, this undoubtedly powerful and unpredictable politician. But what can we do? Sit tight,

hold on and let's hope we don't get too tarnished in any attempts to protect our dignity as our leaders navigate the impact of this mercurial leader. Only 44 months to go. A cue from Monty Python might help: Always look on the bright side of life Another pint, anyone?

Buddy Bach

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A fair field full of folk

Brian Johnson-Thomas

The mediaeval English poet William Langland (think *Piers Plowman*) once wrote of a vision he had from the Malvern Hills of 'a fair field full of folk'. He must have been prescient because that neatly sums up the appeal today of such events as the RHS Malvern Spring Festival which runs from next Thursday 8th until Sunday 11th May.

I'm sure that you know all about this horticultural extravaganza but I'm also interested in the plethora of food and drink experiences with the Festival is also going to offer and which are sure to add to the already vibrant atmosphere. I quite fancy, for example, booking my own Garden Shed for breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea and escaping for a while from the hustle and bustle of the Show. There again, the Street Food areas are always interesting and it's always nice to drop into the Kitchen Garden Theatre for the various talks and demonstrations. So, it won't be dull. See: www.rhsmalvern.co.uk

Just up the road from us the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford upon Avon is also welcoming the advent of Spring with a whole series of events. I quite fancy their Riverside Tours which help us uncover centuries of the history of Shakespeare's theatres as well as one of the Discover Days looking into the worlds of *Much Ado About Nothing* or *Titus Andronicus* – what a contrast! Comedy or gore? For details see: www.rsc.org.uk

Mind you their best production (so far as I'm concerned anyway) is about to launch in London. It's a new play called 'Born with Teeth' and it imagines what happened when playwrights William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe meet semi clandestinely in the back room of a pub. According to the publicity

it's a "thrilling imagining of the relationship between two literary icons at odds with their time". This may get me banned from Stratford (and a five-mile radius thereof) but I personally prefer Kit Marlowe to Shakespeare and feel that if he hadn't suffered an untimely death in a brawl he would easily have eclipsed the Bard. But he did, so he didn't. If you fancy a trip to Town then the first preview is on 13th August and the play runs until 1st November at the Wyndham's in Charing Cross Road.

Book online at: www.delfontmackingtosh.co.uk or by phone to 044 482 5151

Nearer home the Opera season at Longborough, near Moreton in Marsh, starts this year on the 27th with the UK Premiere of a new work Avner Dorman's "Wahnfried: The Birth of the Wagner Cult" which explores what happened to his work after his death. I always thought that one could simplify Wagner's career into two phases. Firstly we have slightly Dotty Uncle Dickie who writes strange operas loosely based upon mythology (think *Lord of the Rings* with added incest) and who has a penchant for wandering around wearing his wife's knickers. That is replaced after his death with the approved version of Genius Uncle Richard, the hugely successful composer whose works have a significant residual monetary value. Turning to the promotional literature it says that the opera begins with the composer's death and that we will witness the family's determination to construct the myth of the composer, promising "brutal infighting and disturbing political affiliations". Sounds promising.....

For details see: www.lfo.org.uk



34072 at Corfe Castle - Photo by Matt Toms

A different head of steam can be obtained over the second Bank Holiday weekend with the Cotswold Festival of Steam along the preserved railway line between Broadway and Cheltenham operated by the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway. We are, of course, celebrating 200 years since the beginning of the modern railway (but reckon that's just English propaganda, Richard Trevithick's locomotive was hauling passenger coaches to the Penydarren Works at Merthyr Tydfil back in 1803, so there!)

The railway is welcoming a 129 year old Victorian beauty built for the former South East and Chatham Railway back in 1896. It's believed that this is the first time in its entire history that its' moved so far away from home ground. It will be joined by half a dozen other steam locomotives and the railway will also be opening the doors behind the

scenes to the locomotive sheds at Toddington and the carriage sheds at Winchcombe. The owners of the former Gotherington station building are also opening their grounds offering an opportunity to try a 'pump trolley' on their private siding. Access to the event is by prior booking only –

see www.gwsr.com

So far I haven't yet mentioned the celebrations everywhere marking 80 years since the end of the last World War. That's because they will hopefully be local to wherever we happen to live. But wherever we are I'm sure that the 8th will be a day to remember. However, at the time of writing there are still some tickets left for the spectacular VE Day Concert in Worcester Cathedral on the 3rd.

For details, contact : davidhallmarkveconcert@gmail.com

Spring at last! Let's enjoy very moment.



Born with Teeth



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SAT 21ST JUNE - 1-4PM
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SHOW, SILVER BAND, ALPACA
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EVENING GIG - NO TOOLS REQUIRED - DOORS at 6PM

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Plant Sale**

Saturday 7th June
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*Sale of plants, herbs and greeting cards.
Refreshments available*

*Any donations of plants, cuttings or
seeds welcome on the day.*

**pershore
carnival**

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY
MONDAY 26TH MAY 2025
10AM-5PM
ABBEY PARK PERSHORE

**Procession
theme
Children's tv
shows, past
and present**

Procession down the High Street
from 12pm

musical Entertainment, fun fair,
refreshments, children's
activities, charity stalls and lots
more

**The Big450
Bess-tival Concert**

**limited & selling fast
BOOK NOW TO AVOID MISSING OUT**

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QUEEN**

EUROPE'S TOP QUEEN TRIBUTE

Celebrating the 450th Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I visit to Elmley Castle
Sat 28th June - 6pm to 11:30pm, Elmley Castle Village

Supported by:
JUNCTION 7
Worcester's best-loved covers band

and:
KINGS OF THE QUARTER MILE

An evening of Live Music
Only £25 per person + booking fee
Family tickets and concessions available
No tickets purchases available on the gate

THE BIG 450 BESS-TIVAL

All proceeds will be used to support
local community assets and events,
and the establishment of a fund
managed by the Parish Council to
support future village events.

thebig450bestival.co.uk

COMMUNITY CHOIR

Tickets £10
(refreshments included)

**A Musical Afternoon
of Celebration**

Saturday 10th May
2.30pm
St Martin in
the Cornmarket
Worcester
WR1 2DF

Saturday 17th May
2.30pm
St Marks Church
Orchard St
Worcester
WR5 3DW

Proceeds: Maggs Day Centre
& St Paul's Hostel

Proceeds: St Marks
Church and The Royal
British Legion

Tickets available on the door & from Choir Members

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Clive Harrison 9th Dan
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07976986439
clive01@talktalk.net

Music Matters

Steve Ide



It's never been easier to play, it's never been harder to win

In the past, instruments were expensive to buy and learning to play took a serious amount of determination. Learning a song meant hours working out chord progressions, even listening to music was a major investment in money, time and attention. Nowadays, it is arguable that making and

releasing music has never been easier.

Anyone with access to the Internet can learn to play an instrument and anyone with an iPhone can produce a half decent song. Music can be released on YouTube and Spotify with the click of mouse and social media is a great publicist.

This is an exciting and terrifying prospect because it gives amazing freedom and opportunity for new musicians but makes standing above the noise almost impossible. And when it comes to making a living from music, the market is more crowded than ever, even skinny indie kids must eat.

As consumers, we too have more choices than ever so it's good to occasionally move

away from your old familiars or mega-artists like Oasis, Beyonce or Coldplay. Move your radio dial away from Primark FM or check out an album from an unknown band. Try the city center music venue showcasing a local band. The choice is endless, and you never know, your new favorite obsession may be waiting just around the corner.

Notable new albums

Loose talk
by Bryan Ferry & Amelia Barrett
Descriptive stories set to old Roxy Music demos, slightly unsettling... in a good way

Tell dem it's sunny
by Greentea Peng
Overhead a rainbow appears with a bit of swagger

Glory
by Perfume Genius
A creative journey that captures meditations on anxiety, drama and desire

Hard time furious dancing
by Snapped Ankles
Futuristic dance music, the title says it all

Add to playlist . . .

Spike Island by Pulp

Back on 74 by Jungle

Racing green by High Contrast

The world's biggest paving slab
by English Teacher

Killer Bee
by Ben Kweller, featuring The Flaming Lips

Jazz News

Peter Farrall

No trip to New Orleans is complete without a visit to Preservation Hall which would be the highlight of your experience, especially if you're a devotee of traditional jazz. It all began in an art gallery in the French Quarter of the city when the owner, Larry Borenstein, arranged regular jam sessions where many of the legendary figures from the origins of jazz performed. Visitors to the city in the 1960s who enquired where genuine traditional jazz could still be heard were directed to "Larry's Gallery" on St Peter's Street where some of the great names from the past were still playing in the way it had always been. Among these visitors were a young couple, already great followers of New Orleans jazz, Alan and Sandra Jaffe who were thrilled to meet not only Larry but some of the veteran musicians themselves. Inspired by their experiences in New Orleans, the Jaffes soon moved there permanently, taking an essential part in the running of the, almost nightly, sessions in the gallery. Popularity of the venue grew, so much that Borenstein decided to move his gallery to the neighbouring building, handing over the jazz side of things to Alan Jaffe.

Preservation Hall was born and became a place where racial segregation was unknown and the Jaffes, as operators of an integrated venue in the Jim

Crow era, found themselves at odds with the police a number of times.

Nowadays, such is the attendance at Preservation Hall that admittance is by pre-paid ticket only with a premium added for guaranteed front row seats and donations expected for requests to be played (perhaps we could try that at Pershore Jazz Club!) Pershore, of course, is not New Orleans and the Football Club Function Room certainly nothing like Preservation Hall but, in our own very modest way, we are continuing the tradition and spirit of the music.

This month's club band is led by saxophonist Sarah Spenser who, at eighteen years old, was the youngest musician to play at Preservation Hall and who has returned to Britain after 20 years living in New Orleans.

Also on the front line is trombonist Mike Owen, who spent ten years in New Orleans playing in all manner of locations including the riverboats. The band is completed by Pershore favourites Zoltan Sagi (clarinet), Jim Swinnerton on bass, Tom "Spats" Langham (banjo/guitar) and our own Graham Smith in the drum chair. An evening of authentic New Orleans revival by those who know how.

Don't forget Pershore Jazz on a Summer's Day, August 9th!
Booking now at Number 8



Sarah Spencer's Sax "n" Bone Band

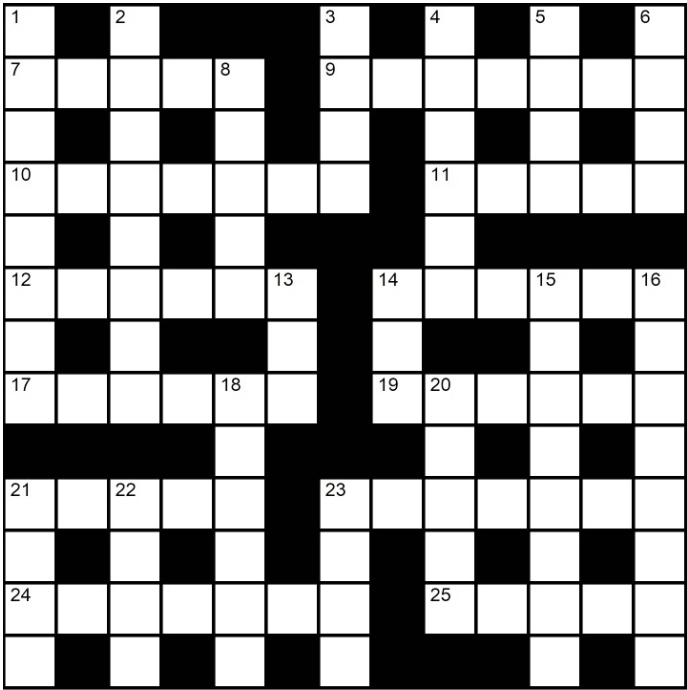
Wednesday 28th May

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

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

Coffee Break

Crossword



Across

- 7 Jostle (5)
- 9 Singular (7)
- 10 Correspondence (7)
- 11 Unctuous (5)
- 12 We rave about carpet-maker, perhaps (6)
- 14 Oddball (6)
- 17 Hate (6)
- 19 Burst of speed (6)
- 21 Distance of water exposed to the wind (5)
- 23 Snow vehicle (7)
- 24 Best (7)
- 25 Lustre (5)

Down

- 1 Recently hitched (5-3)
- 2 Theoretical (8)
- 3 Chafes (4)
- 4 Wagga Wagga woman or Manly man (6)
- 5 Mountain lion (4)
- 6 Drama (4)
- 8 "--- the bee sucks, there suck I" (Shakespeare, "The Tempest") (5)
- 13 "Poppycock!" (3)
- 14 Is no more (3)
- 15 Red Irene sorted out Christmas Dancer, for example (8)
- 16 Sociable (8)
- 18 Plot (6)
- 20 Layers (5)
- 21 Sell off (4)
- 22 Small children (4)
- 23 Unspecified in number (4)

Sudoku

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

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

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

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

Wordsearch

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

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

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

Brainteaser

Math Puzzle

92 + 3 = 73

75 + 2 = 22

84 + 3 = 43

97 + 1 = ??

Poets' Corner

XLIV

Shot? so quick, so clean an ending?

Oh that was right, lad, that was brave:

Yours was not an ill for mending,

'Twas best to take it to the grave.

Oh you had forethought, you could reason,

And saw your road and where it led,

And early wise and brave in season

Put the pistol to your head.

Oh soon, and better so than later

After long disgrace and scorn,

You shot dead the household traitor,

The soul that should not have been born.

Right you guessed the rising morrow

And scorned to tread the mire you must:

Dust's your wages, son of sorrow,

But men may come to worse than dust.

Souls undone, undoing others,-

Long time since the tale began.

ou would not live to wrong your brothers:

Oh lad, you died as fits a man.

Now to your grave shall friend and stranger

With ruth and some with envy come:

Undishonoured, clear of danger,

Clean of guilt, pass hence and home.

Turn safe to rest, no dreams, no waking;

And here, man, here's the wreath I've made:

'Tis not a gift that's worth the taking,

But wear it and it will not fade.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

Quiz!

1) Physicist Albert Einstein was born in which country? a) Sweden b) Switzerland c) Germany

2) Jack Dorsey founded which social network in March 2006?

3) Audrey Tautou plays which title character in this 2001 French happy-go-lucky film?

4) What is the capital city of Bangladesh?

5) Which British architect born in 1935 is best known for buildings including the Stansted Airport Terminal Building, London's Millennium Footbridge, 'The Gherkin' and the new Wembley Stadium?

6) Which celebrity chef wrote an autobiography called 'Devil in the Kitchen'?

7) The Tan Hill Inn in Arkengarthdale, North Yorkshire holds which distinction?

8) Which is the larger island; Greenland or Iceland?

9) Amarelle, May Duke and Morello are all types of which fruit?

10) Over 700 of Vincent van Gogh's paintings and drawings can be found in which Amsterdam museum?

11) Which American pop star had back to back 2015 chart success with singles 'Sorry' and 'Love Yourself'?

12) In September 1983, Joe Strummer and Paul Simonon released a statement announcing which member had been fired from their band The Clash?

13) John Travolta and Oliver Newton-John topped the UK charts twice in 1978 with songs from the movie Grease. Which songs were they?

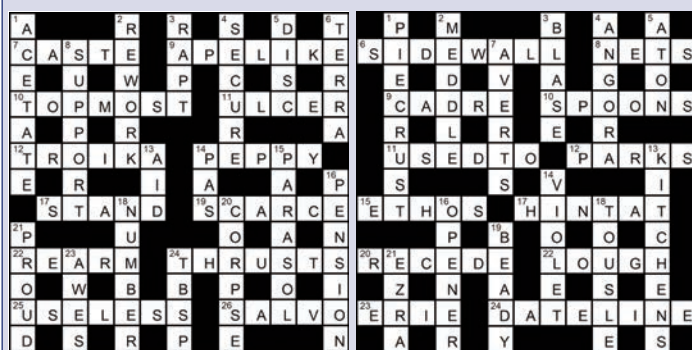
14) What was the title of Lady Gaga's debut single which topped the UK charts in early 2009? a) Just Dance b) Let's Go c) Love Me

15) Which famous diarist started with a first entry on 1st Jan 1660?

16) In January 1877 Queen Victoria was proclaimed as Empress of where?

Answers: 1) c) Germany 2) Twitter 3) Amelie 4) Dhaka 5) Norman Foster 6) Marco Pierre White 7) Highest pub in Britain 8) Greenland 9) Cherry 10) Rijksmuseum 11) Justin Bieber 12) Mick Jones 13) 'You're the One That I Want' & 'Summer Nights' 14) a) Just Dance 15) Samuel Pepys 16) India

April Answers



May Brainteaser solution: 21

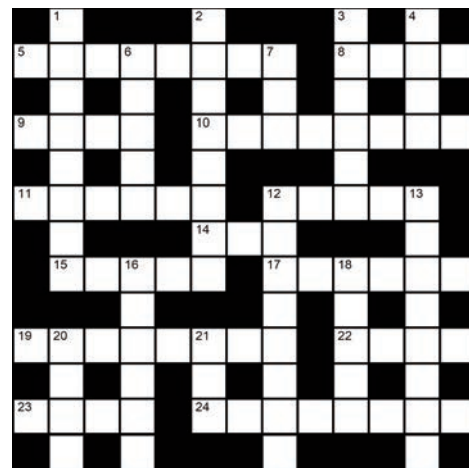
Anagram Crossword

Across

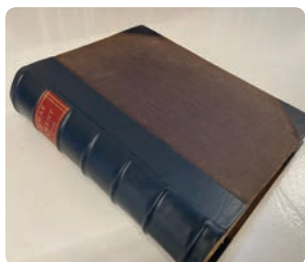
- 5 Turn it on (4,4)
- 8 Lots (4)
- 9 Rift (4)
- 10 Listened (8)
- 11 Read of (6)
- 12 Chars (5)
- 14 Gun (3)
- 15 Slave (5)
- 17 Payers (6)
- 19 Bilks man (8)
- 22 Mils (4)
- 23 Reef (4)
- 24 Roadbeds (8)

Down

- 1 Squatter (8)
- 2 Dungaree (8)
- 3 Casals (5,1)
- 4 Leis (4)
- 6 Snoot (3,2)
- 7 I L O (3)
- 12 Encrusts (8)
- 13 Hair dyes (8)
- 16 Burble (6)
- 18 Pores (5)
- 20 Sari (4)
- 21 A k a (3)



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**Copy Deadline for
June Issue - 19th May 2025**

Encouraged to get active with Street Tag



Sue Martyr, Active Travel Co-Ordinator at Malvern Hills District Council, and Adele Hodges, Healthy Communities Manager at Freedom Leisure.

An interactive challenge which led to 12 schools walking more than 34 million steps will return next month and will be open to everyone across the Malvern Hills District. Street Tag is a free, family-friendly smartphone app game that records physical activity and encourages participants to explore their local area by visiting virtual tags and collecting points. Malvern Hills District Council has partnered with Street Tag for a second year and is now opening the challenge to residents, businesses, workplaces, and community groups as part of its commitment to Active Travel. The Malvern Hills leaderboard kicks off on 1 May 2025 and will run until 2 July 2025. Prizes will be given out on a fortnightly basis and there will be one winner at the end of the challenge. The council will be working with Freedom Leisure to provide the prizes. As part of the challenge, virtual tags can be added to various locations and landmarks, with

businesses, community groups, organisations being able to promote their services, events and offers. Last year, 12 schools across the district took part and walked more than 34 million steps and covered more than 41,000 miles by walking, wheeling, and scootering. Following the two-month challenge, Hanley Swan St Gabriel's with St Mary's C of E Primary School reached the top of the leaderboard. Jen Taylor, Director of Communities and Housing at Malvern Hills District Council, said: "Street Tag is a great way of getting active and having fun. Last year's challenge was a great success with an impressive number of miles and steps taken. Now anyone can take part in the challenge- not just schools- we hope people get excited about Active Travel and getting out and about in their local area". Visit www.streettag.co.uk for more information and to sign up to the Street Tag app

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Callow End WI

We had an excellent speaker, Nick Wilkes, for our April meeting. He is an actor / playwright and provided us with a very amusing and entertaining evening. A great night was enjoyed by all. Our May meeting, 1st, will be held in our village church, St James, as the village hall will be used as a polling station. Our speaker will be Avril Pulley, demonstrating handmade flowers.



Our June meeting will be Thursday 5th June. Our speaker will be Ginny Davis, giving us a talk on Pillory to Prison cell.

Spot & Shop - April Winners

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1) Hillary Price | 5) Rose Small |
| 2) Tim Crowley | 6) Dereth Thomas |
| 3) Philippa Stinton | 7) John Mills |
| 4) Pat Haines | |

Last month's answer:
Shire Bath Re-Enamelling Ltd



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 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: 23rd May 2025

Answer:

Name:

Telephone/email:

Return to: Hughes & Company/Powick Times

8 Church Street, Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1DT



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

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

BPGC MEETING USUALLY THIRD SATURDAY EACH MONTH.



GARDEN VISITS,
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**VISITORS AND
NEW MEMBERS
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INDOOR MEETINGS 2.30PM
POWICK PARISH HALL.
MEMBERSHIP £7.50/YEAR.
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NON-MEMBERS £5.00

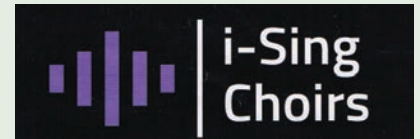
www.blackpeargc.org.uk Brian. 01684311297



7th Worcester Scouts Powick & Callow End Group

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youth organisation. We
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experiences, everyday
adventure and the chance to
help others so that we make a
positive impact in our
communities.*

Parish Hall, Malvern Road,
Powick, Worcester WR2 4RT
www.scoutshw.org.uk



TUESDAYS

**Tewkesbury i-Sing Choir -
10.15am until 11.45am**

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



PLANT & CAKE SALE

**Saturday 10 May
10am - 12noon**

Earls Croome Village Hall

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



Raising funds for Earls Croome Church

Puccini Messa di Gloria and Faure Requiem

Saturday 10th May 2025

at 7:00 pm

Great Malvern Priory
Church Street
Malvern
WR14 2AY

Tickets

£18 / 17-21s £12 / 16 & under Free with paying adult
www.trybooking.com/uk/EDCJ and
on the door

For more information visit:
malvernfestivalchorus.co.uk



MALVERN
FESTIVAL
CHORUS

Charity Number 506787

Blood delivery car one year of service

In March 2024, heating and ventilation experts, Lord Combustion Services, proudly funded a new Toyota Yaris to support the transportation of blood and blood products. Previously, organisations like Midlands Air Ambulance Charity relied on the Blood Bikes, a non-profit service providing crucial transportation for healthcare organisations. When this service was no longer available for the charity's Strensham airbase, Lord Combustion Services stepped in to ensure the charity could continue its essential operations. The charity's dedicated team of volunteers use the car to transport blood between the Blood Bank at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham (QEHB) and the Strensham airbase, located on the Worcestershire/Gloucestershire border. In its first year of service, the blood delivery vehicle has already covered over 32,000 miles and completed 320 round trips. The vehicle has made a significant impact on the charity's ability to deliver emergency

care on the scene. Unused blood products are always returned to the Blood Bank well before their expiration date, ensuring no waste. Since 2017, Midlands Air Ambulance Charity has been carrying blood on board its three aircraft and fleet of critical care cars. Thanks to the expertise of their critical care paramedics and pre-hospital emergency medicine doctors, blood can be administered on-site. In cases of significant blood loss, this capability gives patients the best chance of survival and recovery. The charity relies on having an appropriate vehicle to ensure this support. The charity is looking to expand its team of volunteer drivers to continue this valuable service.

Anyone in the Worcestershire area who is interested in joining the team can contact Midlands Air Ambulance Charity volunteer Peter McCree, blood transfer team co-ordinator, at peter.mccree@btinternet.com

Alice turns 105 years young!



Celebrations have been in full swing at Elgar Court Care Home, as one of its residents reaches her centenary in style. Alice Foulkes was joined by family, residents and staff as she received a telegram from the King in recognition of her landmark birthday. Alice wanted a quieter birthday this year, to enjoy a relaxed time with her family and residents and with her favourite tippie, a Baileys and her favourite custard tarts! Alice said, "I can't quite believe I am 105 years old today, it's just another day to me!" Alice started her day with her usual tropical fruit platter along with the

Housekeepers, Hannah, Jess and Head Housekeeper, Sarah, singing happy birthday to her. Later that afternoon, staff and residents came along to wish her a very happy birthday too and bring her gifts. Sarah Cadwallader, General Manager at Elgar Court said, "We're delighted to be celebrating a truly remarkable lady as she reaches another amazing milestone. Alice is such a popular resident who always has an interesting tale to tell and a dry sense of humour - we look forward to hearing many more as she breaks into her next century."

The boys from Barbados return to New Road



Cricket lovers are in for a fantastic evening when three Barbadian fast bowlers return to New Road for a dinner that will raise funds to support grass roots cricket projects in some of the most deprived areas in South Africa. Former Worcestershire greats Ricardo Elcock, Collis King and Hartley Alleyne will be guest speakers at the dinner at Worcestershire County Cricket Club on Friday 17th October 2025. The evening will also feature:

- A three course dinner.

- Live music.
- An African Drum troupe.
- An auction.
- Competitions.

The evening will be compered by former Worcestershire player Dave Banks who has enough 'dirt' on the guests to make it a very enjoyable evening.

Tickets to the event are £60 per person or £550 for a table of 10 and can be obtained by calling Mark on 07506 747619 or via email at ma004g2691@gmail.com

New community grant to help support the district



Communities across the Malvern Hills District will have the chance to apply for their share of £1 million to improve the open spaces and facilities in their area. The Community Facility Legacy Grant Scheme aims to support communities to become healthier, safer, and stronger by ensuring they have access to high-quality public open spaces and facilities. The scheme, which is being launched by Malvern Hills District Council on 11 April 2025, will be available to charities, not-for-profit organisations, town and parish councils, and more to apply for a grant of up to £100,000, with match funding required for

applications above £15,000. The grants can be used to improve or adapt a new or existing public open space or community facilities, such as a new football pitch, indoor community centre or village halls, including associated car park improvements, parks, youth activity areas, allotments, and much more.

The scheme opens for applications opened on Friday 11th April and closes at midnight on Sunday 8th June 2025.

For full details of the Grant Scheme, visit: www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community-facility-legacy-grant-scheme

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