

# Whittington Times



*A free monthly newspaper for Whittington and surrounding areas*

Issue 2

June 2025

**FREE**



*Oak Tree, The Tump, Whittington*

**J**une already, half the year nearly gone! The weather has been glorious and nature has seemed to move faster than usual. We are continually playing catch up in the garden! We live in a lovely part of England; the countryside is outstanding and the scenery glorious. This idyllic situation clashes with lots of challenges in the world at the moment. We hear so many people complaining, but we still have so much to be thankful for! The UK is a fantastic place in which to live and leads the world in so many ways.

It's very easy to criticise but as a great man said, 'Any fool can see what's wrong, look at all the things that are right!'. We hear people talking about

the 'good old days', in my experience 'today's days' are the very best days ever! Everything is better! Health, education, hygiene, the variety

and quality of food, travel, communications, and so it goes on and on, the list is endless. We are a multi-national country with a Commonwealth of nearly two billion people. One of the greatest innovators and exporters, with the sixth largest economy in the world. We outstrip many much larger countries including Russia. We have led the way so many times and we are respected throughout the world. Let's take heart from this, believe all will be well, think positive. The Brits always get it right, in the end!

The cricket season is well underway and we look forward to some great matches against the West Indies and in the County Championships at New Road. Village cricket is very popular and Sunday afternoon at the Village Green is a traditional British summer pastime.



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# Whittington Parish Council - *Chairman's annual report 2025*

My report is somewhat lengthy. It is dominated by the SWDP. The SWDP will have a major impact on the Parish and parishioners. It is, will be and has been the biggest challenge the Parish Council has ever faced. Yet another busy year for the Parish Council. The Parish Council was seven councillors, it is now nine Councillors. We currently have one vacancy. This is because of the increase from approximately 190 homes to almost 800 due to the Wildmore & Whittington Walk developments. Councillors Richard Boase, Christine Boase and Stuart Austin represent the interests of the Wildmore part of the Parish, Adam Hooper, our vice chairman, and Olivia Khong from Whittington Walk, Katie Lambeth-Mansell and myself, Whittington Village and Helena Bennett representing the interests of Pershore Road. Unfortunately, try in the past as we have, we have not been able to find a councillor to represent that part of the Parish on St Peters, some 90 homes. Whittington Parish Council, in comparison to other parish councils is no longer a small parish council but one of the bigger councils and not far from the size of some Town Councils. You may have heard in the news recently, Government intentions to scrap district and county councils and create unitary authorities. However, it is understood that the Government's intentions are to retain Parish Councils. Your parish council oversee parish assets, such as allotments and is a statutory consultee on planning applications. We raise issues with the appropriate authorities that impact on parishioners, such as highways issues, infrastructure and the maintenance of parish utilities – the yellow brick road being one example. The community hall is a parish asset but that is managed and cared for by trustees and members of a management committee. Additionally, your Parish Council engage in activities such as organising or promoting community-based projects such as a local charity, summer fayre, Christmas Santa, health and well-being within the community, school and church involvement and recently, thanks to Councillor Christine Boase, a Parish newspaper. All this requires the management of finances, knowledge of policy and procedures, the ability to negotiate with authorities and

the personality to advise councillors as to the possibilities and restrictions to consider. We are very fortunate to have David as our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. David has excelled in this respect. He has provided support and advice to all Councillors, ensured the smooth and effective running of the council and I speak on behalf of all Councillors, thank you, we are very grateful for your commitment and expertise. Sadly, we have seen a rise in anti-social behaviour, driver behaviour, particularly through the rat run of Walkers Lane and Church Lane in addition to incidents of crime and substance misuse. It appears that, increasingly, residents are reporting such incidents to Parish Councillors instead of the police. Parishioners are urged to report incidents of this nature directly to the police. The more they do so the more likely we are of having a meaningful police response. It is acknowledged that the police have limited resources and other priorities but increased visibility and effective policing of incidents of anti-social behaviour and the enforcement of traffic regulations would be welcomed. Walkers Lane and Church Lane are subject of an access only order. One particular area or issue of concern often raised with the Parish Council is matters relating to Highways and Public transport. Whittington Walk is not served by a bus service. With an estate of some 300 homes and the emphasis these days of using alternative means of travel to the car, this is unacceptable. The volume of traffic on the roads around Whittington is pushing motorists to use Walkers Lane and Church Lane as a rat run to avoid congestion but putting pedestrians and cyclists, particularly children making their way to and from school at risk on narrow, unlit roads, devoid of pavements and in many places without grass verges to seek sanctuary. Motorists exiting Whittington Walk are contravening road traffic regulations by driving on the wrong side of the road to access the traffic island. At any time of the day, it is dangerous to exit the village onto the Whittington Island. At rush hour it is almost impossible. Pedestrians are at risk crossing the M5, Junction 7 traffic island as there is not a pedestrian crossing or similar facility on

the north bound slip road as there is on the southbound slip road. The Parish Council continues to pursue these concerns. It is unfortunate, despite representation and the support of our County Councillor, Linda Robinson, for whose efforts we are grateful, it seems impossible to get the authorities to understand our concerns and engage with the parish council. A personal letter from me, the Chairman, to Mr. Marc Bayliss, the county council cabinet member for Highways and Transport has been ignored. The worrying aspect about all this is that when the SWDP comes into effect, will concerns of ours be similarly dismissed or ignored? My thanks to Councillors Richard Boase and Adam Hooper for his management of the Wildmore Allotments. There are fifteen allotments and the income from Tenants is reinvested in the management and development of the allotments thus avoiding spending parishioner's precept contributions for the benefit of fifteen allotment tenants. Councillor Richard Boase and Councillor Stuart Austin were also responsible for the lead on creating a community orchard which is now in existence up near the foot bridge over the Swinesherd dual carriageway. A number of County, District, Town and Parish Councils across the United Kingdom have adopted and continue to develop a project to provide a health and wellbeing service to local communities. Councillor Olivia Khong has taken the initiative in this respect on behalf of Whittington Parish Council. Acknowledgment must go to Councillor Adam Hooper for his lead on organising a Parish summer fayre that goes from strength to strength, and to Councillors Katie Lambeth-Mansell and Councillor Adam Hooper for their Christmas Santa event raising funds for local charities. Two local charities that had become dormant are now up and alive, thanks to Councillors Helena Bennet, Councillor Katie Lambeth -Mansel and Susan Macleod, providing funding for less fortunate parishioners. We all remember with fondness our lengthsman, Sam Joyner. Sam's brother, Charlie has taken on the role, the work that

he has done and continues to do so is very much appreciated. The Parish Council extend their thanks and appreciation to our County Councillor Linda Robinson and our two District Councillors, Liz Turier and Rob Adams for all their support, advice and driving home with District, County and Planning Authorities our concerns and issues. Your attendance at our meetings and continued commitment in the interests of Whittington Parish is very much appreciated. Thank you. My appreciation and thanks I extend to those parishioners who frequently or regularly support their Parish Council through their attendance at Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council resolved to set the precept, that is the contribution through Parishioner's rates, for 2025/26 to raise by 5.39%. This amounts to an extra £3.38p per year for a Band D household. The increase is necessary due to the rise in inflation and so the Parish Council can continue to meet its financial obligations and continue with its efforts to pursue projects that will make Whittington a great place to live. It should be noted that despite the small increase in the precept, Whittington remains below the national and local average. *The future:* Top of the list must be the SWDP and our concerns relating to the impact on the Parish. The Parish Council will continue to seek assurances relating to community infrastructure. The Council is currently drafting a one year, three year and five year action plan. This plan will include Health and Well-being of parishioners, Tree Preservation orders and road safety matters. The Council has recently initiated a land acquisition project. With developer interest I urge the Council to pursue this opportunity without delay, otherwise we may miss the boat! There is currently an ongoing project to propose a community garden within the Wildmore housing estate.

Thank you.

*Steve Brooker  
Chairman  
Whittington Parish Council*



## From the County Council

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all those involved in setting up this free newspaper for Whittington and surrounding areas. I have read copies of the Pershore Times over the years and appreciate the quality and content that it offers to local readers. Communication and information sharing is crucial to all our daily lives and whilst many may prefer to use social media, this option is now available to all ages and can be readily shared amongst residents. I am grateful to have the opportunity to contribute in my capacity as your County Councillor. I was delighted to be re-elected for a second term in the recent

elections. I would like to thank all those who supported me and look forward to continue representing you all to the best of my ability. Challenges lie ahead for our local government in Worcestershire amidst Government proposals to work towards a unitary authority. Post-election, no political group has overall control at the County Council, so as we start the new administration it will inevitably feel quite different for both members and officers. No sooner was the election over before we moved into VE day celebrations and with twelve parishes to support, I found myself very busy. I was reminded

of the Vicar of Dibley's iconic Christmas special with Dawn French in her role as the vicar attending numerous celebration dinners. Over the whole week I supported ten very diverse events across my County Division. One of my highlights was in Whittington on the 8th May, when your Year 5 Primary School pupils came into the VE themed hall. They were then treated to real life reminiscences from two of our senior residents who were their age during the blitz. All present found their stories fascinating but particularly the children, who sat in silence and total immersed for nearly an hour, as did we all, which was a



joy to witness and quite moving. My appreciation goes out to all those who worked so hard to help organise so many diverse events which were really appreciated amongst all our communities of all ages.

*Linda Robinson  
County Councillor*



## From the Parish Council

but as busy as ever since we moved here in 2016 from our respective homes in Sandy, Bedfordshire and Blackburn, Lancashire.

Whittington Parish Council is geographically diverse, divided by three dual carriageways and a motorway. Some of you will remember Whittington of 11 or 12 years ago when it was just a village and outlying areas. Now we have nearly 600 modern houses on Whittington Walk and Wildmore and we are determined to seek opportunities to provide additional facilities that will add value for all residents, whether you have been here all your life or you only moved into the parish last week. No matter how we are divided by roads criss-crossing our patch, we aspire to be "One Parish – One Community". Look out for a survey later in the year to give us your views. Would you like to help shape the future of Whittington Parish? We have vacancies on our team of nine volunteers. We're all non-political, and we'd love to hear from you. If you're not sure, come along to our next meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th June at the Community Hall or email our Parish Clerk, for more information.

...and finally!  
Make a note in your diary for the Whittington Summer Fayre at Pond Farm, Church Lane on Saturday 12th July. More on that next month!

*Richard Boase, Chairman  
Whittington Parish Council*

I was honoured to be elected Chairman of Whittington Parish Council at the end of May by my fellow parish councillors. I take over from Steve Brooker who has been a parish councillor for most of the past 15 years since he retired from the police service, and Chairman for the past four years. Steve has worked tirelessly for the parish, particularly in relation to road safety, including trying to find a solution to rush-hour drivers using the village as a rat run. He has been at the forefront of discussions with neighbouring parishes regarding the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) and the significant impact this will have on all residents when the developers arrive. He leaves the council with our thanks and best wishes to spend more time with his family and to enjoy his retirement and hobbies. You can read more about SWDP on page VIII of the 'Magazine' in last month's (May) edition. By way of my own introduction, I live on the Wildmore estate with my wife, Christine, (also a parish councillor!), two dogs and two cats. We're both retired,

## Whittington Parish Council

**Clerk to the Parish Council**

**David Hunter-Miller**

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Planning Applications, News and much more.*

*Whittington Parish Allotments  
The Parish Council maintain 15 allotments for  
rental to Parishioners at:  
Wildmore, Honeywood Place, Whittington WR5 2SL  
See the website for further details.*

*Parish Council Meetings  
Support your Parish Council. We meet at 7.30pm on the 4th  
Tuesday of each month at Whittington Community Hall.  
Future meeting dates and times are on the website:*

**[www.whittingtonparish.gov.uk](http://www.whittingtonparish.gov.uk)**

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# Whittington Church

David Hallmark

After the Tump, the next prominent site is Whittington Church. Please visit. The present Church was consecrated on 19th March 1844. It was built on the site of a pre existing Chapel with origins from AD 816 Saxon times. There is an altar stone to Mary Taylor of 1797 and a wall stone to the Best family of 1794. The Church and Graveyard commemorates many villagers families. One family with several headstones is the Holden family. The Rev William Rose and his wife Betty came to Worcester in 1829. Himself, his wife, his sons, daughter and grandchildren are buried. Warriors of the First and Second World War are commemorated. These include James Graham Gilmour aged 31 at the Battle of The Aisne 19 September 1914. Privates Crowther, Dorrell, Hughes, Jones and Ledbury of WW1 are remembered. The oldest military memorial is

Rear Admiral Herbert Brace Powell who died 18 December 1857. His tribute refers to the Battle of Algiers in 1816 when 3,000 Christians were liberated from slavery. His tomb is in the brick barrel vault now underneath the altar. Worcester born Private Frederick John Draper served with the 1st Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment. He was captured and a Prisoner of War in 1942 and died in 1946 and buried near relatives. The Church Organ makes a wondrous sound and supports Church and Family events. The Yew is a special feature and with our Church Warden David Chestney. The Yew has been dated as from 1272 a time of turbulence 953 years ago with De Montfort Colleagues versus Monarchy. David and Liz Chestney many years as organist have been linked with the Church since 1988...some 2000 weeks.



*David Chestney and Yew at Whittington Church*

## Inspiring Young Eco-Champions - Himbleton CE Primary School & Nursery

Gemma Beattie

At Himbleton CE Primary School and Nursery, we are proud to be nurturing the next generation of environmental champions. This academic year marks an exciting step forward in our commitment to sustainability and community involvement, as we work towards achieving the internationally recognised Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. In September, we proudly established our very first Eco School Committee—a dedicated group of enthusiastic pupils from across the school who are passionate about protecting our environment and making a difference in their local community. Supported by staff and driven by the children's own ideas and concerns, the committee meets regularly to discuss, plan and implement initiatives that support the Eco-Schools programme. From the outset, our pupils demonstrated that they have a strong awareness of the challenges facing our environment, both locally and globally. They were especially keen to take action on issues that impact our village directly, such as flooding and the need for safer, greener spaces to play and explore. As part of their mission to

spark real change, the children recently wrote heartfelt letters to our local MP, Nigel Huddleston, highlighting the eco-issues that matter most to them. They shared their concerns about the increasing frequency of flooding in and around Himbleton, and the lack of safe, accessible green areas for play and wildlife. We were delighted to receive thoughtful, personal responses from Mr Huddleston, addressed to each child who had taken the time to write. His replies were incredibly encouraging, showing our pupils that their voices are being heard and that they can be agents of change, even at a young age. This positive interaction has inspired even more ideas from

our Eco Committee. The children have begun to plan future projects, including ways to reduce plastic waste in school, promote biodiversity through the planting of wildflowers and trees, and encourage more sustainable travel options for families. Our committee is also looking forward to involving the wider community through workshops, recycling drives and environmental awareness events. Our journey towards Green Flag status is not only about environmental education—it's about empowering children to care deeply for their world and equipping them with the tools to make meaningful contributions. We are immensely proud of the leadership, empathy, and

creativity our pupils have shown so far, and we look forward to sharing more of their journey with the Whittington community in the months ahead. We hope that by sharing our efforts, we can inspire others in the local area to join us in protecting our precious environment—because real change begins at home, and every small action counts. *If you are a local resident, organisation or business who would like to support our Eco-Schools journey, we would love to hear from you!* We have school places available in selected year groups so please contact our school Office on: 01905 391231 for more information.





# Whittington Summer Fayre returns on 12th July



Whittington is busy preparing ahead of its annual summer fayre taking place on Saturday 12th July between 11am and 5pm. 2025 will be the summer fayre's 3rd year; the event has quickly established itself as one of the highlights of the summer in Whittington.

The event is organised by Whittington Community Events Group- a group of local residents and parish councillors who run free, family friendly events and activities for residents of Whittington and beyond.

Any profits made for the events and activities are donated to charity.

Adam Hooper, Chair of Whittington Community Events Group said: "We are delighted that the Whittington Summer Fayre is back again. It's a great opportunity for our community to get together and have some fun in the sun! We have great food and drink, a huge selection of stalls, a dog show, free circus skills and brilliant live music all day; and not forgetting a



free magic show and visits from Spiderman and Elsa from Frozen. Most importantly it's free to attend.'

Any profits from the summer fayre are donated to charity. In 2024, Whittington Community Events Group donated more than £4000 to local charities as a result of their fundraising through the summer fayre and their Santa sleigh.

"We would love to see as many people as possible join us on 12th July, we can promise a great day out" said Adam Hooper

*The Whittington summer fayre takes place in Whittington village on the edge of Worcester on:*

*Saturday 12th July from 11am to 5pm.*

*The postcode to use is: WR5 2RQ*

*More information can be found at: [www.whittington-events.com](http://www.whittington-events.com)*



*Eco-Champions -  
Himbleton CE Primary School & Nursery*

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# A day in the life of

## *Whittington Community Hall Caretaker -*

### *John Symonds*

*Q. How long have you worked at the Hall John?*

A. Since it opened in September 2021, so coming up four years.

*Q. What does a typical working day like?*

A. It's mostly opening and locking up for clients and cleaning. I go in before the first booking of the day to clean the hall, there may have been a party the day before or large meeting and although hirers clean up after themselves, I like to make sure the hall is perfect for the next people. There can be several bookings in a day, but I usually go home for a coffee break between events as I live close by.

*Q. What's the best part of your job?*

A. I enjoy being left alone to organise the cleaning to suit me and being trusted with looking after the hall. I work in conjunction with Anita our bookings secretary and between us the caretaking schedule works well.

*Q. Do you get to meet many people?*

A. Before I started this job, I only knew a handful of people in the village. It has been nice to get to know the members of the committee who run the hall. It's also great meeting the various people who hire the hall and I'm sure this is good for my mental health! I do my best to be friendly and helpful to everyone who comes to the hall and it's very rewarding to hear the positive feedback we get.

As the Hall is busy with bookings, we are looking for a second part-time self-employed caretaker to share the contract with John.

*If you live locally and are interested to hear more about joining our team and caretaking the hall email us at: [info@whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk](mailto:info@whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk)*



## Church Services

<b>Sunday 1st June</b>	<i>Easter 7</i>
11:00am	Parish Communion
3:30pm	Forest Church
<b>Sunday 8th June</b>	<i>Pentecost</i>
11:00am	Family Service
<b>Sunday 22nd June</b>	<i>Trinity 1</i>
11:00am	Family Communion
<b>Sunday 29th June</b>	<i>Trinity 2</i>
11:00am	Morning Prayer
1:00pm	Baptism
<b>Sunday 6th July</b>	<i>Trinity 3</i>
11:00am	Parish Communion
<b>Sunday 13th July</b>	<i>Trinity 4</i>
11:00am	Family Service
<b>Sunday 20th July</b>	<i>Trinity 5</i>
11:00am	Parish Communion
6:30pm	Memorial Service



## St Philip & St James' Parish Church

### Whittington

*A Ninth Century Chapel rebuilt in 1844*

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Organist:

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## 'Eye-catchers'

Tim Hickson

This was the term used in the C18th for objects in the landscape - usually man-made - which catch our attention. In Croome Park, Lancelot (Capability) Brown arranged for several to be included in the views he designed, for the 6th Earl, in the second half of the 1700s.

However, some are natural. Whenever I come home from a trip abroad or from another part of the UK, I know I am nearly there when I catch sight of the Malverns. At Croome, before George William Coventry became the 6th Earl, a cedar tree had been planted to the west of the Court. When Brown came he deliberately included that tree as something to look at from the Long Gallery. Go to have a look. (As I sometimes say to visitors, the Malverns were also in the right place so he did not have to move them!)

Arriving at what is now the National Trust property of Croome, passing through Reception and then emerging from the Shrubbery Walk, we suddenly see that magnificent view across the Severn Valley to the Malverns. Our eyes are caught by the appearance of the Court below and, if on a sunlit morning, to the right, by the sight of Pirton Castle. This apparent piece of an old castle was built in the late 1700s simply as something to catch your attention. Sometimes referred to as 'follies', these were appearing all over the world at that time.

As you may have read in an earlier article from Nicola Hewitt, the 9th Earl bred several Grand National-

winning racehorses. If he had guests at Croome Court, he would take them to Pirton Castle so they could climb the staircase inside to gain a good view of these horses in training. However, continuing down to the Court, and then looking back, you see the church you passed. The original church was down near the Court but Brown and the Earl must have wanted an unobstructed view of the splendid new building. So, the old church was dismantled and as much as possible of the structure re-used. (Go into the Basement and look at the Boys' School boot room.) The new church was clearly meant to have a striking appearance - to be an eye-catcher.

Often, by now, trees have grown to hide what would once have been clearly visible from the Court such as Dunstall Castle. Curiously, whilst marked on all the maps I have, only the 1930s one gives this building a name. Travelling on the A4104 from Pershore to Upton, once past Woodmancote there is a sharp bend to the left followed immediately by a road on the right to Kinnersley. Take that road and you will reach the Castle. Back at the Court, just to the east, up on the bank is the Rotunda, once visible from the main building. Further away to the west, off the road from Kinnersley towards High Green, on Cubs Moor, is the Panorama Tower, which can be seen from the M5. It was said that this was built so the 6th Earl and his guests could view his estate from its gallery. Every so often this is open to visitors.



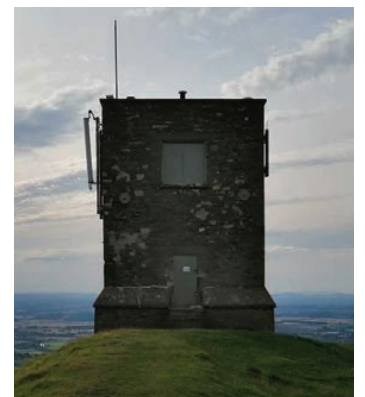
Croome Court

Towards the end of his life, the 6th Earl decided he needed a spectacular tower high up above Broadway. 'Capability' Brown and Robert Adam had both died so he invited an up-and-coming architect, James Wyatt, to design and build it. Completed just after the Earl died, this is now Broadway Tower, quite an eye-catcher!

For those of us in the Vale of Evesham, Parson's Folly or Bredon Tower, constructed on the top of Bredon Hill is interesting. It, too, was built in the C18th, for the owner of Kemerton House, John Parsons, M.P., as a summer house for picnics with a view. However, its height, 19ft, also makes the top 1 000ft above sea level, the height of a mountain. Some may remember the Hugh Grant film, *The Man who went up a Hill and came down a Mountain* in which a Welsh hill had a cairn of stones built on its summit to make the top 1 000ft above sea level. Finally, I have been told that if you go to the top of Pershore's Mount Pleasant, Abberley clock tower can be seen, though whether it would catch your eye I leave for the reader to discover.



Broadway Tower



Parson's Folly



Pirton Castle



Rotunda



Panorama Tower



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# Farming

Mike Page

A BBC programme was broadcast on the radio recently outlining some of the differences the farming industry has with the policies being pursued by the present Government. One of the points put across was that it did seem to some senior negotiators representing the agricultural industry that many of those with high influence within the Government, even at ministerial level, had only a low understanding of how the farming industry operates. UK based agriculture is hugely important to this country, supplying the majority of the foodstuffs (as well as many other goods) consumed here. But it does have one important difference between itself and nearly all other major UK industries: when the end product is sold the price received is set more by the buyer than the seller, and that can fluctuate widely, depending on trade world-wide. Selling at a price below production cost cannot be sustained for long, and so for many decades – using grants and subsidies – the Government of the day has supported the farming industry in order to guarantee that supermarket and other outlet shelves remain well stocked with essential supplies at reasonable prices. The policy of supporting farm production continued when the UK was a member of the EU, where the need to give support guaranteeing supply was

recognised also, perhaps in part arising from very direct experience of the effect war would have on the reliability of supply. Things started falling apart after the UK decided to leave the EU and the UK Government of the day commenced developing its own support policies, based mostly on environmental support rather than simple production support. The new policies were radically different from what had gone before and over the few years since first introduced, and then found often to ‘not work quite as they should’, have been subject to many amendments. The plug was pulled finally on the so called Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) by the Labour Government this spring, with the promise of a reintroduction after suitable scrutiny and necessary changes have been made: Afraid to say ‘suitable scrutiny’ sounds very much like ‘budgetary cutbacks’ to me, but we will have to wait and see: I might be wrong, and hope I am. In the meantime, it is good to see sheep and cattle out on grassland and other grazings across the countryside as we move from Spring into Summer and this year round under much drier and more favourable conditions; this time it is more a pleasure to access the fields knowing most jobs can be done in near ideal conditions rather than the rain-soaked battlefields of last year, many not



permitting access for any purpose whatsoever. But even the cattle themselves pose a problem: cattle particularly produce large amounts of Methane which they belch out; and this is not simply bad manners on their part, but arises from their rather complex digestive process of rumination! Methane (which eventually downgrades naturally to CO2) contributes to Global Warming. There is research going on at the moment into raising more cattle from breeds that have been measured as having a lower Methane output, and on supplying them with a diet based on varieties of grasses and other vegetation known, or bred, to produce less Methane during the digestive process. More and more farming seem to be moving towards what we are ‘allowed to do’ rather than what we might choose to do: a far cry from the world of agriculture I entered after leaving school. To add to our

difficulties even further there are yet to be finalised aspects of the trading agreement reached just recently with the USA. We have been told that further details are yet to be negotiated, but it is difficult to see the US having backed away from its threatened tariff of 25% down to 10% giving any more ground: the farming industry in the UK is heavily dependent on some imported commodities, and much of that (such as soya beans) – a very important source of protein in manufactured animal feeds – is imported from the USA, giving the US Trump Government an ace card to play when pressing for any amendments to trade they want to see. Plenty of troubles on the horizon and I am reminded of a saying I first heard many years ago: “If it wasn’t for bad luck, I wouldn’t have any luck at all.” but perhaps this year the weather will not be part of that and so far so good at least on that score. There is an optimist in me somewhere!

## A sun bed for slow worms

Karen Rose

This month I’ve been scattering squares of old roofing felt around Stoulton Community Woodlands; it may look like I’m littering but I’m making sun beds for slow worms. These lovely woodlands have open glades and meadow edges which are perfect for these sun loving reptiles. Late Spring is the time when slow worms get ready to breed and when you’re most likely to see them. Despite their name, slowworms are neither worms, nor particularly slow. The slowworm is a leg-less lizard (*Anguis fragilis*), not a worm or a snake, and like all cold blooded reptiles they rely on the warmth of the sun and of surrounding surfaces to keep warm. That means they are

often to be found underneath old tin sheets or thick vegetation, where they warm themselves before disappearing underground. Old roofing felt provides a perfect sun bed for them to bask on and lie under. You may find them too in your garden since a warm compost heap is a favourite place for them to hide. If you do see them don’t worry, they are harmless and unlikely to be a nuisance, preferring to eat your slugs and snails and to hide from trouble. If disturbed they will most likely disappear underground, but they do have an amazing trick if caught. First they will defecate foul smelling poo, hoping to put off the predator, and, if that doesn’t work, they simply shed their



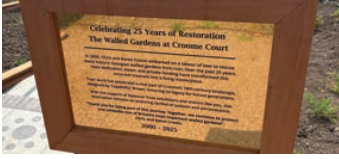
tail, which continues to wriggle around to distract the attacker, while the rest of the slow worm quickly makes it’s escape!

Photo by Charlie Bennet

Karen Rose  
A biodiversity officer for  
Wychavon District Council



# The Walled Gardens at Croome Court – A living legacy in full bloom!



As The Walled Gardens at Croome Court proudly mark twenty-five years of restoration, the celebrations continue with renewed energy and reflection. Following the unveiling of the new water garden by Harriett Baldwin MP in May, the team behind this extraordinary project has been heartened by the surge of public interest and support. Visitors from across the region have flocked to see the transformation first-hand, walking in the footsteps of history brought vividly back to life. Chris and Karen Cronin's ongoing commitment to the restoration of one of Britain's largest Georgian walled gardens has not only revived a lost landscape but also created a space where heritage and horticulture intertwine. Their journey, which began with little more than overgrown wilderness and derelict buildings, has become a nationally recognised example of visionary conservation, executed entirely through private means and unrelenting personal dedication.

The gardens are more than just a beautiful place to visit; they tell a story of perseverance and discovery. Every path, wall, and planting bed carry echoes of the past. Once home to exotic fruits, intricate glasshouses, and Capability Brown's sweeping design. Today, thanks to the Cronins' sensitive restoration and the invaluable support of National Trust volunteers, these elements are once again flourishing, offering a unique insight into Georgian horticultural heritage. New additions, including the water garden and the striking Mosaic Garden, reflect the evolution of the project. They represent not just restored beauty, but new creative interpretations that honour the past while embracing the future. As the garden matures, it continues to reveal hidden features and inspire future possibilities, ensuring that the work is never truly finished, but always growing. With regular weekend openings from April to September, the Walled Gardens welcome

visitors to explore, reflect, and enjoy this living legacy. Whether returning after many years or discovering the site for the first time, guests are invited to witness the results of a quarter-century of devotion. Group tours by arrangement offer a more in-depth look at the site's history and horticultural techniques. In a world where so much heritage has been lost, The Walled Gardens at Croome Court stand proudly as a symbol of what passion and perseverance can achieve.



Harriett Baldwin MP at The Walled Gardens at Croome Court



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

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

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

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# Inspiration from the RHS Malvern Spring Show

The RHS Malvern Spring Festival is a treasure trove of inspiration for gardeners. With its stunning show gardens, expert advice, and innovative planting ideas, it offers countless ways to transform your own outdoor space. Whether you have a sprawling country garden or a compact urban retreat, the principles showcased at Malvern can be adapted to suit your needs. *Bringing Show Garden Ideas Home*

One of the most exciting aspects of the festival is the Show Gardens, where designers push the boundaries of creativity and sustainability. While these gardens are often grand in scale, their core ideas can be translated into smaller, more personal spaces. Here's how you can incorporate some of the standout themes from Malvern into your own garden: *Layered Planting for Year-Round Interest*

Many of the gardens at Malvern feature tiered planting, combining trees, shrubs, perennials and ground cover to create depth and texture.

To achieve this in your own garden, start with structural plants like small trees or shrubs for seasonal colour. Incorporate perennials and ground cover to fill gaps and provide continuous interest. Plants such as Geums and Heuchera make a lovely combination.

*Sustainable Gardening Practices* Sustainability is a key theme at Malvern and all RHS shows, with many gardens showcasing eco-friendly techniques. You can adopt these practices by:

- Using reclaimed materials for pathways and seating.
- Installing a rain garden to manage water runoff.
- Choosing native plants that support local wildlife and require less maintenance.

Red Campion is a wildflower and was used extensively throughout the show.

*Creating a Tranquil Retreat*

Several gardens at Malvern focus on well-being and relaxation, incorporating elements that encourage mindfulness and connection with nature.

To bring this into your own space: Introduce seating areas surrounded by calming plants like Lavender for sunny gardens and ferns for shady spaces. Use water features to add soothing sounds and



designate a quiet corner for reading, meditation, or simply enjoying the outdoors.

*Adapting Malvern's Themes to Different Garden Sizes*

Not everyone has the luxury of a large garden, but the ideas from Malvern can be scaled to fit any space.

*Small Gardens & Courtyards*

- If you have a compact garden, focus on vertical planting and multi-functional spaces.

- Use climbing plants like clematis and wisteria to add flowers and greenery without taking up ground space.

- Opt for raised beds to maximize planting areas.

- Incorporate foldable furniture to create flexible seating options.

*Urban Gardens & Balconies*

Even the smallest outdoor spaces can benefit from Malvern-inspired ideas:

- Grow herbs and vegetables in containers for a practical and beautiful display.



**Nikki Hollier**

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- Use mirrors to create the illusion of depth. However, be careful where they are placed as they can confuse birds who may fly into the mirror and damage it and hurt themselves too.
- Choose pollinator-friendly plants to support biodiversity in city environments. Create 'green roofs' and use them on pergolas and sheds.



## June gardening tips

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester

### Early June

Mulches help to conserve water but the soil must be moist before they are applied. Sow quick growing hardy annuals e.g. clarkia, Virginia stocks for late colour in dull spots. When watering concentrate on climbers on walls, container and basket plants, newly planted items, dahlias, sweet peas, leafy veg. crops, celery and fruit bushes. Dig up bare centred alpine plants and divide them, re-planting the young pieces from around the edge. If you use nematodes to control vine weevil grubs buy them online or mail order. They are also available at some garden centres through the Agralan company. June is one of the worst months for pest and disease attacks, so check plants regularly. If using a trigger spray product remember to shake it first and there are lots of safer "organic" treatments available now.

### Mid June

Make sure plants in tubs and baskets are fed regularly, as well

as watered. Many climbing plants can be increased by layering at this time of year.

Mow the lawn to leave the grass 2.5cm (1in) tall. Makes grass more drought resistant. Treat established lawns with a lawn weed killer but not if there is a drought.

Dead head rhododendrons after flowering to encourage new growth. If you need more fish in your pond this is an ideal time to introduce them but goldfish can be detrimental in a wildlife pond.

When picking strawberries always remove any rotting fruit, otherwise problems increase.

Watch out for cabbage white butterflies around your brassica plants. If you do not like to use chemical sprays, try Grazers G3 organic caterpillar repellent. They also make good repellents for slugs and lily beetles too.

Sow radicchio now for winter salads. Choose a good coloured variety like pallo rossa.

Sow salad crops regularly, in small amounts, sowing the second

row as the first emerges. Tomatoes can be planted outdoors. Select a sheltered site and support the plants. Take cuttings from dianthus (pinks). They root easily now in a shady spot.

Lettuce will not germinate in hot weather. Sowing in moist drills in late evening helps.

Shade the greenhouse, ventilate it well and spray water over the floor to raise humidity.

Take softwood cuttings from shrubs. Remove 7.5 cm (3in) of shoot tips. Root in pots of gritty compost, placed in polythene bags, in a shady spot.

### Late June

Lift and divide flag iris after flowering. Re-plant young growths, keeping rhizomes above soil level.

Prune back side shoots on cyttissus (broom) after flowering to keep plants neat.

Deadhead roses regularly to prolong flowering.

Remove any "suckers" as soon as they appear.



Watch out for algae / blanketweed in pools. The introduction of a product based on barley straw can provide an organic control measure. Feed tomato plants regularly from when first fruits begin to form, using tomato food.

Take out one third of the older branches on deciduous shrubs, like Philadelphus, Weigela and Deutzia after flowering.

Put cymbidium orchids outside in a sheltered, shady spot until late autumn. Keep them well watered and fed over this period.

If pollen beetles infest your cut sweet peas, put them in water in a shed for a while. The beetles will fly into the window attracted by the light.



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demand for solar, for example, heat pumps, electric vehicle charging, batteries to time-shift excess energy, as well as smarter technology have all helped improve the pay-back on investment by harvesting more energy and increase independence from the grid. This coupled with spiralling energy costs and more recent price drops for owning solar has created a 'perfect storm' for consumers and business owners.

Technology has come a long way in the last 14 years of course, and whilst there are many cheap and cheerful options available, we pride ourselves on using the safest and most up to date products and systems available, you can never take too much care when you are dealing with peoples homes, hopefully the care and attention we deliver to our customers is backed up by the highly favourable reviews we receive via Which Trusted Trader.

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# Can plants be over pollinated?

Martyn Cracknell

Pollination is the transfer of pollen grains from the anther of a flower to the moist surface of the stigma of the same flower or a different flower of the same species. Honey bees are of particular importance for pollination of fruit trees and Spring flowering plants, because there are few other adult insects around at that time. However they are fair weather creatures and only work if the temperature is above about 10 °C , and it is neither windy nor rainy. This year the extended period of dry warm days and frost-free nights has resulted in extremely good conditions for pollination. Each pollen grain deposited on a receptive stigma, grows a slender tube which delivers a male nucleus to a female egg cell and if they fuse, they will form a seed. Meanwhile a plant hormone called Auxin is secreted by the pollen and this causes many changes in the flower. Scent and nectar production cease, the petals may change colour and then wither and the wall of the ovary in which the seeds are growing will start to swell to form a fruit.

The supply of auxin is soon exhausted and if there are no seeds developing, the small fruitlets will drop off. In apples this generally occurs about mid June and is colloquially known as the 'June drop.' However if embryonic seeds are developing they will produce additional auxin and the fruitlet will remain and grow. An apple has five chambers in its ovary each with two seeds and to produce a uniform round fruit there must be one or two seeds in each chamber. If a chamber has no seed in it, the ovary wall adjacent to it will not grow, resulting in a lop-sided fruit. Good pollination therefore affects both the quantity and the quality of fruit, but can you have too much of a good thing? If a tree has an excessive fruit set it is likely that none of the fruit will grow to full size, resulting in a very large crop of very small fruit. The problem extends into the following year as the auxin from all the developing fruitlets will suppress flower bud formation for the next year, so the tree will only have modest blossom and a few fruits.



*Excess fruitlets should be rubbed out, leaving just one or two fruitlets per cluster*

This is biennial bearing. To achieve a good crop of quality fruit every year, good pollination is required , followed by a June drop, and then manual fruit thinning to reduce the number of fruitlets.. It may be rather tedious and impossible for large trees, but in a garden context it is well worthwhile. Annual pruning also helps to ensure a consistent harvest, year on year. People sometimes wonder if the flavour of fruit is influenced by the source of the pollen brought

to the tree by bees. Would crab apple pollen make fruit sour? The part eaten, i.e. the flesh of the apple, is entirely derived from the ovary wall which is exclusively from the tree which bears the fruit, so it will always be true to type. However each seed in the fruit has genes from both pollen and the parent tree. Every apple pip is therefore a new variety, but it would take about six years to grow it to fruiting size to see if it is any good.

## Village Life

John Driscoll

It's May in our village with great weather unless you're a gardener or farmer and hankering after a spell of rain. There's of course every chance that by the time this is printed we'll be regretting those rain dances and wishing for a bit more sunshine – especially as we all know that Wimbledon weeks normally bring plenty of the wet stuff! The main May event in our village has been a get together to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Commemorating the heroism of the generation who paved the way for our current way of life. In common with most communities we no longer have residents who have direct experience of serving during the war years. However, many of us have memories, either of the impact of the war on our early lives or passed-on from our parents or other family. In many cases very poignant, and in our case, these were shared with a book of memories and loaned artefacts giving an insight into the suffering and experiences, made available for all to see and absorb. Our event started with a replay

of Winston Churchill's radio broadcast announcing the end of the war in Europe. It was a surprisingly long speech (by today's 'sound-bite' standard) and the assembled crowd listened in silence while reflecting on the impact it must have had 80 years ago on the 8th May. Not a pin was heard to drop! We continued the 1945 theme with sing-along versions of Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again' (or 'Whale Meat Again' as my parents would have insisted) followed by a spirited 'Pack Up Your Troubles'. Not sure we did either full justice, but more than a mere nod to 1945, especially as many of us had donned period dress for the occasion. The Land Girls and flight crew made a spectacular appearance! Party bags of period sweets (rationing was lifted for the day!) and fish and chips served from cones made from 1940's newspaper (well, almost – this is the 2020's after all!) provided welcome refreshment. The day continued with period games and dance lessons, before fast-forwarding to the 1980's and beyond for a touch of Karaoke. Not surprisingly

it's very difficult to source suitable tracks for 1940's classics without words so instead we skipped forward. Probably just as well as the standard of singing would likely have horrified any veterans who were listening! Best of all, the beer was the equivalent of sixpence a pint – oh no, that was an illusion brought on by too much sun – but still fantastic value as always and among the best bitters in the land! I know for sure my Mum and Dad would have approved and would have wanted to help us mark the occasion in style.

A wonderful day and a great way for our community to commemorate the end of World War Two. A day with many conversations and shared memories that hit upon a good mix of celebration and reflection, honouring our heroic and stoic ancestors without who we would not be enjoying the many freedoms we now take for granted. What a generation! Now, we hopefully have a great summer ahead of us and is too much to ask for a few good overnight showers leaving us to enjoy sunny days? Fingers crossed, chin-chin as my Mum would have said!





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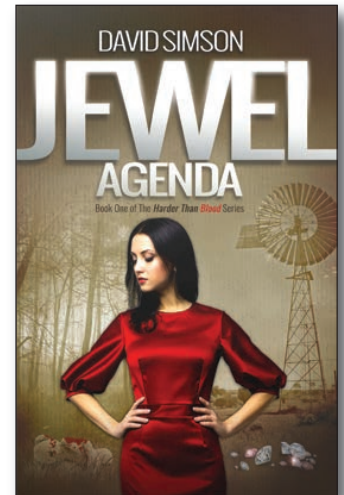
## Book Review

Richard Catford

Jewel Agenda  
by David Simson

Reviewed by Richard Catford  
Local author David Simson (Drakes Broughton) has written and published a 400-page fiction of a double murder in a remote, forested part of Northern France. The murder scene, with one survivor is discovered by a lone British motor cyclist. The victims and survivor are also British, the perpetrators Australian and the interplay between French, British and Australian investigators (including embassy officials) is well researched and convincing. Indeed, the whole plot, and it is a complex one, is meticulously and methodically detailed. Back-stories of the main characters, their personal journey to the heinous crime are a strong feature of this novel. Victims, survivors, criminals and investigating officers are all included in these explanations, including descriptions of the locations involved in the plot. If you like authenticity and detail this is the book for you.

David Simson's style, the descriptions and back-stories, often resonates with Fredrick Forsyth and Dan Brown's work. The real strength of this novel is not only in the detailed descriptions of the locations but in the relationships between the characters involved. There



is rivalry and suspicion within both criminal and investigation teams. This story has the potential to make a very good basis for a serial TV Drama. However, if you can't wait for such a TV drama to emerge but you relish the detail of a complex chase, David's book would provide solace whilst on your sunbed this summer, or perhaps a distraction whilst travelling to distant places. The conclusion of this tale is not for this review to deliver but is enough to say further publications in the future will extend the suspense.

David Simson's website:  
[www.jewelbooks.co.uk](http://www.jewelbooks.co.uk) and  
Jewel Agenda on Facebook  
will provide more details.  
Email:  
[davidsimson@rocketmail.com](mailto:davidsimson@rocketmail.com)

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John P. Grier

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## Ailsa's Kitchen *Ailsa Craddock*

June heralds the Summer Solstice on the 21st and is often referred to as the first day of summer, and yet celebrations across the Northern Hemisphere at this time of year carry the name Midsummer, which is pretty confusing. Midsummer and the summer solstice are used interchangeably, but they refer to different things.

The solstice is the beginning of the astronomical summer that has been celebrated since ancient times as the longest day of the year, whereas Midsummer now refers to numerous celebrations that are held over the solstice period, between June 19th and June 24th, with both pagan and Christian origins. Midsummer, as in the religious observances traditional in many countries, occurs close to the June or Summer Solstice. With celebrations originating in ancient times as a festival for the summer solstice, this could be where the name comes from. Bonfires were lit up to ward off evil spirits as the Sun turned southward. If you only had the Sun to measure time and dictate your hours of light, the longest day would feel like a mid-point before you make the descent back into winter. Follow the next few recipes and you will have the perfect Summer Solstice Dinner. Fingers crossed for the sunshine and moonshine!

### Salmon Rolls with Asparagus and Butter Sauce

*Asparagus spears*

*4 thin salmon fillets*

*Juice of a lemon*

*2 small shallots, finely chopped*

*6 peppercorns*

*120 ml white wine*

*4 tablespoons double cream*

*200g butter, cut into small cubes*

*fresh parsley*

Steam the asparagus for 6 - 8 minutes till tender, refresh under cold running water. Lay on top of the salmon fillet and roll up. Place on a rack over a pan of boiling water, sprinkle with lemon juice, cover and steam for 3 - 4 minutes till tender.

**Sauce:**

Put the shallot, peppercorns and wine into a small saucepan and heat gently until the wine is reduced to a tablespoonful. Strain and return to the pan. Add the cream and bring to the boil then lower the heat. Add the butter to the sauce in small pieces, whisking all the time.

**DO NOT ALLOW THE SAUCE**

### TO BOIL AS IT WILL SEPARATE!

Season to taste, add a little parsley and serve with the salmon roll, some new potatoes, Tenderstem broccoli and/or spinach.

Anything with basil immediately transports me to summer and the Mediterranean - if I could bottle its' smell, I would - sun, warmth and taste in one little green plant!

### Chicken, Pepper & Basil Traybake

*2 tbsp olive oil*

*4 chicken thigh cutlets, bone in*

*Salt and pepper, to season*

*2 red onions,*

*peeled and cut into wedges*

*3 - 4 cloves garlic,*

*peeled and lightly crushed*

*Red pepper, cut into thick slices*

*Yellow pepper, cut into thick slices*

*3 - 6 anchovies, chopped (optional)*

*200ml cup chicken stock*

*A pinch of sugar*

*Loosely packed basil leaves, torn*

*A splash of balsamic vinegar*

Heat your oven to 200C.

Take a large baking dish or frying pan that can be placed on a stovetop as well as into the



oven and heat over a high heat. Add the olive oil, season the chicken thigh with salt and pepper and fry, skin side down, until golden brown. Turn the chicken and add the onions, garlic and peppers around the chicken. Scatter with the anchovies (if using) and pour over the stock. Season very well with salt, pepper and a good pinch of sugar and transfer to the oven for 30 to 35 minutes, until the chicken is just cooked though. Scatter with the torn basil leaves and serve immediately, with a splash of balsamic vinegar. A side salad and some little Jersey potatoes would be perfect alongside.

And now for the first strawberries – what else stands for summer?

### Strawberry & Mascarpone Gelato

Strawberry and mascarpone is a classic mix and this is also one of the easiest ice cream recipes you could possibly make.

*300g strawberries,*

*hulled and chopped*

*2 tbsp elderflower cordial*

*150g golden caster sugar*

*500g mascarpone*

*100g white chocolate,*

*roughly chopped*

*200g strawberries,*

*hulled and quartered*

*1 tbsp elderflower cordial*

*2 tbsp golden caster sugar*

Put the chopped strawberries in a bowl. Add the cordial and sprinkle over the sugar. Set aside to macerate for up to 1 hour.

Beat the mascarpone and white chocolate together, then fold through the strawberry mixture. Put in a cling film-lined, straight-sided freezer-proof box (about 1 litre) and freeze overnight.

For the soft strawberries, put the berries and cordial in a bowl, then sprinkle with sugar. Set aside for 15 minutes. Slice the ice cream and spoon over the strawberries to serve.

Meteorologically, we're nearly a month into summer.

*Astronomically, the summer has only just begun.*

*But, of course, it won't really feel like summer in Britain until we start complaining it's too hot!*

## Philharmonic Orchestra

On Saturday 14th June at 2.30, the Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra will present a feast of popular Summer Music by British composers, in Pershore Abbey. Dan Watson conducts the WPO in a programme including Vaughan Williams' Folk Song Suite, Coates' Three Elizabeths Suite and is joined by Chris Goodman for a performance of Finzi's Five Bagatelles for clarinet and strings.

The programme also includes Ethel Smyth's Overture the Wreckers and Coleridge-Taylor's Petit Suite de Concert. Both these lesser known works

are delightful and deserve more frequent performance.

Chris Goodman studied at the Royal College of Music, London where he won several prizes and was selected to perform as part of the Rising Stars series at Cadogan Hall and at Castleton Festival USA under the baton of late conductor Lorin Maazel. He has performed all the major clarinet concerto repertoire with orchestras in the UK, China and USA. Chris maintains a busy freelance orchestral career and has played with many British orchestras including London Symphony Orchestra,

Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic & Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestras, Royal Northern Sinfonia, English National Opera, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Manchester Camerata.

*Come and join at Pershore Abbey!*

*Tickets £15 (Under 16s free) available from Tourist Offices Worcester/Pershore\*/Malvern (\*cash only) or worcesterphilharmonicorchestra.ticketsource.co.uk*





# Romy's Uni Life

Romy Kemp *Liverpool University*

## Summer is Coming

My second year at university has come to an end and my word was it eventful! My exams have finally finished, and I now have about a month to stay here in Liverpool before returning home for the summer holiday. I was extremely exhausted after my exams because they were back to back 24-hour exams, meaning that I didn't have a lot of time in-between to catch up on energy. I'm grateful that my literature module exam was before my language module exam because

I needed more brain power to analyse Shakespeare. Even writing this article may not make total sense because my brain is still recovering. With my exams, I really enjoyed making the notes and mind mapping my ideas however when it comes to writing the exam, my brain seems to struggle with coming up with the right wording. There is a lot that I need to do in the next couple of weeks. I am trying to organise my life more and get in better shape both physically and mentally. As much as I have looked into

possible career paths for me, I haven't found anything yet that I am set on. This means that I need to keep looking and just try out different things. Work experience is a great way to try out potential professions and that is what I intend to do. Taking a break from studies will be great to clear my mind and reduce my stress levels. Despite this, I do not want to take too big of a break from work because I will most likely forget how to do certain things and then this will inevitably lead to a more complicated start to third year. I am excited to

have a relax and have fun over summer because it is probably the last time I can do so before I enter the adult world. There will be no more student summer holidays, but only finding a job to explore and live on. I have a university trip coming up that I am extremely excited for. We are going to the Lake District for a few days to explore the history of literature. I have told quite a few people and they have all said to try the gingerbread there because it is one of the best places to get it. This I intend to do and will rate it in my next article.



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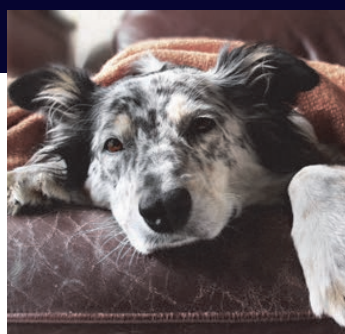
The book contains every article, poem and painting, that Susan produced for the Pershore Times. The articles are of a very high quality, each one is different and a joy to read. Produced in a limited edition of 250 copies

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## Dental disease in cats and dogs



Dental disease is one of the most common problems encountered in our pets. Latest studies show 1 in 8 dogs are affected and 1 in 7 cats with older pets being much more at risk. Sadly, dental disease often goes undiagnosed or untreated as our pets are very adept at masking the signs. Many will continue to eat despite advanced dental problems. We do know that having diseased teeth and gums is painful but animals can just become more withdrawn or sleep more, signs often put down to 'aging'. Dental disease is also associated with other health conditions such as kidney and heart disease.

Periodontal disease (periodontitis) is the most common dental problem encountered. It is a build-up of calculus on the teeth leading to inflammation of the gum and surrounding tissues, ultimately it will lead to loss of the attachments holding the tooth in place.

### So what can we do?

There are many dental products for use at home. The most effective method to keep your pets' teeth clean is to brush daily with a specific pet toothpaste and brush. Brushing is something you need to build up to slowly as many animals will not be accepting of this straight away. Chewing on dental treats or other products is also beneficial, watch out for the added calories they get from these though!

If the dental disease is progressing a Complete Oral Assessment, sometimes referred to as a 'dental', is needed. This is performed under anaesthesia and involves a full investigation of the mouth assessing each tooth for problems, x-rays are often taken, and professional cleaning of the teeth is done. Diseased areas may be dealt with then or in a separate procedure depending on the extent of the problem.

If you think your pet's teeth are in need of a check-up contact the surgery to make an appointment today.

Best wishes *Eliza*

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# Gregory's World!

Gregory Sidaway Exeter College, Oxford

## Beat It

Trainers: on. Headphones: on. Let's go! There's only so much time I can spend revising in my room. Too many notes and quotes! My brain has turned to mushy peas. Time for a reboot, time for a run! Golden hour glows over Oxford. My route takes me along Walton Road, past the bakeries and coffee shops of Little Clarendon Street, and up Woodstock Road, where a huge queue of bow ties and high heels eagerly anticipates the Somerville College ball. Late spring has transformed Banbury Road into a great green tunnel of birdsong and bright flowers. Late spring also heralds exam season. The change of mood around town is palpable. The subject of exams creeps and pokes its way into almost every conversation. Students in black gowns billow on bicycles through the streets. Chalkboards outside the King's Arms now read: 'Good luck to students writing exams!' In my case, I'll be typing them. Mine is the second year of English students to sit a typed exam. Gone are the days of my teachers whipping out their red

pens, circling entire paragraphs of my inky, illegible handwriting and putting a '?' next to them. The examiners will be able to read everything perfectly now. With any luck, they'll like what they see. As I run, my heart hammers. My legs throb. I gasp and try not to inhale a falling catkin. But a breeze is streaming over my face and my brain doesn't feel quite so mushy anymore. The bold, zinging synthesiser of Michael Jackson's 'Beat It' rings through my headphones and spurs me onwards. In this very funny period of term time, a period of information-overload, of headaches and stomach-jitters, it's important to get outside and keep moving. This is it, the final countdown, the big push. Three years, nine terms, two thousand coffees, and one grey hair later, I've reached the end of my course. There's just one more hurdle – well, technically, there are four – left to leap over. We can beat them, fellow reader. Haven't we been through thick and thin together? Besides, it'll all be over in a blink of an – I open my eyes. I'm sitting on the floor of the Exam Schools marquee. An ocean of English students stirs and rises around

me. Some are pacing, reciting quotes to themselves as though they're practicing incantations. Others stand in circles and talk with their arms crossed. Nor are we allowed to sit these exams in our shorts and t-shirts. Nothing says feeling cool and comfortable on a baking May afternoon like wearing a suit and a commoner's gown. The gown's extra flappy bits (not their official name) do add extra flourish to my walk, though. Leaning forward, I catch the pungent whiff of the carnation in my breast pocket. It's traditional for students to wear a carnation on their lapel when they sit exams. Today's is white. I'll wear a pink one for the next two exams, then a red one for the last hurrah. Apparently, the colour change is supposed to symbolise the blood being drained out of us as we battle on, but I'm not sure if that's true. The conversations lull as we are summoned into the Exam Schools. I step beneath the sandstone archway and venture down a pillared corridor with a vaulted ceiling, black and white tiles, and busts of stern-faced men wearing frilly wigs. My insides jitter. The days of sitting mock exams in the school sports hall feel like a



lifetime ago. I find my seat – no. 95 – at the end of a right-angled hall called the North School. Although it's a typed exam, we can't use our own laptops; the uni has provided everyone with a mac book ('jammy' doesn't even begin to describe it), so I log in and wait with my mouse hovering over the 'Start Test' button. 14:27, 14:28, 14:29 ... I de-robe out of my gown and jacket to free up my arms, preparing to thunder away at the keys. We can do this. I know we can. ... 14:30. "You may begin." C'mon, fellow reader. Let's beat it.

# Evie's Teenage Focus

Evie Aubin Oxford Brookes University

I am both filled with sorrow and overjoyed to tell you all that I have officially finished my first year at university. After I handed in my final assignment of the year, I had three weeks at university before I went home. And I spent that time surrounded by my friends doing everything we hadn't had a chance to do yet. As well as this, one of my friends had been able to bring her car up for the few final weeks which allowed us to find some amazing spaces which we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. I think my favourite would be the lake. It's a lovely little space called Hinksey lake, and whilst it does have an outdoor swimming pool right next to it, we found it much more enjoyable to sit in the pontoon on the lake. The space itself is absolutely beautiful, it sits in the middle of a park and as mentioned before it does

have an outdoor swimming pool close by as well. The park has a few other smaller lakes but none of them you are able to swim in. Once we got to the lake, we found a few groups of people already on the pontoon; it was quite full, but nonetheless we found some space, put down our blanket and enjoyed a day in the sun. In addition to the other people there, there was also the cutest family of ducks that kept on swimming around us, and one of the baby ducklings even tried to nibble at my foot whilst it was in the water! I think some of my favourite memories though will come from the last two days that I was at university. Two days before I left, we spent the day shopping, and once we got back, we all made some funny PowerPoints that we showed each other that night. I did mine on what I thought everyone be if they

were a Taylor Swift album (surprising to nobody I'm sure), Gen made a PowerPoint on what dinosaur we would all be, Grace made one on all the male celebrities that she hates and why, and Liv made one on what type of star wars character we would be. All in all it was very good and absolutely hilarious, especially once we had a couple of drinks. On my last day we finally got around to punting, and I will tell you now, it's a lot harder than it looks. In the morning we went to the botanical gardens and finished by getting a coffee by the river and watching other people punting. Some made it look so easy, and others were struggling; at one point we even watched someone get stuck in a tree! We laughed at the time, and then a couple of hours later we were stuck in the exact same tree. Karma I suppose. But by some miracle



we managed to get the boat back to the people we hired it from, all of us somewhat dry and unscathed. After that we went out for dinner at the Alchemist, it was amazing and I would definitely recommend going if you are ever in Oxford. We spent the rest of the night hanging out in the kitchen, we had a few tears before we went to bed; and even more when I left the next day. But in the end, I got home, officially surviving my first year at university and cannot wait for the next; and so, until next time, toodles!



# Recoup, Regroup, Recover Out of Alignment?

Angela Johns

I'm sitting in the garden on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon. My hands and forearms are covered in scratches and my nails are grubby and ruined. Yes, I've been gardening. It's a hazardous job. I have had a wonderful weekend of reading books with the rising sun, bike rides, socialising and a beer at the allotment with the setting sun - that perfect mixture of relaxing and activity, solitude and mingling. As far as I know, all my loved ones are safe and I can just sit in the moment. And I am remembering a touching moment from yesterday. On moving a plant pot in my conservatory I found a bumblebee that seemed barely alive, all tucked in on itself and covered in spiderweb. From my phone case I pulled a loyalty card from Coffee Culture (in Malvern, thoroughly recommend) and scooped her up. I deposited her in an outside plant pot and fetched a teaspoon of sugared water and held it next to her. She immediately lifted herself forward and her tiny tongue dipped into the mixture as she drank and drank and drank. After a pause she used her two front legs to scrape away at the web but it was a struggle. I used a dried blade of grass to help and, after we both rested a moment, she drank some more. We scraped some more, rested some more and finally she was revived and free enough to fly off. Not far mind. She soon touched down on the clover in the lawn near me then a few seconds later took off again, did a turn and flew right at me. In and out she darted around my face then all of a sudden, she was away up high and disappeared. It was like she had said, 'Thank



you so much!' before fully reclaiming her freedom. It was a heart-warming moment. Like the bee, we all have times when we just need a serendipitous break, a helping hand, even just a moment that stands between us and what's happening all around us. A space when we can coast for a bit, recoup, regroup, recover. If we don't listen to our minds or our spirit then our bodies will tell us when we need it. We might have an ache or our skin flares up, and if we still don't listen, we may even get knocked sideways with the lurgy. I have had cause just lately to be reminded to look out for those messages, in fact I wrote a list of all possible messages my spirit and body might give me just so I can be mindful. And, of course, a list of all my day to day remedies which was wonderfully much longer. If I can't rest completely then I need something to pull out of the metaphorical bag to give me a helping hand until I can. I would love to hear what is in your bag.

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

Emily Papirnik

*Let nature bring you back!*

There are days I wake up and just feel... off. Maybe you know the feeling too - unsettled, slightly disconnected, as if your rhythm has slipped just half a beat behind the world. You're not quite sure what's wrong, but you know something's out of alignment. When I feel that way, I know it's time to walk. To step outside and let nature take over. I know and understand that we're not designed to operate in constant productivity, noise, and stimulation. Our nervous systems, our emotions and our energy are deeply attuned to the natural world. When we lose that connection, everything can start to feel misaligned.

## Nature Is My Healer

Whenever I feel out of sorts, I return to nature. I walk through the trees, breathe in the quiet wisdom of the earth, and let myself be reminded of something deeper—something steadier. The natural world doesn't force anything. It trusts its timing, its seasons, its cycles.

I am learning to do the same. In nature, I don't have to fix anything. I just have to 'be', and somehow, through the birdsong, the wind, the scent of the blossom, my energy begins to soften. I don't rush. I don't push. I walk, I pause, I feel. And in that space, my rhythm returns.

## The App: Me helping me

Part of my work—and something I've poured my heart into—is developing an



app that supports this reconnection. In the app, I use energy practices that are inspired by and woven into the rhythms of nature. These aren't just meditations; they're invitations to realign with the natural world's intelligence. Practices you can do sitting by a window, under a tree, or even just visualising the earth beneath your feet.

These simple but powerful techniques are designed to calm your nervous system, ground your energy, and bring you back into harmony—with yourself, and with life.

## Perfect Timing

Nature reminds me every day: there is no rush. There is only now. Leaves fall when they're ready. Flowers bloom in their own time. You are no different. If you're feeling out of rhythm, know this—there's nothing wrong with you. You're simply being invited back to your own natural state of balance.

So take a breath. Step outside. Feel your feet on the ground. Let the wind clear your thoughts. Let the sky open you up. You don't need to do it all. You just need to return. And nature will meet you there.



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Blog



## Healthy Heart Tip: How to eat a healthy balanced diet



*Is there a secret formula for maintaining a balanced diet?*  
With the constant influx of conflicting advice and diets, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the information.

*What is a balanced diet?*  
We often hear the terms "balance" and "moderation", yet many of us struggle to find that sweet spot. A healthy balanced diet is one that includes a variety of nutrient-rich foods in the right proportions, providing the body with essential macronutrients such as carbohydrates, proteins, fats and micronutrients like vitamins and minerals to support overall health, energy, and wellbeing. It emphasises moderation, variety and portion control to maintain long-term

health and prevent disease.

*What are macro and micronutrients?*

When it comes to eating healthy, understanding the role of nutrients in our diet can help us make informed choices about what we put on our plates. There are different categories of macronutrients. Macronutrients include carbohydrates, proteins, and fats and are the building blocks of our diet. They provide us with the energy to fuel our daily activities, support growth, and keep our bodies functioning properly. Carbohydrates are the main source of energy for your body and are most associated with foods like pasta, rice, potatoes, bread, and cereal. But they are

also found in other foods such as fruits and vegetables, sugar-sweetened foods and drinks such as cookies and fizzy drinks. There are two types of carbohydrates – simple and complex. Simple carbohydrates generally include refined, 'white' food like white bread, pasta and rice; these break down quickly into energy. Complex carbohydrates should make up the bulk of your intake as they release energy more slowly and these include wholegrains like brown rice and wholewheat bread, beans, lentils and vegetables. Fats are the body's second source of energy, and these are used up when we have depleted our carbohydrate stores or when we are consuming a very low-carbohydrate diet. Consuming fat is essential, without fats you wouldn't be able to absorb vitamins A, D, E and K, which are fat soluble and can only be digested when there is fat present. Fats also provide essential fatty acids that the body can't make itself; these help your body to regulate the immune and central nervous systems as well as help with skin health, brain function and heart health. Choose heart-healthy fat sources such as those coming from nuts, seeds, oily

fish, avocados and olive oil. Protein is the body's last resort for energy, used when carbohydrate and fat stores are depleted. It helps to repair and rebuild muscle after exercise, it also supports overall health. Protein is essential for the growth and maintenance of tissues, keeping bones, muscles, tendons, ligaments, and skin strong and healthy. It supports the immune system by forming antibodies to fight infections and helps keep you feeling fuller for longer. Healthy, high-protein foods include lean meats, fish, eggs and reduced-fat dairy. We can also obtain protein from plant-based sources like chickpeas, lentils, beans, nuts, seeds and tofu. It's a good idea to include both animal and plant-based options." Micronutrients include vitamins and minerals and are needed in smaller amounts than macronutrients, but they are just as important for maintaining overall health, supporting immune function, bone health, energy production, cognitive health and much more. The key to ensuring we consume enough micronutrients is to eat a variety of foods.

Heart Research UK

## What are your children doing online?

The School holidays just around the corner and children will have more spare time on their hands. What's almost certain is that during the school holidays, they'll be going online much more than in term time ... for entertainment, keeping in contact and chatting with their mates, gaming, and the multitude of other things kids use the Internet for. With all the additional time spent doing more online, how can you be sure that the young people in your family are safe from the issues they can encounter every day? The Internet lets children connect with friends and learn new things. But there are also dangers to going online, and children can be particularly vulnerable. Talking to your children is one of the best ways to keep them safe online. By understanding the risks and keeping yourself

up to date on the latest technology, websites and social networks you can help your child enjoy the Internet safely and securely.

*To help protect your children online:*

- Keep computers, phones and games consoles in family rooms where you can monitor activity
- Install parental control software or activate parental controls through your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to prevent access to inappropriate content
- 'friend' or 'follow' your child on social networks, so you can see how they're using them
- Check age restrictions for websites or social networks to make sure your children are allowed to join
- Advise your child not to post personal information, or any images they wouldn't want everyone to see.

- Check their social media accounts' privacy settings, so their posts are only seen by friends and their location isn't tracked
- Avoid using webcams, unless talking to close friends or family, and consider covering it when not in use
- Monitor how your children use the Internet and watch for any secretive behaviour
- Encourage your child to be open about what they do online, and who they're talking to
- Insist you go with them if they wish to meet online friends face to face
- Ensure the games your children play online are age appropriate

Source:  
Metropolitan Police

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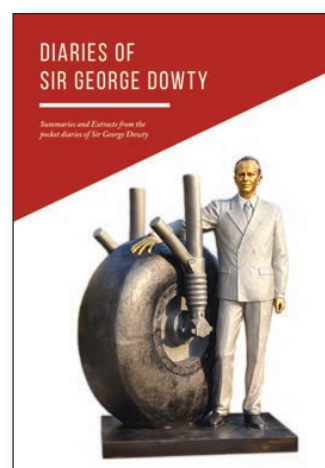
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## Sir George Dowty book release invitation

The initial response to the release of the Sir George Dowty Diary book has been most enthusiastic- both here and overseas. It is a most fitting accompaniment to his statue erected a year ago. Few 20th century industrialists have received such international recognition - it reflects the magnitude of his achievements. The formal release of the book is to take place on the 9th June at the Graeme Hick Pavilion at the Worcestershire County Cricket Club. Rhodesian born Graeme played his entire domestic career of over twenty years exclusively for Worcestershire.

The event commences at 10am in the presence of many distinguished guests and is to be followed by refreshments. The diaries from 1919 to 1975 will be on display including the fully restored 1953 edition. The setting is most appropriate given that Sir George Dowty was Worcestershire born, educated and apprenticed in



Worcester and President of the Worcestershire County Cricket Club during their championship winning sides of 1964 and 1965. The Dowty Group acquired Worcester based mining engineers Meco in the late 1960s.

To reserve a place at this iconic occasion email: [willmundy331@icloud.com](mailto:willmundy331@icloud.com)

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# What is happening to P11D's

Carol Draper FCCA



A P11D is the document given to employees at the end of the tax year that details the taxable value of employment benefits they have received from their employers during the year. Common benefits are company vehicles, health insurance, gym membership and low interest loans but there is a vast array of other things which HMRC class as taxable benefits.

It is probably fair to say that many employees who receive P11Ds are confused by the forms themselves, the figures that are included on those forms and the implications they can have for tax. At the same time employers can also find the job of preparing P11Ds onerous.

Benefits reported on P11Ds will always generate a tax liability that HMRC will collect by amending an individual's tax code. This means tax is collected in arrears as a benefit for the 24-25 tax year, will not be reported on a P11D until July 2025 and the tax code may only be amended for the 26-27 tax year.

In an attempt to simplify the system and to collect tax in real time, it has been mandated that all benefits in kind will be reported through payroll rather than P11Ds. Payrolling means the annual value of benefits

provided is calculated and an adjustment made to the employee's salary to reflect the value of benefit received. This means there is no alteration to tax codes as a result of the benefits, but tax is paid on the benefit at the time it is received.

In January 2024 it was announced this would happen from April 2026, although this has now been delayed until April 2027 meaning that July 2027 will be the last time that all benefits in kind can be reported on a P11D. There is however no need to wait as all benefits, other than employer provided accommodation and interest free or low interest loans can be payrolled now. If you are an employer and would like to find out more about payrolling benefits and the changes to P11Ds speak to your accountant.

Carol Draper FCCA  
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd

"In victory, you deserve champagne;  
in defeat, you need it!"

Napoleon Bonaparte



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# Protect your State Retirement Pension



Under the new state pension system, when you retire you will need at least 35 years of National Insurance contributions or credits to qualify for the State Pension of £230.25 a week in the 2025-26 tax year. You can claim the new State Pension if you're: a man born on or after 6 April 1951, or a woman born on or after 6 April 1953. But if there are gaps in your NI record, perhaps from being out of work, only working part-time and not paying NI you may not get the full amount. If you don't have the full 35 years of NI contributions or credits, you will get a pro rata smaller amount of state pension.

*If you are in this situation what can you do?*

If you have not yet reached state pension age, the most important thing to do first is to check your individual state pension forecast online:

[www.gov.uk/check-state-pension](http://www.gov.uk/check-state-pension)  
This should tell you what you are expected to receive on reaching pension age, and if there are gaps in your record. It should also tell you how much more you could get if you are able to make up the shortfall. You may be able to do this by paying Class 3 voluntary contributions which can be backdated for six years. The cost of doing this varies

depending upon the tax year they were originally due. For example, the cost to fill in a gap in your NI record for the full 2022-23 tax year is £824.20, while the cost for 2023-24 is £907.40

This one-off payment can add up to 1/35th of the full rate to your eventual state pension based on current rules which can build up over time and be financially beneficial when you retire depending on your own particular situation and whether you have other taxable income. It is also worth remembering that there are many situations where you could get NI credits or might have been eligible for them such as when you're claiming benefits because you're ill or unemployed. For example, if you receive Universal Credit, you get Class 3 credits automatically.

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# The Fossils Cricket Team 1995 - 2025

John L Reynolds (J.R.)



*On tour in Bude*

It all started in the winter of 1994/5 when I attended the Malvern Wells Cricket Club dinner at the County Ground. I overheard a distant relative of mine, who was then in his 60s, talking about how league cricket had stopped older players from playing because the general feeling was 'win at all cost'. I casually asked him why he didn't start an over 50s team, then he could still play friendly matches? I didn't give it another thought until just before I left for home, two chaps came up to me and said that when I started an over 50s side, they would play. I said that I just thought it would be a good idea - not that I'd start it myself. The very next day, Les White, who had also been at the dinner, rang and said that he also would play. A few days later whilst walking up the Shambles in Worcester, another chap asked when I was going to start an over 50s team and I gave him the same answer. But by this time the seed was sown. So one morning, I told Margaret that I was going to form an older blokes' team, but I couldn't think what to call it. Margaret's response was that because we were a lot of old fossils, why not call it 'The Fossils'? And The Fossils was born. My initial objective was to play one or two games a year, but this soon became six in the first year and subsequently rose to fifty. We also had some excellent tours. For almost 20 years, I did all the admin work, from finding grounds and players, selecting teams, arranging tours and helping Margaret organise teas. All this as well as being captain of the team, finding

teams to play against, buying kit and score books. One year I made over a thousand telephone calls with no mobile or text messages in those days. Plus I was running my own business, Willow Print, full time. In time, we became a very good side, often scoring over 200 runs and one of our stars, John Shepherd, scored 1,000 runs three years running. He also scored seven centuries for the Fossils. I did so much for the team that one player called me a dictator which I probably was at the time. At the same time I was also running my own business but it was always Fossils before business in my mind. However, in 2019 I had a quadruple heart bypass so I decided to garner some help just in case I had to give up altogether. Brian Norfolk, Paul Thompson, Derek Ebbage and Martin Woodward took a lot of the load off my shoulders, arranging mid-week fixtures, selecting teams and taking on all the other administration work. The first game the Fossils played was at my old club, Rushwick on June 15th, 1995. Roy Booth, the ex-Worcestershire wicket keeper was President and he put a side out to play us. We batted first and made 160 for 8. Geoff White scored 47, I made 39 and Len Walker 31. Dave Adams took 5 for 26 for the President's XI. When they batted, the President's XI recovered from 99 for 5 to 172 for 5 winning by 5 wickets, mainly thanks to an amazing century from their opener, Neil Homer. It was a great game and after that everyone wanted more games to be arranged so I

arranged them!

Other notable players for the Fossils included Colin Groves, Bob Rogers and Geoff White who scored the first century in 1996. Dick Champion was the first bowler to take five wickets for us in 1995 and Martin Mudway's 8 for 41 in 1999 is the most wickets taken in a match so far. I've been honoured to receive two awards - one from the MCCC

for Services to Cricket and an 'OSCA' from the Worcester Cricket Board again for services to cricket since 1957.

In 2012, Peter Jewell invited me to play for his Old England Invitation XI against an Australian seniors XI. The game took place on the Worcestershire County Cricket Ground. Our side was a mixture of old county cricketers, including Wayne Larkins, Roger Tolchard and Neil Radford, and local amateurs. I was invited to open the bowling for the England XI and it was an excellent day. What's more, we beat the Australians! Peter Tudge was our Vice Captain for 20 years and many fine local cricketers have played and enjoyed the Fossils since 1995. During the 2015 season, a record 59 different players turned out.

I never thought that at the age of 83 I would still be playing cricket and I'm very proud that I started the Fossil cricket team as without them I doubt I'd have been playing in 2024. Finally, I must thank my wife, Margaret for supporting me over 60 years at whatever team I have played for. Without her, none of it would have been possible.



*Celebrating 10yrs of The Fossils at Rushwick v Ray Julian's XI*

## CALLING ALL CRICKET ENTHUSIASTS

Are you ready to step up to the crease?

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Playing at Plovers Rise Playing Fields (WR5 3SA) on Saturdays throughout the summer, we invite all those interested in participating to contact us at: 07463 734488 [amigoskempsey.play-cricket.com](mailto:amigoskempsey.play-cricket.com)





## A view from the Middle

After documenting my excitement at the start the cricket season last month, I am pleased to repeat I played and won my first game of season this week. The weather was unseasonably warm and it was a chastening reminder that the years are catching up with me. Although I take great pride and pleasure in the fact that cricket is a sport which can be played by people of a great range of age and ability (or disability), I may have to accept that I'm not as sprightly as I was as a teenager and that my body may not turn or bend or slide in the same way as before. Outside of the sporting arena, I

have been enjoying the weather with cultural visits to Bristol and Birmingham and the recent Art Week exhibition in Oxford. It is remarkable how artists are able to express themselves in one particular way and then leave it up to the audience to react to it in an entirely different one. I spoke to one abstract artist who had composed a painting based on a vase of flowers but, in my mind's eye, I saw a woman in a bright headdress looking to the right. It's always an interesting experience to consider things from other people's perspective. In addition to the arty trips, I also took a journey to the seaside!

It is a little annoying that Pershore is so far from the coast although dogs and their walkers seem to enjoy the tiny 'beach' down at the wetlands. My hope, now that the weather has improved and people are spending more time outdoors, is that everyone will treat that environment, and others, as well as each other with care and respect. Unfortunately, I have great trepidation about walking at Tiddesley Woods now, following a couple of incidents of walkers who refused to keep their dogs on a lead and were unable to stop them chasing me. And I heard recently about a sheep farmer who lost some ewes due to a dog chasing them in their own home field. It doesn't take



much to clip a dog onto a lead in those circumstances and, if someone is not prepared to do that, maybe they should reconsider dog ownership altogether. Having said that, there are so many responsible dog owners around - and I often greet them before their humans when walking. It's always a pleasure to amble around the countryside locally and I'm looking forward to doing more of it in the evenings this summer. Let's count our lucky stars.

## Thoughts from the Snug... It's common sense!

"You are not allowed to use common sense anymore" or "Common sense is uncommon". These two refrains frequently erupt as cries of frustration, usually about politicians or their political policies; decisions that seem to fly in the face of tradition, normality and basic common sense. The 'Nanny State' and 'woke thinking' is the curse of most governments. Politicians seemed surprised when their economic policies too often lose the good will of the electorate. Winston Churchill once said, "For a government to try and tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."

That is common sense. So why has this government recently raised National Insurance? Hardly helpful to encouraging business growth. Why give away the UK's coastal fishing rights to Europe; it's yet another nail in the coffin of British fishing industry. It is obvious our waters will be plundered over the next decade. Why not allow British fishermen larger quotas and sell our fish to Europe? Common sense. Cutting the winter fuel allowance for OAPs is another vote loser that seemed to surprise politicians at the recent May elections. A big mistake. The inheritance tax on family-owned farms is bound to change

the whole nature of farm management and very likely food production. Farming is a lifelong commitment for families. Why risk tampering with the traditions that kept the farming society and food productivity stable? The dramatic increase in 20 MPH speed limits in several inappropriate locations, but especially in Wales, is hugely unpopular. Perhaps some adaptations were needed but not on the scale we now suffer. The exodus from private schools caused by imposing Vat will put additional strain on the inadequately funded state system. Will our existing schools cope with the influx of children

expecting a place? Common sense tells us, NO! Overcrowding is inevitable, it will take years to build extra classrooms and facilities. All school children will be affected adversely by this policy. It is not just politicians that leave us irritated and annoyed. The rise in bureaucracy and the woke thinking that is invading so many aspects of life. The editor would love to hear of any other examples of the defiance of common sense. Think of: Health and Safety, labelling, parking, TV programming and so on. They need to be shared. Cheers!

Buddy Bach

## Letter to Editor

### Nature's Loss

I'm gonna miss, my walks  
When they shut the paths  
To keep the people out  
And mute the distant laughs  
Of happy kids, enjoying family fun  
On there nature trails  
Beneath the woodland sun  
I'm gonna shed a tear  
When the diggers call  
Watching the warblers flee  
As the tree tops fall  
And those builders  
In there bright hard hats  
Destroying Nature's habitats  
I'm gonna hate the wait  
At the traffic lights  
And the hqvs  
Working nights

*I have written a short poem 'Nature's Loss', regarding Tiddesley Wood and the proposed 300 new homes to share in your Newspapers. Thank you, Steve Kirby*

Up and down  
Loud and slow  
Back and forth, too and fro  
I'm gonna curse the dust  
When the wind blows wild  
In the face of a pensioner  
Or a school bound child  
Waiting for the bus  
That doesn't show  
Delayed in the chaos  
Of the traffic flow  
I'm gonna shake me head  
Reading the local press  
"Developer fined"  
"It's a concrete mess"  
300 new homes  
A brand new estate  
We'll be cueing for our coffee

Outside number 8  
I'm gonna make me own meals  
Even creme brulee  
There's no point ringing  
For a take away  
I won't get through  
I'll drive down in a hurry  
They'll be nowhere to park  
I'll make me own chicken curry  
I'm gonna miss my walks  
When they shut the paths  
To keep the people out  
And mute the distant laughs  
Of happy walkers  
From the neighbourhood  
At one with nature  
In Tiddesley Wood

Steve Kirby



# Whats on

## To advertise your event here!

email: [news@hughes.company](mailto:news@hughes.company)

Tel: 01386 803803

## Save the Children Plant Sale

**Saturday 7th June**

**10:00 until 12:00 -**

**St Marys Church, Kempsey**

*Sale of plants, herbs and greeting cards.*

*Refreshments available*

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

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**TEA , COFFEE and  
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*All proceeds to St James' Church*



## DEFFORD SUMMER FETE

*Back by popular request!!*

**Date:** Saturday 7th June 2025  
(2-4pm)

**Location:** Defford Village Hall

**Entertainment:**  
Persore Ukelele Group (2-3pm)  
Princesses Elsa & Anna from Frozen  
Barbecue

Donations welcome for:  
raffle prizes, tombola, gifts and bottles, cakes, plants, books, white elephant stall etc.

For further information, contact:  
Pearl on 07879 623807 or Helen on 07528 386467



**u3a**  
Persore & District

**Tuesday 17th June at 2pm**

**Speaker Chris O'Grady -**

*"Keep the Sea on the left...remember to turn right at Land's End!"*

*Tales of a haphazard trek around the edge of our 'sceptred isle', walking the entire coast of England and Wales*

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*With Professor Janet Lord, who has researched and published extensively on this topic, renowned both academically and in popular culture*

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

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50p ENTRY Children Free

St Mary's Church

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Grand raffle prize £500

Fun Dog Show



St Mary's Church

## KEMPSEY SUMMER FETE

**3PM 21ST JUNE 2025**

£2.00 per entry

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# Passports, Macbeth & lots of animals

Brian Johnson-Thomas

So here we are in Flaming June with lots of us looking forward to a few all too brief days holiday somewhere sunny. For that to happen we need, above all else, a passport. These days a Passport is a little booklet issued by a government which states your nationality, birthday and other personal information. But that's not how it started. Originally a Passport was issued by the country you were GOING to and was an authorisation to enter. Pass-the-port if you like.

Indeed many famous people fell foul of that little detail, like Lady Hamilton, Nelson's notorious bit -on -the -side who was so unpopular after his death that she had to flee Britain for France. However she only got as far as Calais and was refused entry to the rest of France, so she died there in 1815. Oscar Wilde also fell foul of the civil servants in Calais but he did eventually make it to Paris where he died in 1900. This goes to show that it doesn't do to get on the wrong side of the jobsworths in Border Controls anywhere as a lot of Britons have found out recently. We used to issue British passports which, when renewed, were valid for ten years from the original expiry date - so that the passport would last more than ten years. This is arguably not on in terms of internationally agreed practice and many folk have found themselves being refused entry to Europe as a result. Not only that but if you do as I used to do, for example,



and fly from Birmingham via Air France, LKM or Lufthansa via their hub airports to the rest of the world then you can also fall foul of this interpretation of the rule. This is because when you're in transit some countries regard you as being in their land and others regard you being Airside as being in limbo. So if you're flying via Schiphol then you're entering the Netherlands but if you're transiting Munich then, no, you're not in Germany. Daft, isn't it?

The solution, alas, if you have one of the affected passports is just to bite the bullet and get a new one. Don't try and wing it because it probably won't work and, more to the point, if your passport's not in order then you won't qualify for compensation from the airline and your travel

insurance won't pay out either. Now to nicer topics, in a few days' time the annual Royal Three Counties Show opens on Friday 13th at the Malvern Showground. As well as thousands of animals in almost infinite variety it's also a good venue for some retail therapy - especially so this year with the creation of the Royal Parade, a shopping area made up of luxury country wear retailers as well as what the organisers describe as "the finest independent makers of accessories".

*Booking in advance means that you can save some money to splurge elsewhere, ring: 0344 338 5400 between 9am and 530 pm to buy them.* I was interested to hear from the Royal Shakespeare Company about their collaborative venture

into the world of video games. A game called Lili, inspired by Shakespear's play Macbeth, has just been premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. Look out for it, hopefully in time for Christmas. Also in Stratford the Swan Theatre will be presenting a play called "The Constant Wife" by Laura Wade which is based on the play by W. Somerset Maugham and runs from Friday the 20th until the 2nd of August.

*Ring the Box Office on: 01789 331111 to book tickets.* Don't forget that the Opera season is now under way at Longborough, near Moreton in Marsh and runs until August. See [www.lfo.com](http://www.lfo.com) for details. Now it's back to the garden... Don't those hedges grow fast at this time of year?

## Wahnfried: The Birth of the Wagner Cult



This new opera with music by Avner Dorman has just seen its' UK premiere as the opening offering of this year's Longborough Festival. It's a challenging work which examines the way in which

Wagner's family sought to favourably massage the composers reputation in the years following his death and thus deals candidly with such issues as the then prevailing mood of anti-Semitism plus a

deep cultural abhorrence of homosexuality. The sparkling libretto by Lutz Hubner and Sarah Nemitz perfectly complements the music thus providing a challenging evening's entertainment. "Challenging" because the cast includes not just Kaiser Wilhelm but also a young Adolf Hitler and even the notorious Russian anarchist Mikhail Bakunin as well as assorted members of the Wagner clan. As the plot develops, we see just how Wagner's reputation is being massaged with incidents less favourable to the family's narrative being skilfully excised from the record to arrive at a more acceptable legacy.

The production epitomises the

high production values we have come to expect from Longborough but it was especially thrilling to see even more effective use being made of the Longborough Community Chorus whilst I felt that Meeta Raval, playing Anna Chamberlain, showed a nice understanding of the distinction between bathos and pathos. The plot is quite convoluted, as one might expect, and I don't want to give too much away as I hope this note will encourage you to see for yourself.

There are still three performances this month, on the 10th, 12th and 14th

*See [www.lfo.com](http://www.lfo.com) or ring the Box Office on 01451 830292 Try and go!*



# FUN AT THE ABBEY

Sunday 22 June

Outside the Abbey by the Wild Flower Meadow

Everyone is welcome to come along, to the service, the games, or the picnic - hopefully all three!

1030 Morning Praise Service in the Park

1130 Games - for all ages!

1200 Bring a picnic and enjoy being in the Park

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We would like our menu to reflect the quality of food served in good public houses

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Please contact Barry Read, Hon Secretary  
email: [severnmotoryachtclub@gmail.com](mailto:severnmotoryachtclub@gmail.com)



# Jazz News

Peter Farrall

With this month's band, Dixiemix, the clue is in the name; expect a hearty serving of Dixieland jazz but with many flavourings of their own from this popular East Anglian band. Dixieland was a nickname, originating in the nineteenth century, for the Louisiana area and it is popularly suggested that the name derives from a ten dollar note issued by the Bank of Louisiana, and bearing a prominent "DIX." Louisiana was, at the time, home to a large French speaking population. Around the time of the American civil war the name was used in the northern USA as a derogatory term for the southern states in general but as an expression of patriotism by the population of those states. A more sinister explanation is that it derives from "Dixie's Land" after the estate of slaveowner and trader, Jonathan Dixie. Nowadays the word is used with some reservation because of the connotation with that unfortunate period in US history but the paradox is that without slavery we probably wouldn't have had jazz.

In the world of jazz, Dixieland is a development of that happy, toe tapping music that spread northwards from its origins in New Orleans in the early twentieth century and, although recognised as essentially a product of black culture, it seems a little ironical that the very first jazz record made was by "The Original Dixieland Jazz



Band", a group of white musicians. By the 1920s jazz was firmly established in Chicago by the likes of King Oliver and Louis Armstrong, and young white musicians seized on the music and developed their own style with guitar replacing the banjo and sometimes adding saxophone to the traditional line up. The music was rowdy, sometimes a little ragged, certainly alcohol fuelled but captured the very essence of the period when all aspects of life were infused with the spirit of jazz and in a "speakeasy" you could possibly be in the company of members of the Capone, Dillinger, or Moran mobs. Perhaps the most "Dixieland" of all jazz was this period when

Eddie Condon, Red McKenzie, Wild Bill Davison and all played the background music for flappers, gangsters, prohibition, and all that constituted the "jazz age". We probably won't have

flappers at the club this month, no gangsters (that we know of), and alcohol will be available, but the music will be an authentic blast from the past firmly established for the future.

## Dixiemix

**Wednesday 25th June**

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

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

## Music Matters

Steve Ide

"I know a girl who thinks of ghosts, she'll make you breakfast, she'll make you toast" wise words from Wayne Coyne in the song She Don't Use Jelly. But what do the lyrics mean, or what the song is about? It could be about someone Wayne met or global warming or is it about the Maoist doctrine of the state capturing power through armed insurgency? Maybe it's all these things, maybe none of them, or maybe it doesn't really matter. It's just a great song and sometimes it's easy to think too deeply about music and forget that it's supposed to be fun, meant to be entertainment. 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams, Lemon Jelly's record 'Nice Weather for Ducks', and Bill

Withers 'Lovely Day', when you listen to tunes like this, it's impossible not to smile, they make your day a little brighter. Music is amazing because it can be many things to different people, but we should all find time in our lives for the simple fun of a track that makes your step a little lighter and the sunshine a bit brighter. Even Bob Dylan had fun with 'Bob Dylan's 115th Dream'

### Notable new albums

10 by Sault  
Sault are an elusive musical group, and this latest release was dropped with little warning. A true summer vibe, this album keeps the enigma flowing

A Complicated Woman  
by Self Esteem

Strong, warm, wild and free, full of joy but with strong messages underneath

A Study of Losses  
by Beirut

Written for a Swedish circus, this is a transcendental journey with consistently good songs from start to finish.

Still Blooming  
by Jeff Goldblum & the Mildred Snitzer Orchestra

As well as a fabulous character actor, Jeff Goldblum is also an accomplished Jazz pianist. This an album to put on a Sunday evening with a glass of something nice... smooth

### Add to playlist

Here's the Thing  
by Fontaines DC

Jetplane  
by Sorry

Woman  
by Little Simz

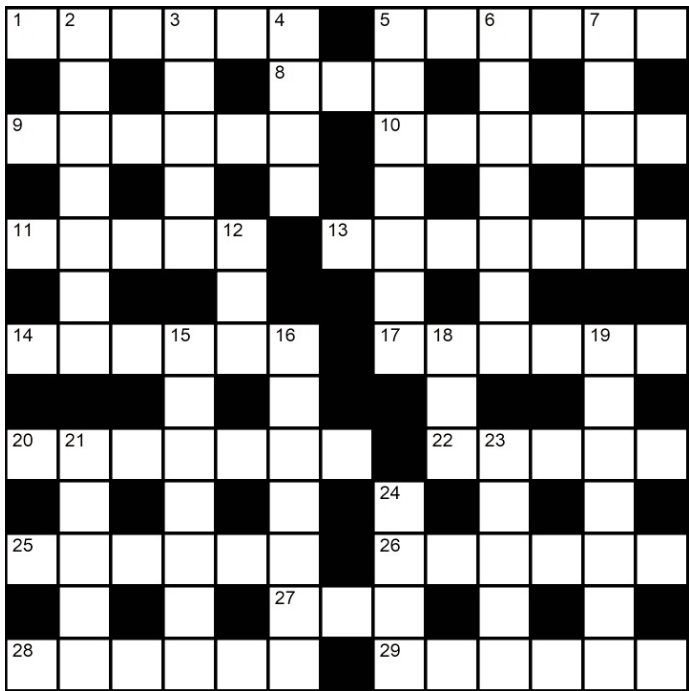
Uptight (everything's alright)  
by Stevie Wonder





Coffee Break

Crossword



Across

- 1 Source (6)
- 5 An absolute riot (6)
- 8 Whisky cask material (3)
- 9 Dexterous (6)
- 10 Like some jobs and information (6)
- 11 Perfectly vertical (5)
- 13 Did cats frolic? They can't stop (7)
- 14 Breathe with difficulty (6)
- 17 Be a benefactor (2,4)
- 20 Less sorrowful (7)
- 22 Infernal writer? (5)
- 25 Militaristic city-state (6)
- 26 Wood finish, in marquetry (6)
- 27 Stage (3)
- 28 Let out (6)
- 29 Canadian pole-vault star --- Newman (6)

Down

- 2 Annual flyer with a famous nose (7)
- 3 Cake figurine (5)
- 4 Marginal inscription (4)
- 5 Lost traction (7)
- 6 Ruined rug isn't going to ruin (7)
- 7 Examine the books (5)
- 12 "Well, that's show --- !" (3)
- 15 British and Roman, for example (7)
- 16 May birthstone (7)
- 18 Eccentric (3)
- 19 It'll never get off the ground in Africa (7)
- 21 More than enough (5)
- 23 Soothe (5)
- 24 Latvian capital (4)

Sudoku

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

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

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

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

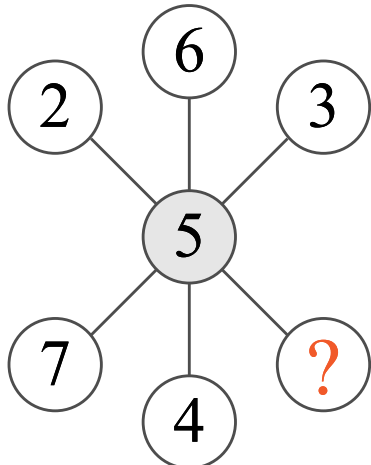
Wordsearch

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

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| AA MILNE    | HOMER     |
| AESOP       | KAFKA     |
| ANN B. ROSS | KEATS     |
| BUCHAN      | LUCIAN    |
| BUNYAN      | MARLOW    |
| BYRON       | PASTERNAK |
| CAMUS       | PLATO     |
| DANTE       | PROUST    |
| DIDEROT     | SARTRE    |
| GRIMM       | SHELLEY   |
| HARDY       | WAUGH     |

Brainteaser

What is the missing number?





## Poets' Corner

### XLV

If it chance your eye offend you,  
Pluck it out, lad, and be sound:  
'Twill hurt, but here are salves to friend you,  
And many a balsam grows on ground.

And if your hand or foot offend you,  
Cut it off, lad, and be whole;  
But play the man, stand up and end you,  
When your sickness is your soul.

### XLVI

Bring, in this timeless grave to throw,  
No cypress, sombre on the snow;  
Snap not from the bitter yew  
His leaves that live December through;  
Break no rosemary, bright with rime  
And sparkling to the cruel clime;  
Nor plod the winter land to look  
For willows in the icy brook  
To cast them leafless round him: bring  
No spray that ever buds in spring.

But if the Christmas field has kept  
Awns the last gleaner overstept,  
Or shrivelled flax, whose flower is blue  
A single season, never two;  
Or if one haulm whose year is o'er  
Shivers on the upland frore,  
Oh, bring from hill and stream and plain  
Whatever will not flower again,  
To give him comfort: he and those  
Shall bide eternal bedfellows  
Where low upon the couch he lies  
Whence he never shall arise.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

## Quiz!

- 1) More than half of the United States entire coastline is situated in which state?
- 2) Which Brazilian rainforest produces over 20% of the world's oxygen supply?
- 3) Which city is the only city in the world to be located on two separate continents?
- 4) What is the world's smallest island with country status?
- 5) The Kola Superdeep Borehole, the deepest hole ever drilled by man, reached a depth of over 12km but in which country was it located?
- 6) Angel Falls is the world's highest waterfall. In which country is it located?
- 7) Superior is the largest lake in which continent?
- 8) The Great Bear lake pans over 12,000 square miles. In which country is it located?
- 9) Which continent is the world's second-smallest by size but also has the second-largest population?
- 10) What is the capital city of the Republic of Ireland?
- 11) The river Plate has which capital city on it's banks?
- 12) Which, as of 2015, is the largest city in the Americas?
- 13) In which country is the world's highest waterfall?
- 14) Which lake holds by far the largest volume of water in the UK?
- 15) The M1 motorway is how many miles long? a) 175 b) 186 c) 193
- 16) Which city in Bulgaria on the River Vladaiska, also has the River Perlovska and the River Iskar flowing along it's outskirts?
- 17) How many National Parks are there in Wales?
- 18) Oakham is the county town of which small county?
- 19) The UK towns of Bootle and Birkenhead sit on which river?
- 20) Baku is the capital city of which eastern European country? Which national park became Britain's first in 1951?

Answers: 1) Alaska 2) Amazon 3) Istanbul, Turkey 4) Pitcairn Island in Polynesia 5) Russia 6) Venezuela 7) North America 8) Canada 9) Europe 10) Dublin 11) Buenos Aires 12) Sao Paulo 13) Venezuela 14) Loch Ness 15) c) 193 16) Sophia 17) 3 18) Rutland 19) Mersey 20) Azerbaijan 21) Peak District

## MayAnswers



June Brain teaser 8, The average of 8 and 2 is equal to the middle number 5.

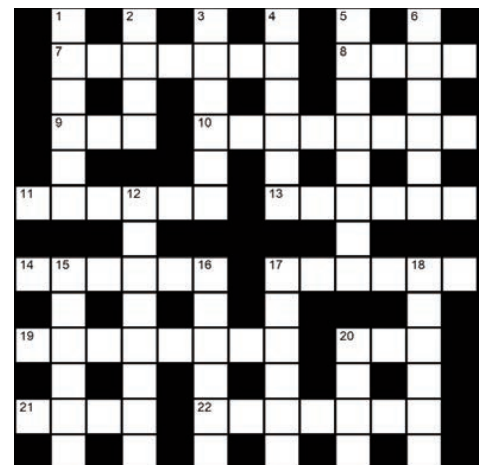
## Anagram Crossword

### Across

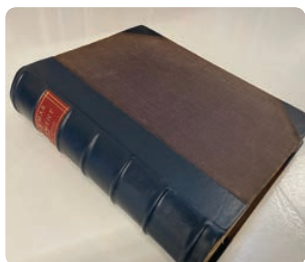
- 7 Mingled (7)
- 8 Alto (1,3)
- 9 Tow (3)
- 10 Reserved (8)
- 11 Wakers (6)
- 13 Phaser (6)
- 14 No rime (6)
- 17 Denies (2,4)
- 19 Backward (8)
- 20 Deb (3)
- 21 Emir (4)
- 22 Angered (7)

### Down

- 1 Pro tem (6)
- 2 Laos (4)
- 3 Briefs (6)
- 4 Savage (6)
- 5 Admirers (8)
- 6 Poseur (4,2)
- 12 Sweater (2,2,4)
- 15 Nearer (6)
- 16 Go near (6)
- 17 Likely (6)
- 18 Denude (6)
- 20 Bars (4)



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**Copy Deadline for**

**July Issue - 23rd June 2025**



# Student Champions VI Education with MP



L-R Mr Blake Stephenson MP, Zac NCW Student, Suzanne Hollinshead NCW Parent

New College Worcester (NCW) student Zac is passionate about politics, both in the UK and globally. He's a keen follower of current affairs and is deeply engaged with political issues that matter to him. Closer to home, Zac is equally passionate about NCW and is a strong advocate for the school's work in raising awareness of the challenges faced by people with a vision impairment—both in accessing specialist education and in securing opportunities in the workplace. Looking ahead, Zac is excited to begin studying Politics in Sixth Form at NCW. He's already showing great enthusiasm for exploring and challenging political topics that spark his interest and concern.

Armed with an agenda of issues important to him, Zac requested to meet his local MP, Mr Blake Stephenson. He was delighted to be invited to meet him on Monday 14th April whilst he was home from NCW for the Easter break. Mr Stephenson gave Zac lots of time to chat through the things that are important to him, including telling Mr Stephenson all about NCW and the difference it has made to his education, his mental health and his future career prospects as a blind young person. Mr Stephenson was delighted to hear all about the work that NCW do to support VI young people, and the work currently going on by the school to lobby the Government for further investment in VI schools and employment opportunities. As a result of Zac's meeting, Mr Stephenson has agreed to

write to the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, in support of the recent open letter to the Government that NCW has recently sent. Mr Stephenson was also keen to look at tabling specific questions on this topic in the House of Commons!

Zac also had the opportunity to talk to Mr Stephenson about the lack of step free access at his local train station, support for investment in the local infrastructure where we live, and the plans for the new Universal Studio Park that has just been approved to be built very close to where we live. I am so grateful to Mr Stephenson and his assistant Charley for giving me more than an hour of their time to hear about the things that are important to me. I felt that Mr Stephenson understood about my issues, and he was very proactive offering support. I hope that my meeting will help my school, New College Worcester and my local community on some very important issues.

We are very proud of Zac for wanting to champion education and employment for VI young people, and for being brave enough to take his views to his local MP! Zac is very much looking forward to joining 6th form and immersing himself in his Politics A-level!

New College Worcester  
Whittington Road,  
Worcester WR5 2JX  
Tel 01905 763933  
[www.ncw.co.uk](http://www.ncw.co.uk)

# New Performing Arts Diploma opening . . .

Worcester Theatres is incredibly excited to announce the WT Performance Hub; a brand-new strand of our work focusing on delivering high quality arts education for the young people aged 16 – 19 in Worcestershire. From September 2025 Worcester Theatres will be one of a handful of professional theatres within the UK offering a fully accredited BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts; all based at Worcester's very own Swan Theatre. This two-year course focuses on delivering a highly practical course preparing students to enter the industry or for Further Education at a University or Drama School. What is the biggest benefit for our future learners? They'll have the

unique chance to showcase their talent at the Swan Theatre! Regular performances mean they're not just learning – they'll be experiencing the industry. Want to learn more? Worcester Theatres will be holding two open day events, where parents and prospective students are invited to find out all about the WT Performance Hub. Open Days will be on Tuesday 17th June from 5pm until 7pm and the on Saturday 28th June from 1.30pm until 3.30pm. To attend or have any queries, please email: [outreach@worcestertheatres.co.uk](mailto:outreach@worcestertheatres.co.uk) For more information, visit: [www.worcestertheatres.co.uk/worcester-theatres-performance-hub](http://www.worcestertheatres.co.uk/worcester-theatres-performance-hub)

## Spot & Shop - May Winners

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1) Kate Edgar   | 5) Stella Willams  |
| 2) Gill Wylde   | 6) Sarah Kenwright |
| 3) Chris Tandy  | 7) Dawn Perkins    |
| 4) Jill Hopkins |                    |

Last month's answer:  
**Edwards Motors**

**SPOT  
&  
SHOP!**

## COMPETITION TIME!

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

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to WIN  
£50  
CASH

This  
month's  
anagram  
**COST HELM  
KITH**

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**2nd - £25 cash**

Donated by Hughes & Company

**3rd £20 Food Voucher**

at The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley

**4th £10 Voucher**

at Revills Farm Shop, Defford

**5th £10 Voucher**

at CraftyPyro, Bakers Arcade, Pershore

**6th Reg Moule Gardening Book**

**7th Pat's Pantry -**

Jar of home-made marmalade/jam

Complete and return this form or email:  
[news@hughes.company](mailto:news@hughes.company) for your chance to win!

**UptonTimes closing date: 27th June 2025**

Answer:

Name:

Telephone/email:

Return to: Hughes & Company/Upton Times

8 Church Street, Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1DT



# Memory Lane . . . *The Swan Inn*

The new Rate Assessment on February 14th 1838 details that the Swan Inn was occupied and owned by James Lane, and that the site measured 1 acre 0 roods 30 perches (5747 112 square yards).

Its gross rentable value was adjudged to be £40. Allowing 1 5% off for repairs, its net rentable value was £34; and that was what counted for payment of rates at whatever pence in the pound. James Lane took the minutes of Parish Meetings held in The Swan.

The Swan owner at the end of the nineteenth century was an Upton Snodsbury farmer named John Hughes. He had been one of the forty scholars in the Kings School from 1866 to 1869, when he died in 1917 he left The Swan to the Kings School to found the John Hughes Scholarship for students studying Classics at Oxford. He made the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens or Worcester trustees empowering them to sell The Swan and invest the proceeds. This they did in 1921, investing

the sum of £1,150. The first holder of the John Hughes Scholarship at Hertford College, Oxford from 1925 - 1929 was Michael Romilly Craze; this scholarship is still in existence today.

The present building elates from about 1780 and occupies an ideal site on the crest of a small hill. Such a site would not have stayed vacant until 1780 and probably replaced an earlier, half-timbered building. The census returns give a 'snapshot' of the landlords of 'The Swan Inn' during the late 1800's, with a selection of references from Kelly's Trade Directories giving some details for the early 1900's.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of landlords, but it does give a glimpse or past innkeepers.

The Kelly's directory for 1860 confirms Henry Harber as landlord of The Swan and interestingly lists Robert Page as landlord of The Star at Swinesherd, no location for this hostelry is given.



*The Swan Inn photographed in 1941, complete with sign requesting travellers to "STOP AT THE SWAN, The inn the is comfortable"*



*The Swan Darts Team - Early 1940's*

Year	Name	Age	Occupation	Year	Name
1841	James Lane	55	Publican	1900	Thomas Alfred Wormington
1851	Mary Lane	69	Vitualer	1922	James Henry Spilsbury
1861	Henry Harber	26	Inn Keeper	1932	George Davis
1871	Walter Weston	40	Inn Keeper	1933	Edwin Davis
1881	Charles A Wilkins	39	Inn Keeper	1940	Roland Price



*The Swan Inn 1906*



# VE Day 80 Celebrations at Community Hall

Thirty-one Year 5 children and their teachers from Whittington Primary School joined members of the public and the hall committee for a poignant, but fun afternoon to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8 May at Whittington Community Hall.

Two guest speakers Pat Wigley and Liz Chesney gave childhood accounts of what it was like for them living through WWII. The school children had especially learnt a song for the occasion (Don't stop believing) which they sang and performed to a delighted audience.

Memories of WWII and VE Day were displayed around the Hall which had been decorated with Union Jack bunting, balloons and included individual posters designed and drawn by the children. The delicious refreshments were prepared and served by local volunteers Chis Paige and Elizabeth Brooker and helped make the occasion a fitting celebration.

At the end of the event each child was given a History of Whittington book, and copies will also go into the school archives.

Councillor Linda Robinson said, "It was a fabulous event and very well organised. The inspirational senior speakers have been a topic of conversation, and the total focus paid to them by all the school children. It was great to witness." Headteacher Kelly Leeming stated, "The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It provided a valuable opportunity for the community to come together. The children loved listening to stories from the past and bringing history to life. Please pass on my thanks — it was a wonderful event." Susan Macleod, Chairperson of Whittington Community Hall said, "The memories our guest speakers told us were heartfelt and raised our emotions, and the children's singing was a brilliant surprise, I couldn't help but dance along, it was a great atmosphere. Thanks to everyone's involvement for bring this all together and making it such a successful day.

*Susan MacLeod, Chair,  
Whittington Community Hall*



## Rotary News

Pershore Rotary proudly recognises the contributions made by one of its members with the awarding of a Paul Harris Fellowship. The award recognises an individual's continuing effort and commitment in supporting the community whether locally, nationally or internationally. For her many years leading the Pershore Foodbank, children's activities at the Abbey and service to Wick Parish Council, President Peter Gardner presented Lynne Raymer with the award saying, "Lynne has been an invaluable support to the club in recent years and volunteered to help with many key roles." Replying, Lynne said, "I have always believed that Rotarians should not only volunteer through Rotary, but where possible in their local community." Lynne led Pershore Foodbank for eight years and served on Wick Parish Council for twelve years. Lynne was presented with her award at the club's President's Night on Wednesday 30th April at Feli's Bar & Restaurant. *Congratulations Lynne.*

May is Rotary's Youth Service month, so we are spotlighting on Facebook five amazing opportunities available to students of various ages;

- RotaKids clubs in primary schools empower children to have fun, make friends and help their communities by running activities and supporting global causes - all while building confidence, teamwork and a sense of purpose.
- Interact clubs at High School are for young people who want to lead, volunteer and connect. From local projects to global awareness, Interact helps young people grow their leadership skills while having fun and meeting new friends. An example of an excellent Interact club can be found at Prince Henry's High School in Evesham, who are doing fantastic work in their community.
- Rotaract is for young adults who are passionate about change. Whether in university or their local community, Rotaractors lead service projects, connect globally and develop as professionals.

- Rotary Youth Exchange – if you dream of studying abroad, this opportunity immerses young people in a new culture, where they can learn a new language and represent their country as a youth ambassador. Each year, 300 students travel to and from the UK with the help of Rotary.
- RYLA unlocks leadership potential through its immersive camp which help young people grow their leadership and communication skills, tackle real-world challenges and meet like-minded future leaders.

*Further information on all these and other Rotary projects can be obtained from the club Secretary at [secretary@pershorerotary.club](mailto:secretary@pershorerotary.club)*

Another project is the Rotary Youth World Affairs Seminar to be held at Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin, USA from 21st to 27th June 2025. We are delighted to announce that Jorja Woolston, a student at Pershore High School, has won a place on this prestigious program where students from around the globe will debate "Peacebuilding: Creating

*Richard Lees*



Lasting Change". Since 1976 the Rotary Youth World Affairs Seminar has provided a unique forum where 40,000 future leaders from 30 different countries have debated some of the most complex global problems in the stimulating environment of Carroll University, Wisconsin.

*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](http://www.pershorerotary.club) or email at [secretary@pershorerotary.club](mailto:secretary@pershorerotary.club)*

# Whittington based organisation donates £2000 to St Richard's Hospice

A local organisation that runs free, family friendly events has donated £2000 to St Richard's Hospice.

Created in 2023, Whittington Community Events Group was set up with the aim of running community focused, free, family friendly events and activities whilst raising money for charities that mean something to people in the local

area. Originally created to run their yearly community summer event, Whittington Community Events Group has expanded their activities to include a Santa sleigh in December and in 2024 ran a free community cinema. Any profits from the summer event are donated to charity along with all donations made during Santa's visits to Whittington, Rushwick, Norton

and Littleworth. Chair of Whittington Community Events Group, Adam Hooper commented 'We started Whittington Community Events Group with the ambition of putting on fun, family friendly events for our local area. We realised we had the opportunity to raise funds for causes close to our local area and we are very proud to have been able to make a donation of £2000 to St Richard's Hospice. You'd be hard pressed to find anyone locally who hasn't had an experience of St Richard's Hospice and the wonderful work they do there and we are delighted to be able to do our part to support them.' Whittington Community Events Group has also donated money to mental health charity Mind and the Whittington focused Fanny Clifton charity. Adam Hooper continued 'We

love running our summer event and the Santa sleigh. They are both hard work but the smiling happy faces during the we get to see make it worthwhile and to be able to make much needed donations to these charities makes it all worth it. The whole team who volunteer their time to all of our events should be very proud of what we have achieved and will continue to achieve' 2025's Whittington community summer event will take place on Saturday 12th July from 11am to 5pm. More information can be found at [www.whittington-events.com](http://www.whittington-events.com)

*If anyone would like to volunteer to support the summer event or the Santa sleigh, Whittington Community Events Group can be contacted by email at [whittingtoncege@gmail.com](mailto:whittingtoncege@gmail.com)*



**Save the Date:**

**Summer Fayre**  
**Saturday 12th July 2025**  
**11am to 5pm**

For further details, visit:  
[www.whittington-events.com](http://www.whittington-events.com)  
or email:  
[whittingtoncege@gmail.com](mailto:whittingtoncege@gmail.com)



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Fire Station ..... 0300 333 3000

Library (The Hive) ..... 01905 822866

Police Station ..... 101

..... (In an emergency always call 999)

CrimeStoppers ..... 0800 555 111

Post Office ..... 01905 353537

197 Bath Rd, Worcester WR5 3AH

St Peter's Surgery ..... 01905 363351

St Peters Drive, Worcester WR5 3TA

Haresfield House Surgery ..... 01905 368503

37 Newtown Road, Worcester WR5 1HG

### Whittington Parish Council

Clerk- David Hunter-Miller ..... 07513 122918

### District Council

Out of Hours Emergency Hotline -

In an event of an emergency call: ..... 0300 003 5367

### Worcestershire County Council

To report faulty traffic lights or urgent

Highways issues call: ..... 07875 033759

Please note: This number should not be used for 'day-to-day' enquiries.

- Waste Services ..... 01386 565018

- Pot Holes ..... 01905 765765

Help the Homeless ..... 0300 500 0914



## Meet your safer neighbourhood team

Officers can be contacted on the below numbers concerning community issues. To report a crime in progress call 999 and for non emergencies, report online at [www.westmercia.police.uk/report](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/report). If you are unable to report online, you can contact us via the 101 non-emergency number.



Inspector  
Dave Wise



Sergeant  
Cathy Atkinson

Pershore Rural SNT ([persherural.snt@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:pershorerural.snt@westmercia.police.uk))



PCSO Claire  
Doughty  
07814 040601



PCSO Lee  
Stirling  
07483 108189

Pershore Town SNT ([pershoretown.snt@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:pershoretown.snt@westmercia.police.uk))



PC Molly  
Keeler  
07817 947084



PCSO Rebekah  
Ashley  
07773 053576



PCSO Jo  
Rice  
07929 091572





# Elizabeth Gibbs Dance at Community Hall in Whittington



Discover the joy of dance at our friendly and professional dance school, conveniently located at Whittington Community Hall Worcester. At EG Dance, we believe in nurturing and inspiring each student to unlock their full potential. We understand that every dancer is unique, which is why we offer a variety of teaching styles tailored to individual learning preferences. Whether your passion lies in ballet, tap, modern, jazz, or

street, our classes cater for all ages and skill levels.

*Contact Liz today for more information about our diverse range of classes.*

*Email: [lizdance@icloud.com](mailto:lizdance@icloud.com)*

*For more information about the Community Hall.*

*Please email: [info@whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk](mailto:info@whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk)*

*Susan Macleod  
Chair;*

*Whittington Community Hall*

## Regular classes at Whittington Community Hall



### MONDAY

**10.30am-11.30am - Zumba** -with Aimee Ford,  
email: [aimeeford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aimeeford@yahoo.co.uk)

**5.30pm - The Star Project Children's Theatre**  
(term time only) with Jo Payne, email:  
[director@thestarproject.info](mailto:director@thestarproject.info)

### TUESDAY

**4.00pm-6.30pm - Dance (for 3 year olds and above)**  
with Elizabeth Gibbs, email: [lizdance@cloud.com](mailto:lizdance@cloud.com)

**6.30pm-9.30pm - Gong Bath & Sound Meditation**  
with Angela Latham. (varying monthly dates available)  
email: [evenstartbabe@msm.com](mailto:evenstartbabe@msm.com)

### WEDNESDAY

**4.30pm-5.30pm - Yoga**  
with Natalie Houlding, email: [natalie@zafyoga.com](mailto:natalie@zafyoga.com)

**6.30pm-7.30pm - Pilates**  
with Rebecca Hadlington, email: [fitness-worcester.com](mailto:fitness-worcester.com)

### THURSDAY

**10.00am (for 10.15am start) - 11.00am**  
**Zumba** - with Denise Wrafter;

**11.00am-12.00**  
**Yoga** - with Denise Wrafter, email: [sdwrafter@btinternet.com](mailto:sdwrafter@btinternet.com)

**7.15pm-9.15pm**  
**T'ai Chi** - with Dr Marc, email: Contact: [marc@obelison.com](mailto:marc@obelison.com)

### FRIDAY

**9.45am-10.45am**  
**Zumba** - with Aimee Ford, email: [aimeeford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aimeeford@yahoo.co.uk)

**12.00noon-1.00pm**  
**Nia Barefoot Movement** - with Sarah Handley,  
call Sarah on 07935 150853

**6.00pm-7.00pm**  
**Duke Yoga** - with Fiona, email: [fib42@hotmail.com](mailto:fib42@hotmail.com)

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# Whittington Times



## Monthly classic car coffee morning



Sunday of the month until the last event in October while the weather is mild. We expect car models and numbers to vary at each event, but everyone with a classic car is very welcome. The flat and even carpark is perfect for classic car owners to come and meet the general public, and pass on any tips to the general public who may like to find out more about classic car care. There will be complimentary refreshments for this morning event.

Venue:

Elgar Court Care Home

35 St Andrews Road

Malvern

WR14 3PT

Time: 10am – 12.30pm

Malvern's newest Residential home Elgar Court, is holding a

monthly Classic Car Coffee Morning starting Sunday 18

May at 10am – 12.30pm.

The event will run every third

For further information please call the team on: 01684 211720

## Do you have a Lasting Power of Attorney & Will?

*Sorting out your lasting power of attorney gives you complete peace of mind that should you become unable to look after your own affairs, someone you trust can. Without a lasting power of attorney in place even your spouse, partner or children will find it difficult and expensive to be granted permission to handle your affairs. We can make sure that the person taking charge over decisions regarding your health, welfare, property, and finances is the person you want and trust.*

**Other services include:**

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



**Resolve Law Group**

**Call: 01905 391939 / 07785 500432**

Email: Peter.Jewell@ResolveLawGroup.co.uk

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

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