

Upton Times



A free monthly newspaper for Upton-upon-Severn and surrounding villages

Issue 46

August 2025

FREE



The Lionesses are victorious!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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County and District Report

Councillor Martin Allen

Is there a legal limit to how many cucumber sandwiches you can eat in a year? I was wondering this the other night after attending a lovely afternoon tea party. I then considered whether there should also be a legal limit to how many roadworks should be inflicted on us locals in one summer – there do seem to have been quite a few. Anyway, moving on, I know I do like to go on about our great Worcestershire On Demand Bus but, see below, you can now get a free cuppa!

Now a Free Cuppa at Croome Court



County Councillors Karl Perks and Martin Allen with National Trust General Manager Michelle Fullard

I have spent much of the last four years ensuring that we got this service here, rather than it going to another division of the County Council. After many discussions, and with me sometimes forcefully getting my point across, the service became free to use for our veterans at the start of the year. This may be a first in the country where veterans are not remembered just on Remembrance Sunday and then forgotten by the following Monday. The service is available for anyone who lives in the Division of Croome to use, each journey costs just £2.50 and it is similar

to an Uber Taxi. Those with pensioners' bus passes can use it for free from 9:30. The service runs from Monday to Saturday, 7:00 to 19:00. You can download the free app called "Worcestershire on Demand" or you can phone 01905 846180 to book a trip. There is some even better news: the service now goes to Ledbury and Tewkesbury, plus, if you take the bus to Croome Court, make sure you keep your ticket and claim your free hot drink. This offer is running until the end of the year and, even if you travel for free, you can still ask for a ticket, so don't miss out.



Join Amy in the Garden

Thanks to a fantastic grant, generously provided by the Co-op's Good Causes scheme, our resident Baptist minister, Amy Wearing, has now been able to launch a gardening club which meets on Thursday morning at 10:00. There are disabled

accessible beds, such as the one shown in the rear of the photo, enabling wheelchair users to participate. Everyone is welcome, it's free and I have no doubt it will be a brilliant success. If you fancy having a go, just pop down on a Thursday morning.



Ripple East Mineral Extraction site, currently used to grow much needed food

Ripple East Mineral Extraction gets a poor split decision at County

Following a split decision by County Councillors at the July Planning Committee, the Cemex application for the extraction of minerals has been granted for the land known as Ripple East on Bow Lane, Ripple. This follows many years of mineral extraction around the villages of Ripple and Uckinghall. During the committee meeting, I raised many concerns about the application, from the number of previous passed planning applications, to the known dangers of Silica dust particles, which are known to cause serious health hazards and even lung cancer.

I know it is always important to listen to the views of the committee before making my mind up with any planning application; however, during the committee meeting, I was appalled to see the loss of land which is classed as "The most best and versatile agricultural land". This was admitted by the officers who gave the presentation, who appeared not to give it a second thought, and

almost batted it away as an irrelevance. We import excessive amounts of food; we cannot grow enough ourselves. Added to the health risks and the lack of an Economic report, I was amazed that some members of the committee seemed to ignore these facts. Some members did not even bother to attend this first meeting. It would be interesting to see what party they represent. As this was the first planning meeting, I would have expected councillors to make the effort or have a very good reason for not attending. Illness or a holiday booked before the County elections would in my mind be reasonable. Having to go to work would not in my mind be acceptable; no one should take on the role of a County Councillor if they cannot make a full commitment. All County Council meetings take place during the working week, and every candidate who stands for election to the County Council will have been aware of this. The blight of Ripple and Uckinghall continues – it's very sad.

And finally ...

So, the Blues has gone, and I'm left feeling blue. My poor neglected veg plot glares at me with rightful disapproval. But I have a cunning plan for next year and the veg will be back. On a positive note, things are

not that bleak because I have an invite to another tea party. Cucumber sandwiches it is then! As ever, I'm here if you need me.

Martin Allen

The Daily Telegraph Top 500 Pubs

The Masons Arms, Wadborough



Such excitement in Wadborough after the beloved village pub, The Masons Arms, has been selected for the prestigious Top 500 Pubs in England list, compiled by Will Hawkes for The Telegraph. What an achievement for a small village pub that only re-opened in 2021 after lockdown closure. Lydia and Simon, ably assisted by Tash and a small crew of helpers, ensure there's always a welcome. Wadborough itself is a village of only about 80 houses and the loyal band of pub supporters are delighted to see

regular non-villagers plus occasional passers-by swell the numbers. The pub provides such a friendly atmosphere, with a great range of expertly kept beers and ciders, a wine list to please all tastes, and just about every other refreshment you can imagine – alcoholic and non-alcoholic! The menu covers all tastes with regular seasonal offerings, from summer specials to Christmas dinners and everything in between, including ‘festivals’ such as Mother’s and Father’s Days, Valentine’s, Easter Sunday etc. Be sure to book for special occasions though as they soon reach capacity. Oh, and did I mention Sunday Roasts that are exquisite – but again need to be booked. Lydia wants the ‘pub to be the hub’ of our community, and it certainly fills that role. A village association, which includes Lydia and Simon; arranges celebrations that have included the late Queen’s Jubilee and King Charles’ Coronation, using the pub as the venue and focal point. The recent VE80 event brought villagers together for a poignant commemoration.

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



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



Gregory Sidaway joins Hughes & Company!

Gregory first became associated with the Pershore Times as a Work Experience student when he was fifteen years of age and attending Pershore High School. He wanted to be author/journalist. Alan Hughes, the proprietor, was so impressed with the work he did that he offered the schoolboy a monthly column. Gregory grabbed this opportunity and it was called ‘Teenage

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

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

Editor



Upton Town Council Report *Jeremy Owenson, Mayor of Upton*



I am pleased to have been voted in as Upton’s New Mayor, and want to give thanks to Simon Yates, the outgoing Mayor, for his service to the town over 25 years. He will be missed. Upton Town Council (UTC) comprises of unpaid Councillors who run the town on behalf of the residents. UTC owns the playing fields, the Town Carpark and the cemetery, along with other patches of land around the town. We also manage the Memorial Hall, where in addition to events, the Town

Council meetings are held, and the Town Council offices are located. There are two employed clerks who administer everything on behalf of the Councillors, including running events such as the Remembrance Sunday parade. UTC also run the Children’s play area, and have recently improved the Skate Park, and installed a new table tennis table. Two new UTC Councillors were welcomed at the July Council meeting: Steven Dunwell and Peter Dobbin (who until recently

was the chairman of Upton Rugby Club). Our Town thrives when public-minded people give up their time to help and improve the lives of the residents, but more Councillors are still required. Feel free to speak with us if you might be interested. Going forward, UTC wants to find out from our residents what they would like to happen in their town. Watch this space for more details on how you can influence what is happening in Upton!

Development plan likely to pass key stage

Planning Inspectors have indicated that the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) is likely to pass a key stage, allowing it to move forward to formal adoption. The SWDPR was subject to public examination during hearings in March, which scrutinised the policies and the evidence the Plan is based on. A final session takes place in September, after which the independent Inspectors appointed to consider the Plan will release their full report.

The Inspectors' initial findings confirm, with some changes, that the SWDPR is likely to be found sound and legally compliant. Changes requested by the Inspectors will be put out to consultation in the autumn, after which the Plan can be formally adopted by Malvern Hills District, Wychavon District, Worcester City Councils, allowing planners to resist housing development in inappropriate locations.

In their interim letter, the Inspectors recommend, due to changes in housing-need calculations, a reduction in the number of homes that should be delivered before the Plan ends in 2041, from 21,440 to 18,852. They express support for new settlements at Rushwick and Worcestershire Parkway, confirming they are necessary to provide significant housing growth. But they raise concerns about the ability of the plan to deliver 2,000 new homes on land at Throckmorton by 2041 due to several issues, including land ownership. They acknowledge the site has potential for future housing and recommend the land be reclassified from an allocated housing site to an 'area of local search' - meaning more work needs to be done before homes can be built there. They have also challenged the proposed use of windfall sites - land that unexpectedly comes

forward for housing outside the official plan.

Doubt is also cast on the delivery of part of the Worcester South urban extension - covering a total of 2,204 homes south of Taylors Lane - within the next five years. While it remains an allocation in the Plan, the Inspectors believe the outstanding part of the site cannot be considered part of South Worcestershire's five-year housing land supply.

When combined with proposed changes to windfall sites, the Inspectors believe the Plan would not deliver a five-year land supply on adoption. Having a five-year land supply in place would allow the councils to resist housing development in inappropriate locations. However, despite this, Inspectors say they still feel the Plan is worthy of adoption as it would 'boost the supply of housing as a whole and meet the identified need across the

plan period.' They also note the Plan will need to be reviewed shortly after adoption to meet the Government's increased housing targets.

Cllr David Harrison said: "We're pleased the Inspectors believe the Plan is likely to be found sound and legally compliant and we look forward to their final report. We are disappointed with their initial conclusion about the five-year housing land supply. In particular, we do not share the concerns raised about the Worcester South site, which already has outline planning approval, a committed landowner, a selected developer, and positive engagement between all parties and with some areas with detailed planning submitted. We believe the site can make a significant contribution to the three South Worcestershire Councils' five-year housing land supply. We will provide further evidence to the Inspectors about this."

Tewkesbury and Bredon Hill Probus Club

The club for retired and semi-retired professionals and businessmen



At Tewkesbury and Bredon Hill Probus Club's weekly meetings, we have an eclectic mix of subjects provided by our visiting speakers. Some talks are fairly serious and thought provoking, involving science, engineering, medical matters or politics, so sometimes it's nice to have a light hearted alternative.

Cheltenham-based Phil Collins is a musician, historian and comedian who has visited us on several occasions and each time, he guarantees to involve the audience with lots of fun and laughter. On his most recent visit, he told us of the history of those two iconic comedy icons, Ronnie Barker

and Ronnie Corbett.

Phil described the early years of the duo, how they met at a club in London where Ronnie Corbett was working behind the bar and Ronnie Barker was just starting to establish himself as a character actor. David Frost happened to be there, saw their potential and invited them to perform on The Frost Report on BBC1. From then on, their careers flourished and their show on BBC television "The Two Ronnies" ran for more than 16 years. Phil reminded us of the various features which the pair performed on the show, such as the newsdesk, numerous sketches, solo sections and rumbustious

musical finales usually involving risqué lines and female costumes.

One of the Ronnies' most memorable sketches was of course the award-winning "Four candles" and Phil treated us to a complete video of the sketch, much to the delight of members and (on this occasion) a good number of wives and partners. Rarely have I heard such noisy laughter and applause on a Tuesday morning at Probus Club!

If you are a retired professional or businessman looking for something new to stimulate your retirement in a social environment, you would be very welcome to join us as a guest at one of our Tuesday morning meetings.

For more information, please visit our website or contact our Secretary, Steve Tucker, on: 07803 907243

Forthcoming Events in August:

5th Aug - Mahatma Gandhi Part 2 with Galen Bartholomew

12th Aug - History's Deadliest Deaths with Angela Dunsby



19th Aug - The Industrial Revolution Part 2 with Nigel Thompson

26th Aug - No meeting: Bank Holiday

www.probusclub.net/tewkesbredon

Chris Brown



A few words from... Dame Harriett Baldwin MP



Reform to Clarify Future of Malvern's Autism Free School

West Worcestershire MP, Dame Harriett Baldwin, has urged the Reform-led Worcestershire County Council not to cancel plans for a new school in Malvern. Baldwin has campaigned for a new specialist school for children with extra needs since 2015 and succeeded in making the case for a new school under the previous Government in 2022. Dame Harriett has written to County Councillor, Stephen Foster, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and SEND, asking for an update on the status of the proposals after reports that the new school is under threat. The school is expected to open for new pupils in 2027 with 120 spaces for 5–19-year-olds at its Poolbrook site in Malvern. Dame Harriett said: "I campaigned hard for a new autism free school in Malvern after speaking with local families and schools about the challenges in the SEND system. The Council

currently spends millions a year on SEND services, with much of that going to out-of-county providers. This much-needed school has the potential to give a vital boost to both local special and mainstream capacity, whilst delivering major cost savings. I am very concerned to hear that the school may no longer go ahead as planned under the new Reform administration. I was delighted when it was given funding and the green light under the last Government, a provider has been chosen and it is essential that it remains on track now."

To get in touch with Dame Harriet, you can email her at: harriett.baldwin.mp@parliament.uk
Or you can contact her constituency office at: 01684 585165



Queenhill



Was this the hottest day of the year so far? It certainly felt like it! It was, therefore, good that we had an interesting and engaging meeting that concentrated on other things. After a productive business meeting where we discussed fundraising, branch activities and plans for next year's programming, we welcomed Mike Bottomley as our speaker. His topic was Nurse Edith Cavell, whose name we knew well, though not many of the details of her life. Using a sequence of video clips and diary extracts, where an actor representing Edith talked of her experiences, Mike spoke very clearly and movingly of her life. With a strong religious faith and a wish "to do something useful, something for people", Edith worked first as a governess and then as a nurse both in this country and in Belgium, setting up nurse training schemes. During World War One, she also established safe houses and helped transport many to

safety. She was arrested and died by firing squad in 1915. Edith was an inspirational figure - and still is. "I realise that patriotism is not enough" she said. "I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone". What would she make of today's world, I wonder? Refreshments, conversation and a raffle followed as usual before we all braved the temperature outside and went home. Our next meeting is at 2:30pm on Thursday 14th August at Queenhill WI Hall, when Sandra Grayson will talk about 'Fun Signs, Marketing Mistakes'. New members are always welcome.

New noticeboards installed in Upton

Four new noticeboards have been installed in Upton Upon Severn to help enhance visitors' experiences in the town. The information boards, which have replaced outdated displays, have been created by Malvern Hills District Council, in partnership with The Tudor House Museum, and funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The boards have been installed on Hanley Road, The Peppercot

Grounds, Upton Rugby Club and by the riverside.

Noticeboard information includes:
- A welcome to Upton Upon Severn.
- Heritage, featuring details about The Tudor House Museum, The Old Church Tower, Ye Olde Anchor Inn, and more.
- Along the River Severn, with walking routes and historical facts.
- Festival and Events, showcasing Upton's music festivals and events.

Apton Times Collection Points:

- Banjo's - Badham's Hardware - Colston Bakery
- Drum & Monkey - Hughes & Company, Pershore
- Little Upton Muggery - Mojos - Nuyard Garden Centre
- Revills Farm Shop - Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke
- Severn Sweets - Spar - St. Richards - Upton Chippy
- Upton Library - Upton Newsagent
- Upton Post Office - Upton Surgery - Warners
- Welland Post Office - White Lion Hotel - Yorkshire Grey



L - R: Cllr Jeremy Owenson, Cllr Martin Allen, Mark Mynard, Cllr Beverley Nielsen, Victoria Carman

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Move it or Lose It!



Move it or Lose it classes have come to Upton Upon Severn! Come along and join us every Wednesday at 10.15am at the Hill Community Centre.

Move it or Lose it is a UK wide organisation based in Birmingham. Move it or Lose it believes that staying active should be fun, friendly and accessible to all.

The fitness classes are designed specifically to help the over 60s to stay young by improving strength, flexibility, aerobic capacity, balance and overall health as we age, helping us all to live life to its fullest!

The classes are led by specifically qualified and trained Instructors. Developed in conjunction with the Centre for Healthy Ageing Research at the University of Birmingham the exercises can be done either standing or seated without the need for floor work! Experts on our Advisory board include the founder and CEO

Julie Robinson, Professor Janet Lord CBE and Professor Sir Muir Gray CBE. Our classes are often recommended by NHS professionals.

Jane has been involved in the fitness industry for several years. After taking early retirement from her business in Hanley Swan she loves being able to devote her time to teaching six classes per week in the area. Regular movement is not just good for your body, it also boosts mental well-being, so improve your fitness, confidence and make new friends.

Come along and join us – no need to book - it's fun and friendly and the first lesson is free!

Contact: Jane Creese on 07879 671080

Email:

jane.creese@moveitorloseit.co.uk

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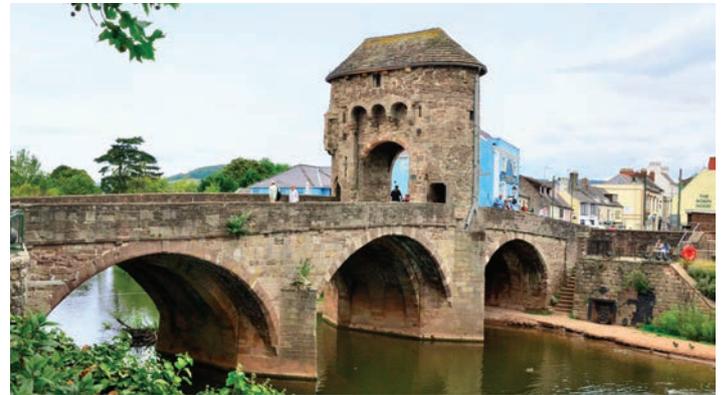
Tim Hickson



Worcester Bridge

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

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



Monmouth Gate Tower

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

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



The Roundheads crossing Upton Bridge

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



Powick's Old Bridge



Eckington Bridge



The Daily Telegraph



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JAPAN: UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER

MIDNIGHT BROADCAST BY MR. ATTLEE

GEN. MacARTHUR TO ACCEPT CAPTULATION

VICTORY DAYS TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Attlee, broadcasting in London at midnight, said: "Japan has to-day surrendered. The last of our enemies is laid low."

"Here is the text of the Japanese reply to the Allied Command: 'With reference to the announcement of Aug. 10 regarding the acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam declaration and the reply of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China, sent by Secretary of State Byrnes on the date of Aug. 11, the Japanese Government has the honour to reply to the Governments of the four Powers as follows: '1. His Majesty the Emperor has issued an Imperial rescript regarding Japan's acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam declaration. '2. His Majesty the Emperor is prepared to authorise and insure the signature by his Government and the Imperial H.Q. of the necessary terms for carrying out the provisions of the Potsdam declaration. '3. His Majesty is also prepared to issue this communication to all military, naval and air authorities to issue to all forces under their control wherever located to cease active resistance and to surrender arms, and to issue such other orders as may be required by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces for the execution of the above-mentioned terms.—Signed, Togo.'"

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

"THE TIDE TURNED"

War Lasted 3 Weeks Short of 6 Years

The war lasted a little over three weeks short of six years, Britain's participation being from Sept. 3, 1939, to Aug. 14, 1945. For the four chief Allied nations its duration was: China: 2,960 days, from July 7, 1937, to Aug. 14, 1945. Britain: 2,172 days. Russia: 1,420 days, from June 22, 1941, to May 9, 1945, and Aug. 9-14, 1945. United States: 1,346 days, from Dec. 7, 1941, to Aug. 14, 1945.

Russia war with Japan was over on its sixth day. Hostilities between Britain and Germany in the last war lasted 1,564 days, from Aug. 4, 1914, to Nov. 11, 1918.

BONFIRES & SHIPS' SIRENS GREET NEWS

Cheering Crowds In London

News of Japan's surrender was received in the Thames-side districts by a medley of noise from ships' sirens. Many people were awakened by continuous blasts and firework explosions. Across the Thames in Kent, as far as the eye could see, bonfires were blazing in a manner reminiscent of the nights of the blitz. About 40 American soldiers in the main hall of the American Forces London Club in the West End of London were celebrating the news. Japanese news programmes are being broadcast to news and talk-shows.

EMPEROR WILL BE OBEYED

MINISTER'S VIEW

The Japanese Minister in Stockholm said today that the Emperor would be obeyed. He said that the Emperor's rescript would be followed by the Japanese people.

MINISTERS CHEERED

Members of the Cabinet left Downing Street today and Mr. Attlee and Mr. Bevin, who were recognised by the small crowd which was waiting outside a great cheer. In Westminster the crowd which had considerably thinned was again cheering and waving. Members of the Cabinet were seen to cheer and to wave to the crowd. Mr. Attlee and Mr. Bevin, who were recognised by the small crowd which was waiting outside a great cheer. In Westminster the crowd which had considerably thinned was again cheering and waving. Members of the Cabinet were seen to cheer and to wave to the crowd.

QUIET OUTSIDE PALACE

At Buckingham Palace a deep silence was observed today. The lights were dimmed and the Palace was quiet. The only sound was the ticking of the clock.

ATOMIC BOMB CRUISER SUNK

The atomic bomb cruiser was sunk by the Allies. The ship was carrying a large amount of atomic bombs and was used for transport.

WEeping CROWD AT IMPERIAL PALACE

"OUR EFFORTS ARE NOT ENOUGH" The Japanese Emperor's message, the agency said, was received in London today. The Emperor's message, the agency said, was received in London today. The Emperor's message, the agency said, was received in London today.

PARLIAMENT OPENING MARKS END OF WAR

RECORD CROWDS EXPECTED FOR TO-DAY'S ROYAL DRIVE

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

800 FORTS IN LAST RAIDS

DROPPED 6,000 TONS OF BOMBS

More than 800 Super-Fortresses dropped 6,000 tons of demolition and incendiary bombs on six Japanese military targets yesterday and this morning. The attack was the first of the enemy's surrender.

THANKING SERVICES

Mr. Attlee will then, in the House of Commons, and Lord Halifax, in the House of Lords, propose a motion of thanks to the Services for their part in the war.

EMPEROR WILL BE OBEYED

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PETAIN SPEAKS

"YOU CANNOT TAKE MY HONOUR"

From Our Own Correspondent Stating in his last speech before the National Assembly, Marshal Petain said that he would not accept the terms of the armistice.

SEA BOMBARDMENT KILLS HIT

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RADAR WAS WAR-WINNING WEAPON

"GREATER THAN ATOM BOMB" A 10-year secret is lifted to-day with the disclosure of the story of Britain's war-winning radar. It is the invention which, as Sir Stavros Carras, President of the Board of Trade and former Chairman of the Radio Board, said yesterday, contributed more than any other scientific factor to the victory over Germany.

10-YEAR BRITISH SECRET

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Branch news

June news: The Branch attended the 'Wartime in the Vale' in June with the Gazebo. A new member joined here. On Armed Forces Day members attended the 'flag raising' ceremony at the Civic Centre. August marks 80 years since Victory in Japan Day [VJ Day] on 15th August 1945 when Japan announced its surrender to the Allied Forces and the official end of World War Two after six long years. While there were celebrations, there was also great sadness. The human cost was enormous: over 90,000 British troops were casualties, 30,000 died and

37,000 held as prisoner of war in atrocious conditions and many put to work as forced labour. The treatment of casualties and nurses in hospitals was also appalling. Casualties were even bayoneted in their beds. After the surrender, demobilisation began for British and Commonwealth forces, although thousands remained in service in occupied Japan and South East Asia. The 2nd Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment were in the Far East in 1941 at the outbreak of war, before being

deployed to Burma from 1942-45. The 7th Battalion joined them in 1944 and went on to fight in Imphal and Kohima. Many local men were with the Worcestershire Regiment and were part of the troops fighting in the jungles, becoming known as the 'Chindits'. Later in 1948, the Burma Star Association was started and there were local branches supporting these troops. This no longer exists and has been formed into the Burma Star Memorial Fund. To commemorate the end of the war in the Far East and Pacific, a two minute silence will be held at midday on 15th August. The national tribute will be at the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Arboretum and will be televised by BBC 1. There will also be a flypast. Here in

Pershore, the commemoration will take place during the morning service at the Abbey on Sunday 17th August. A wreath will be laid in the Abbey on the 15th. Breakfast Club continues on the first Saturday of the month at 0900hrs at the White Horse. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the RBL and joining us in the Pershore and District Branch should contact Gerald Gregory, Chairman on 07802 879088

Farming

Mike Page

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



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

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

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

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

A magical summer visitor

Karen Rose

It's August and the long, hot, early summer means that the fields around Pershore are sun-scorched and already harvested. This is a time of change for nature, as we move towards Autumn. Hedgerow fruits and berries appear, birds start to depart and the long summer evenings begin to get shorter. Some of our summer visitors are still with us though, so keep an eye out for a very exotic bird imposter.

If you've ever spotted what looks like a tiny hummingbird darting among your garden flowers, chances are you've encountered the Hummingbird Hawk-moth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*). With its rapid wingbeats, hovering flight, and long proboscis for sipping nectar mid-air, this day-flying moth is a wonderful summer

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



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

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

Sunny Sunflowers

It's August, which means it's Sunny Sunflower season! Their joyful blooms really brighten up the garden and make fabulous cut flowers too, but there is so much more to the humble sunflower than first meets the eye. I love looking at the centre of the sunflowers and the patterns created by the seeds - it's called the Fibonacci Sequence. This is where the sunflowers arrange their seeds in spirals, with two sets of spirals winding in opposite directions from the centre, which means space is optimised and it maximises seed production by ensuring each seed gets sufficient sunlight. Isn't nature amazing!

So whether you're after a statement plant for a wildlife-friendly border or a compact bloom for a container, there's a sunflower variety to suit your space.

Sunflower 'Titan' is a whopping variety with a flower head that

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

An interesting fact about

sunflowers is that they can clean up toxic soil and were planted at Chernobyl to absorb radioactive isotopes after the disaster. In 1994, researchers planted sunflowers on floating rafts in a contaminated pond near the reactor. Within just ten days, the plants had absorbed about 95% of the radioactive isotopes from the water. This technique has since been explored in other contaminated sites, including Fukushima in Japan and industrial areas with heavy metal pollution. It's a low-cost, eco-friendly way to help heal damaged landscapes.

Sunflowers are the perfect plant for a wildlife friendly garden as not only are the flowers loved by bees and other pollinators, but their seeds are adored by finches in the autumn. They're edible and nutritious for us humans too and are packed with vitamin E, magnesium, and selenium. So add them to your granola for



Nikki Hollier

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

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

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

www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk



August gardening tips

Early in the month

Keep dead-heading flowering plants and picking beans to maintain production.

Liquid feed bedding plants in tubs and baskets but switch to high Nitrogen feed, which stimulates new growth for flowering later. If carrot fly bothers you, grow the crop under garden fleece or insect barrier mesh for excellent control. Thin out overcrowded water lily foliage on ponds.

Start preparing the soil for laying new lawns next month. Vine Weevils will be laying eggs in tubs and containers now. One sure remedy is to water the compost with Bug Clear Ultra Vine Weevil Killer which makes the compost vine weevil proof for two months. For natural control, use nematodes or put a half inch deep layer of horticultural grit on the surface of the compost to deter successful egg laying and larvae development.

Mid-Month

Take cuttings from Geraniums, Fuchsias, Penstemons and other semi-hardy plants.

Keep Camellias, Hydrangeas, Magnolias, Pieris, Azaleas and Rhododendrons well watered to prevent bud drop later.

Semi-ripe cuttings can be taken from a wide range of shrubs.

These are short side shoots, which have slightly woody bases. Pot some strawberry runners into 18cm (7in) pots. Leave them outside until January, then put them in the greenhouse for an early crop.

Trim over lavender, Santolina (cotton lavender), Helichrysum (curry plant) lightly after flowering.

Sow last outdoor carrots, lettuce, radish and spinach beet in the vegetable garden.

Sow Japanese onion seeds soon or buy autumn planting onion sets next month.

Summer prune Wisteria - cut

back all new growth to five leaves up from where it arises from main branch, unless it is required to extend the plant. Sow Browallia, Schizanthus and Calceolaria in the greenhouse for winter pot plants.

Plant young strawberry runners for cropping next year.

Take Hydrangea cuttings - they could make a flowering pot plant for next year.

Try collecting some seed from your own garden plants - you could get a new variety.

Take cuttings from heathers. Use 2.5 cm (1in) long shoot tips. Root in gritty compost. Look out for specially stored early seed potatoes, plant soon for new potatoes for Christmas dinner.

Later this month

Spring flowering bulbs will be around now. Buy Colchicums, Madonna lilies and Autumn-flowering crocus soon. Gather up and dispose of

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester



diseased rose leaves as they fall. Prune rambler roses. Summer prune trained forms of fruit trees. Clean and check over greenhouse heaters.

Pot up some herbs dug from the garden ready to bring indoors in October for winter use. Sow a final batch of parsley seed outdoors and some spring cabbage.

Check over any bulbs e.g. tulips that you have in store to ensure that they are fit to re-plant.

Bees versus Wasps

Martyn Cracknell



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To be continued ...

Village Life

John Driscoll

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

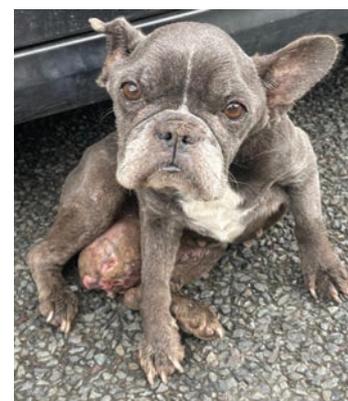
Our amazing community has once again shown itself in its best light after helping a poor little canine friend in need of help. An afternoon walker found the poor dog abandoned at the side of a road just outside the village. She was in very poor condition, showing signs of hunger as well as infections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

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

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

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

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



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

Calling All Writers!

Short Story Competition!

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

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

The two winners will be published in the October magazine.

Write about whatever inspires you!

Word Count: Up to 500 words

Deadline:

Monday 15th September

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

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



Ailsa's Kitchen *Ailsa Craddock*

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

BBQ Spiced Chicken with corn and cos lettuce

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

(*Spice Rub)

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

BBQ Salmon with dill, capers and lemon

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

Lemon wedges to serve
 Preheat barbecue to medium-high. Place a large sheet of foil on bench and top with baking paper. Place salmon on paper. Brush all over with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Fold baking paper and foil over salmon to enclose. Transfer parcel to barbecue. Cook for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, combine capers, onion, herbs, lemon rind and oil in a bowl. Remove salmon from barbecue and rest for 5 minutes. Unwrap. Transfer to a serving platter and spread with herb mixture and serve with lemon wedges.

Vegetarian Bean Burgers

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



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

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

BBQ Pineapple with chocolate dip

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

Place the star anise, cinnamon, cloves and peppercorns in a dry pan over medium heat. Toast for 3 minutes or until fragrant. Transfer to a spice grinder or mortar and pestle, and grind to a fine powder. Place half the spice mixture in a bowl. Add the butter and stir to combine. Set aside. Preheat a barbecue to a medium-high heat. Thread the pineapple onto skewers and brush with the spiced butter. Grill, brushing frequently with spiced butter, for 10 minutes or until lightly charred. For the chocolate dip, place the chocolate in a heatproof bowl. Place cream and remaining spice mixture in a saucepan over medium heat. Bring to the boil, then pour through a sieve over the chocolate. Set aside to cool for 1 minute, then use a spatula to stir until smooth and combined. Stir in a pinch of sea salt. Serve pineapple skewers with the chocolate dip, grated lime zest and extra sea salt.

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Campers and Candles

Angela Johns

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



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

Currently training as an Emotional Therapeutic Counsellor with the AETC, Angela is a qualified Reflexologist, Aromareflex Practitioner and Reiki Teacher/Practitioner. She is passionate about her therapies and spends quality time with her clients to facilitate their wellbeing. You can find her at angelajohns.co.uk

Navigating Change

Emily Papirnik

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



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

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

Fred Shero

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Romy's Uni Life

Romy Kemp *Liverpool University*



Thoughts over summer

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

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

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

More work experience

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

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

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

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



Beach Safety



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

Make some preparations

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

Prevent jellyfish stings

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

Avoid heat exhaustion in dogs

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

Prevent wasp stings

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

Watch out for sharp objects

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

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

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

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

Best wishes *Eliza*

Gregory's World!

Gregory Sidaway Exeter College, Oxford

Hot off the Press

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

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

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



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

Evie's Teenage Focus

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

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

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

Evie Aubin Oxford Brookes University



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

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Do you want a VAT invoice?

Carol Draper



It sounds like a simple question, and it is one that gets asked in numerous situations but what is a VAT invoice, when should one be provided, who needs one and what does it contain?

If you are buying something as a private individual, the answer is straightforward – in most circumstances, you do not need a VAT invoice. While we all pay VAT, only VAT registered businesses can reclaim it.

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

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

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

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

Carol Draper FCCA
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd

“You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.”

Margaret Thatcher



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

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

there is no traffic about.

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Julie Reynolds

Dear Editor,

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

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

the Government Planning Inspector's public hearing. I have for fifteen years, been a Parish Councillor and I am currently a member of the Joint Parishes Committee. We all want this to be a success. We want this project to achieve the best, with minimum disruption to existing residents and road networks. Consequently, Landowners, Developers, Homes England, Highways, Planning Officials, District and County Councillors have formed the Wychavon Garden Community Project Board. The purpose of the Board is to guide the development and accelerate delivery of the Wychavon Garden Community

Settlement through a cohesive approach to planning and on-site delivery including infrastructure. I have been invited (along with two other community representatives) to be a member of the Wychavon Garden Community Project Board.

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

*Steve Brooker
Whittington*

Talk the talk: learning a new language pays off

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

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

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

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

To find out more, contact: Louise Lilly on louiselilly49@gmail.com.



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From the Boundary

Peter Jewell, Resolve Law

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



A View from the Middle

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

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

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

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



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

Thoughts from the Snug . . .

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

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

For example:

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

Food, drink and poetry

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

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

And ...

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

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

Buddy Bach

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For more information, contact:

Len Evans at the Soldiers of Gloucester Museum, Gloucester Docks Tel. 07801 472 396 or Steve Lewis, Q&C Militaria Shop, in Cheltenham on 01242 519815

We look forward to welcoming you to our next meeting!

Jazz Event

Wednesday 6th August

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

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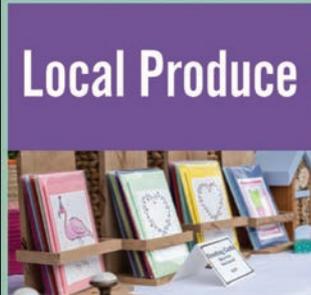
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Pershore & District

*No Meeting in August
Our next meeting is on :*

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

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

All welcome, including non-members
Meetings held at Number 8, High Street, Pershore

For more details, contact Sally Whyte
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Down on the Farm

Brian Johnson-Thomas



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

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

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



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

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

Worcestershire’s biggest free art event is back!



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

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

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

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

A Turn Around the Ground

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

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

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



Cancer Trust expands podcast platform



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

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

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

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

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

Duke for the rest of his life. One of Ellington's closest friends and musical rival was William "Bill" Basie, who was being introduced on a radio show where the presenter thought Bill Basie sounded too mundane and jokingly said: "Can I call you Count?". Basie non-committally agreed but the name stuck, and the band soon became world renowned. Did the name change stimulate this rise to fame – probably?

Earl Hines was not nicknamed Earl, that was his real name, but he was called "Fatha" (father) Hines in recognition of his huge part in the development of jazz piano. Greatest among the aristocratic ladies of jazz has to be Ella Fitzgerald, whose incredible vocal talent justifiably earned her the title "Queen of Jazz" right from the early days of her

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

Hampton and Stan Getz. Here in Britain, Lord Anthony Colwyn, trumpeter, band leader and crusader for jazz appreciation in the House, was a real hereditary peer. Sadly, he died of Covid-related problems in 2024.

Pershore Jazz Club continues with an eclectic programme for 2025, culminating in a very special Christmas event.

*Pershore Jazz Club
Last Wednesday of the Month
in the Function Room, Pershore
Football Club*

*Doors open at 7pm, music at 8
Admission £12.50 to include a
raffle ticket. Book in advance
and pay on arrival, email:
club@pershorejazz.org.uk
Tel: 01527 66692 or find us
on Facebook.*

*Check out our website
www.pershorejazz.org.uk*

Music Matters

Steve Ide

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

jeopardy. Will they fall out again? Definitely? Maybe? There are countless festivals to attend and gigs from Coldplay, Stevie Wonder, Billie Eilish and many more. We're spoilt for choice this year, it looks to be a scorching summer of music and sun.

Notable new albums

*Moisturiser
by Wet Leg*
This highly anticipated album has managed to live up to the hype. They return with a new look and their simple, fun songs about relationships, with some killer snubs. Coupled with the deadpan, sarcastic delivery from Rhian Teasdale and killer guitar tunes, this is an album of great pleasure. Notable track: Catch these fists

All Asimov and No Fresh Air
by Half Man Half Biscuit

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

Self Titled
by Kae Tempest

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

Add to playlist

Mr Bojangles
by Nina Simone

Dignity
by Deacon Blue

She brings the sunlight
by Richard Ashcroft

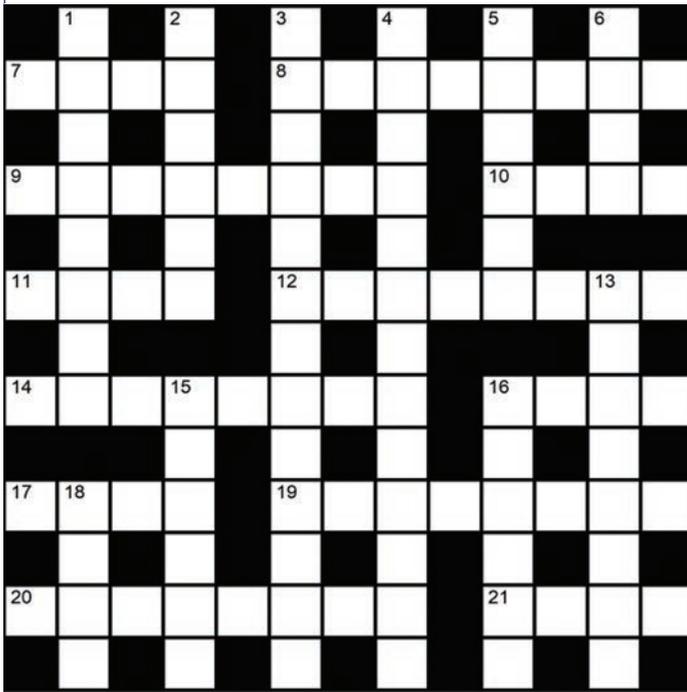
Dead stick
*by King Gizzard and the Lizard
Wizards*

Songbird
by Fleetwood Mac



Coffee Break

Crossword



Across

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

Down

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

Sudoku

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

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

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

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

Wordsearch

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

- ANVIL
- BANJO
- BELL
- BONES
- BUGLE
- CHIMES
- CRWTH
- DRUM
- FIFE
- GONG
- HARP
- LUTE
- LYRE
- MOOG
- OBOE
- ORGAN
- PIPE
- REBEC
- REGAL
- SHAWM
- SHENG
- SITAR
- TABOR
- TUBA
- VEENA
- VIOLA

Brainteaser

What is the missing letter ?

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

Poets' Corner

XLVIII

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

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

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

Ay, look: high heaven and earth ail from the prime
foundation;
All thoughts to rive the heart are here, and all are vain:
Horror and scorn and hate and fear and indignation-
Oh why did I awake? when shall I sleep again?

XLIX

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

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

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

Quiz!

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

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

July Answers



August Brainteaser: W plus 3 is 26, or Z

Did You Know?

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

Word of the Month

'Addlepatet'

Definition: to be confused; eccentric; flustered

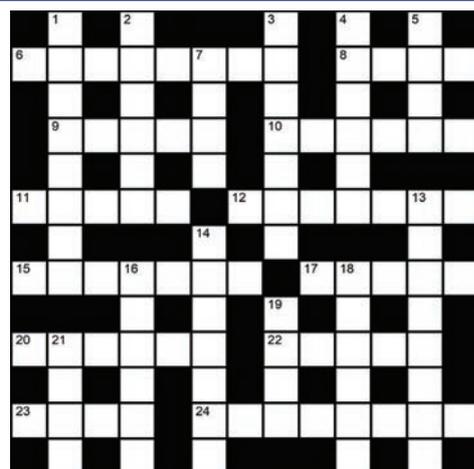
Anagram Crossword

Across

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

Down

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



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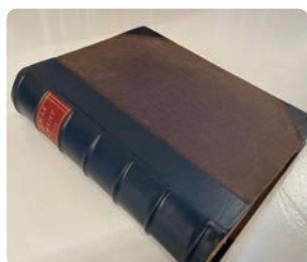


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**Copy Deadline for
September Issue - 21st August 2025**

Severn Stoke & Croome D'abitot News

Happenings in Severn Stoke and Environs

John Henderson

St. Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

Further repairs on the church roof should start this month. The Church Insurers, after withdrawing Flood Cover last year, have re-instated it, but at a considerable increase in cost. The Parochial Church Council and Friends of St Denys' committee have agreed to this cost, but for all those who love the Church or who have been baptised, married or with loved ones in the churchyard, we are desperate for donations - regular, if possible, so that

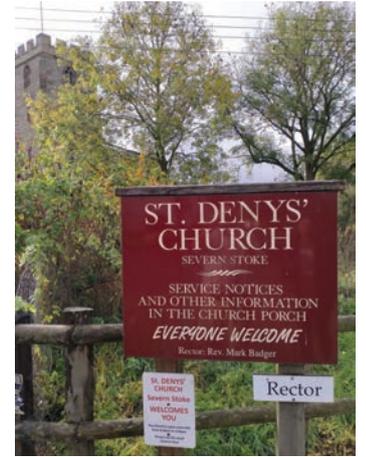
these ever increasing costs can be met, to preserve this ancient church for future generations. If you are a Tax Payer, we can obtain Gift Aid on your donation, which adds another 25% value to your payment, subject to signing a small form. Please think seriously about contributing to the upkeep of the Church or, like some others in the Diocese, it will be closed.

If you want to have further details, please contact: John Henderson 01905 371218 johnboydhenderson@hotmail.com

We are saddened to learn of the deaths of two long term parishioners: Rose Kehoe, formerly of Kinnersley, and Adrian Masters, of Severn Stoke. We send sympathy to their families and friends.

Friends of St. Denys, Severn Stoke

We are raising funds to modernise the church!
Advance Notice:
Saturday 20th September Craft Fair in St Denys' Church, following last year's very successful events.



Dishonest internet dating apps have prompted this conventional, genuine, personal advert, in the hope of meeting a genuine, single, tall, slim, farm owner, 58-68, residing in Upton, Pershore, Tewkesbury, and Malvern area for friendship. I'm a well-off, attractive, assertive, single, respectable, slim, fair country lady. Sorry, no divorcees or separated. Exchange photos.

All replies answered to:
Box No 14, Hughes & Co,
8 Church Street, Pershore WR10 1DT

Spot & Shop - July Winners

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

Last month's answer:
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Take a look at the anagram
The answer is the name of a business that is advertising in the Upton Times this month



This month's prizes!

1st - £50 cash

2nd - £25 cash

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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!

Upton Times closing date: 22nd August 2025

Answer:

Name:

Telephone/email:

Return to: Hughes & Company/Upton Times

8 Church Street, Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1DT

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Hook Common



Our 'Hymns with Pimms' service was once again very well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by all. The flower arrangers had, as usual, made the church look beautiful, using wild and garden flowers – simple but effective. In view of the windy weather, we decided to do without the gazebos (thank you, Barry, for

trying!). Instead we served refreshments inside the church, which worked very well. The donation of strawberries from Clive's Fruit Farm was much appreciated and Jane read a poem on the subject of apples, which was very appropriate. The afternoon services are always a good opportunity for fellowship



and to renew friendships, and this time was no exception. Mary Weatherill led us in a simple service of hymns and readings, and I heard one person say afterwards, "That's the best church service I've ever been to!" Upton choir joined us and sang an anthem, and it was good to see children in the church too.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the afternoon. Our next afternoon service is 'Harvest Hymns and Tea' on Sunday September 28th at 4pm. All are welcome – no previous church experience is necessary!

Kate Chester-Lamb

"Success is getting what you want.
Happiness is liking what you get."

H Jackson Brown

Did You Know?

The Commonwealth is made up of 56 independent countries and home to 2.7 billion people (roughly a third of the world's population).



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

AUGUST 2025

Sunday 3rd August

Trinity 7

9.30am Living Communion at GUARLFORD

11.00am Living Communion at POWICK

(Both with Revd Gary Crellin)

Sunday 10th August

Trinity 8

9.30am Living Communion at CALLOW END

(With Rev Dr William Rumball)

11.00am Living Communion at MADRESFIELD

(With Father Chris Sterry)

Sunday 17th August

Trinity 9

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at POWICK - CANCELLED

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at GUARLFORD

(With Rev Stephen Sealy)

11.00am VJ 80 Service at POWICK

(With Rev Canon Eric Knowles)

Sunday 24th August

Trinity 10

9.30am Living Communion at CALLOW END

(With Rev Dr William Rumball)

11.00am Living Communion at MADRESFIELD

(With Father Chris Sterry)

Sunday 31st August

Trinity 11

10.30am Café Church at CALLOW END

Midweek Communion at The Orchard Room in Colletts Green

Thursdays 14th & 28th August from 10.30-11.30am

01905 830270 www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk

For Zoom Access codes and links, please contact us via
revgarycrellin@gmail.com or oldhillsmalvern@gmail.com



Church Services

Sunday 3rd August

11:00 Good Shepherd, Hook - *Holy Communion*

Sunday 10th August

09:30 St Peter and St Paul's, Upton - *Holy Communion*

11:00 St Mary's, Ripple - *Morning Worship*

11:00 St Nicholas, Earls Croome - *Holy Communion*

Sunday 17th August

09:30 Good Shepherd, Hook - *Morning Worship*

18:00 St Peter and St Paul's, Upton - *Choral Evensong*

Sunday 24th August

09:30 St Peter and St Paul's, Upton - *Morning Worship*

11:00 St Nicholas, Earls Croome - *Morning Worship*

11:00 St Mary's, Ripple - *Holy Communion*

Sunday 31st August

10:30 St Gabriel's, Hanley Swan - *Joint Holy Communion*

St Mary's Church Heritage Weekend



St Mary's is a giant among churches, its pews displaying 100 hand-made kneelers.

St Mary's Church will hold a Heritage Open Weekend on 13th and 14th September during National Heritage Open Days 2025. The Parish Church of St Mary's, Ripple, lies close to the mighty River Severn, between Tewkesbury and Worcester. It is said to be the biggest medieval parish church in the county, with a rich history dating back to 680AD when a charter granted land for the building of a minster. The present church was built in 1180 and remains much the same. Among its many wonders is the grave of Robert Reeve, the

Ripple Giant. He died of a heart attack in 1626 at the age of 56 having mown Uckinghall meadow single-handed in a day, for a wager. He was said to be 7' 4" tall. His epitaph reads "As you passe by behold my length, but never glory in your strength". As well as being a beautiful old building, St Mary's Church, Ripple, is listed Grade 1 by Historic England, among only 2.5% of all listed buildings. It is considered to be of "outstanding architectural or historic interest". Among its many treasures is one of Britain's

finest examples of misericords, sixteen seats used by monks, intricately carved in the late 15th century and each telling a story about English rural life. There is an extremely rare copy of the "She" Bible printed in 1613, so called because of a typographical error that used the word 'she' in place of 'he'. Other known copies are at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Exeter, Salisbury and Durham Cathedrals and one other fortunate parish church.

Ripple is celebrated for the Battle of Ripple Field during the English Civil War in April 1643. It spilled over into the village and no doubt the church, and ended in a rare defeat for the Parliamentarians. Brigadier Peter Young, the founder of Britain's oldest Civil War re-enactment group, The Sealed Knot Society, lived in Ripple Parish and has a plaque in St Mary's. The church is home to the Society and holds a splendid service every October attended by 90 or more Society Members in full uniform. The Sealed Knot Society will hold an exhibition

in St Mary's Church over the Heritage Weekend. There will be history tours each day, important stained glass to see, Tower tours, bell ringing, activities for children and refreshments. Everyone is invited, at no cost, although donations are always welcome. Ripple itself is a historic community dating back to the 7th century with origins in the Iron Age and a mention in the Domesday Book of 1086. At that time, Ripple Parish included Upton Upon Severn, The Croomes, Queenhill and Holdfast. There are many listed buildings in the Parish, and the church sits comfortably between the very fine Queen Anne Rectory and the 15th century Ripple Hall. A village walk makes for an enjoyable conclusion to a church visit. A guided map will be available. *St Mary's Church, The Cross, Ripple, Tewkesbury, GL20 6HA* What three words: *vitals.refrained.occupiers* *Heritage Open Weekend 10am - 4pm, Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September 2025* *Parking available*

Winter Glow to return this Christmas!

Winter Glow, the West Midlands' biggest multi-attraction festive experience, has announced its return to the Malvern Three Counties Showground. The 2025 Christmas season will run from Friday 21st November to Wednesday 31st December for over five weeks of festive joy. Since first opening in 2020, the event has become an important annual tradition for families across the region, and its unique festive attractions draw thousands of visitors each year.

Ice Skating

Attractions include the West Midlands' largest covered ice rink. Decorated with twinkling lights and giant snowflakes, the rink is the perfect place to skate along to Christmas classics.

Light Trail

Winter Glow's breathtaking light trail spans more than 2km and includes over 20 mesmerising

light installations. This year, there will be more SEN and dog-friendly dates than ever before, and a new any day ticket option. This will provide families with more flexibility to plan their visit around the unpredictable British weather and busy schedules.

Personalised Santa Experiences

Families are invited to explore Father Christmas' magical Winter Village, Mrs Claus' bakery, and take part in a circus skills workshop with Santa's elves, before meeting the big man himself.

UV Golf

Back for 2025, the 18-hole glow-in-the-dark mini golf course features elf-themed UV designs and fun challenges for the entire family.

As well as creating memories for thousands of local families, the event will create 100 jobs



for people in the Three Counties, including more than 40 elves for Santa's workshop and many critical behind-the-scenes roles. Plus, Winter Glow's Christmas market and food court provide a platform for more than 80 local businesses, including Worcester-based Brisket Brothers and the Groovy Greek.

"We're excited to return to the Three Counties showground for

2025," says Chris Tarren, Managing Director at Winter Glow. "We hope our new, more affordable ticket offering will make it even easier for more families to create festive memories. I look forward to welcoming everyone back later this year to spread the Christmas spirit once again." *Tickets are now on sale. For more information, please visit: www.winterglow.co.uk*

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Care home residents celebrate Wimbledon final



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

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

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

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

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

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

Improvement works start on Malvern Town FC

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

- Main car park - providing spaces for 51 vehicles, with

four accessible bays and bike storage, improved pedestrian walkways, drainage, fencing, a wider entrance.

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

Malvern Hills District Council has invested over £425k for the upcoming project, which forms part of the Community Infrastructure Investment Plan that was adopted by the council in March 2025. The Plan will see over £3m invested into the council's own assets, including the Hill Community Centre,

Sport Martley and new community open space adopted by the council in Leigh Sinton.

A further £1m will be invested into community-owned assets through the Community Legacy Grant Scheme.

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

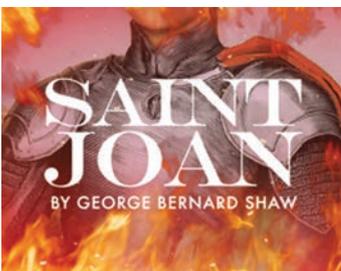
"It's important that we continue to invest in community hubs to help support and improve the health and wellbeing of local residents."

Chris Pinder, Chairman at Malvern Town FC, adds:



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

'Saint Joan' at the Coach House Theatre, Malvern



'Joan believes she was sent by God – her foes believe she should be sent back.'

Stripping away the myths that grew up around her, Shaw's play examines the dramatic rise and equally rapid fall of Joan of Arc. Joan believes she has been sent by God to drive the English from France. But she is up against the forces of prejudice, class, sexism, and the church. Having God on her side may not be enough. A century after it was written, Shaw's play still resonates: a

woman struggling to make herself heard and an establishment which is more concerned with its own internal politics and infighting than with a wider world or a bigger picture. This powerful play is brought to life by Kaitlin Howard (one of only three female Equity Qualified Fight Directors in the UK) with her cast of thirteen professional actors. The lead part of Joan is

taken by Rachael Gill-Davis fresh from her stint in ITV's *Emmerdale*. "[Playing Joan] is a major contrast from the comedy that I have been playing. ... It is nice to go back to go to something really, really serious."

'Saint Joan' is playing at the Coach House Theatre, Malvern. Tues 19th - Sat 23rd August, 7:15pm
Thurs 21st & Sat 23rd, 2:30pm

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Details coming soon ...

Rotary News

Richard Lees



July saw the start of a new Rotary year and we welcomed our new President, Lynne Raymer, and her team to take us through the year ahead. Lynne joined Rotary in 2010, believing we should do things we enjoy. Many local young adults remember Lynne as their teacher of maths and computing at Pershore High School. A keen traveller, Lynne also enjoys the creativity and physicality of gardening and knows that her faith and worship at Pershore Abbey is fundamental to her life. She was Pershore Foodbank's Project Leader for eight years and chairman of Wick Parish Council for four years. Lynne's recipe for the year ahead includes developing lifelong friendships, supporting the local community, accepting new challenges and having fun, meeting new challenges and new people.
 Jorja Woolston, a Year 12 student

at Pershore High School, secured a highly prestigious place at the 'Rotary Youth World Affairs Seminar' (WAS), held at Carroll University, Wisconsin, USA in June 2025. Jorja was one of three Rotary D1100 sponsored students attending the program, where students debated "Peacebuilding: Creating Lasting Change". Since 1976, the 'Rotary Youth World Affairs Seminar' has provided a unique forum, where 40,000 future leaders from thirty different countries have debated some of the most complex global problems. On her return, Jorja thanked Pershore Rotary for sponsoring her at WAS 2025 and said, "I had an amazing time! I met so many great people and made lots of new friends. I went to a range of lectures on subjects varying from leadership skills to the problem of human trafficking. You also get to listen to very inspirational people with unique stories."

Jorja was a great ambassador for Pershore Rotary and it's hoped that she will encourage other students to apply to join WAS 2026. On a scorching Saturday 12th July, Pershore Rotary held a "Tea in a Tent" event to celebrate ShelterBox's 25th anniversary. Cakes, scones and strawberries were served along with gallons of tea, coffee and cold drinks. We "borrowed" the café and kitchen from Wick Care Farm and greatly appreciated the support given to us by Isobel Meikle. Wick Care Farm is set in 270 acres of farmland near Pershore and supports adults and young people through engagement with

a variety of farm-based activities. The event raised £600, enough to buy a ShelterBox tent for a family of 10 and more. In its 25 years, ShelterBox has supported over 3 million people in over 100 countries. These tents provide shelter for the 120 million people around the world hit by earthquakes, floods, wars and other disasters.
If you would like to work with us, we would love to hear from you. Follow us on Facebook, check out our website www.pershorerotary.club or email at secretary@pershorerotary.club

Simon Gibson, Organist

Simon Gibson began learning the organ with Kenneth Ryder at St Peter Mancroft Church in Norwich and continued his training with John Birch at the Royal College of Music in London. He then went on to be Organ Scholar at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he read Music. After a short period working in the Royal Opera House Shop in Covent Garden in 1990, he took a job as a Classical Remastering Engineer at Abbey Road Studios in London, where he continues to work as a mastering engineer today. In his time at Abbey Road, Simon has become an expert in the field of audio restoration and remastering, working on hundreds of recordings from EMI's classical

archive, including the Great Cathedral Organ Series, as well as the Lyrta back catalogue. He has also worked on many pop and rock projects, the highlight being his audio restoration work on The Beatles Remastered Edition in 2009. Today, Simon continues to be in demand for archive remastering and mastering work, which includes many film score soundtrack albums and stage musical cast albums. For thirteen years, Simon was Organist & Director of Music at St Mary's Church, The Boltons, London SW10, where he frequently worked with a professional choir and musicians and is now based in Tewkesbury musicians and is now based in Tewkesbury.



Lynne Raymer



Jorja Woolston

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- Upton Library 01905 822722
- Upton Police Station 101
.....(In an emergency always call 999)
- CrimeStoppers 0800 555 111
- Upton Post Office 01684 592761
- Upton Surgery 01684 592696
- Upton Tourist Information 01684 594200
- Upton Town Council 01684 592273

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- Planning Dept 01684 862221
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- Help the Homeless 0300 500 0914

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Cycle Challenge Smashes £12,000 Target



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

In a challenge of a lifetime, Worcester-based Atwell International Ltd, took on a 320-mile mission on Thursday 26th June to cycle from Gheluvelt Park in Worcester to Gheluvelt in Belgium (Ypres), in a gruelling four-day journey to smash their fundraising charity target of £12,000. The G2G Cycle Challenge was the brainchild of Atwell International Managing Director, Russ Walker, to honour his Great Grandfather and the valiant men of the Worcestershire

Regiment's 2nd Battalion, whilst raising vital funds for three fantastic charities. Now, with a fundraising total that exceeds £15,000, St Richard's Hospice, Alzheimer's Society and Mercian Regiment Museum (Worcestershire) will benefit from this incredible amount, giving invaluable support to the local community. Russ Walker explains, "The G2G Cycle Challenge had many goals including celebrating Worcestershire's rich and diverse history, reminding us of its

enduring legacy while raising vital funds for three exceptional charities. We knew it was going to test the boundaries of all our riders both physically and emotionally and we weren't wrong. It was an unforgettable experience and I'm proud to be part of the team which included the riders, support team and corporate sponsors ... Without them, this challenge wouldn't have been possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated, we are so pleased we are able

to support three charities that are close to our hearts, thank you!" The G2G Cycle Challenge commemorates the courageous sacrifice of the Worcestershire Regiment 2nd Battalion for their critical role in the Battle of Gheluvelt on 31st October 1914, a World War I engagement fought near Ypres, Belgium, in a pivotal moment that helped safeguard the British Empire. Atwell International Ltd, founded in 1996 specialises in supplying VG Safety Products and associated lift components and is synonymous with quality standards, leading the field with integrity. They have a long history of supporting the local community, which is evident in their latest G2G Cycle Challenge.

For more information regarding the G2G Cycle Challenge and Atwell International please email: info@atwellinternational.com

Donations can still be made here: www.givewheel.com/fundraising/6316/gheluvelt-2-gheluvelt-cycle-challenge/

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