

# Whittington Times

*A free monthly newspaper for Whittington and surrounding areas*



*inc. Whittington Parish News*

Issue 1

May 2025

**FREE**



Sunset on The Tump, Whittington

**W**elcome to the first edition of the Whittington Times. This is your newspaper and we welcome news and views from everyone. We have been publishing the Pershore Times for nearly ten years, more recently Upton, Powick and Kempsey newspapers. We look forward to hearing from clubs and organisations who wish to publicise events. Editorial is free and advertising begins at £18 including VAT.

We believe that interesting, well written articles are the main reason why our papers have been successful. We are not an Admag! You don't buy a national daily newspaper to read the advertisements!

The resident population in the five postal districts we cover is nearly 90,000 people. We do not have advertising contracts. You pay monthly as you go! It's up to us to help you to sell your products. We have

85% advertisement repeat average and some advertisers have appeared in every edition since we began.

We hope you enjoy this edition, we have an exciting time ahead and look forward to working with everyone in Whittington to make sure this venture is successful. We do not have time for all the doom and gloom everywhere. We have lots of things to enjoy and look forward to and can't wait to get started on the next edition.

*Editor*



To receive the  
**Whittington Times**  
by email each month  
email: [news@hughes.company](mailto:news@hughes.company)  
with your name, email address and  
Ref: Whittington Times



**King's Worcester**



## SHAPE YOUR FUTURE AT KING'S

### OPEN MORNINGs

**SENIOR & SIXTH FORM SATURDAY 7TH JUNE**  
**KING'S ST ALBAN'S PREP FRIDAY 9TH MAY**  
**KING'S HAWFORD PREP FRIDAY 16TH MAY**

DISCOVER MORE [KSW.ORG.UK/SHAPEYOURFUTURE](https://www.ksw.org.uk/shapeyourfuture)



## From the County Council



"I am delighted to hear the very welcome news that the first edition of the 'Whittington Times' has been printed and hope that all residents will enjoy reading its content. There will be opportunities to

contribute and reflect on a whole range of topics. This can also include activities that have already taken place together with notification of future events. Many other areas that I represent have done similar with great success. I hope that you will find it useful for sharing relevant information for your area and keeping in touch. It is certainly a proven means of helping build a sense of community which is to be encouraged especially as your population grows and newcomers move in."

*Linda Robinson  
County Councillor*

## New logo for the Parish Council

Whittington Parish Council has asked its residents to put on their creative hats and design a new logo to be used on its documents, website and across social media.

The parish has tripled in size over the past 10 years and from the rural village of years gone by, it now hosts 600 modern houses on its two housing estates, Whittington Walk and Wildmore.

The current logo is an image of the famous Whittington Tump and this must feature in any new

design, but it doesn't really reflect the parish of 2025. A £50 voucher to spend at one of Amazon, John Lewis, St Peters Garden Centre or The Range is the prize for the winner.

Closing date for entries is Wednesday 14th May. Details of how to enter can be found on the parish website under the 'News' tab.

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

*Richard Boase  
Whittington Parish Council*

## Whittington Parish Council

### Clerk to the Parish Council

**David Hunter-Miller**

Tel: 07513 122918

Email: [whittingtonparish.gov.uk](mailto:whittingtonparish.gov.uk)

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

Facebook com/whittingtonpc

*Please visit us and 'sign up' for updates.*

*Parish Council Agendas, Minutes, Accounts, Policies & Procedures, Allotment details, vacancies, tenancy agreement, terms and conditions, Planning Applications, News and much more.*

### Whittington Parish Allotments

The Parish Council maintain 15 allotments for rental to Parishioners at:

Wildmore, Honywood 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)**

## In Westminster

### Nigel Huddleston MP

*"It is a pleasure to write in the new Whittington Times. I'll be using this space to share what I've been working on in Westminster and highlight events in the area."*

The new financial year has brought fresh challenges for local businesses. From 6 April, a range of tax increases introduced by the Labour Chancellor came into force, placing added pressure on family businesses, farmers and employers across Worcestershire. This followed a concerning Spring Statement. After previously increasing spending by £70 billion, taxes by £40 billion, and borrowing by £30 billion, the Chancellor is now attempting to reverse the damage of her own policies. Growth forecasts have been downgraded, and families and businesses are being left to foot the bill. One particularly damaging measure is the cap on Business Property Relief, which could expose long-standing family firms to inheritance tax, potentially forcing them to sell or close. I've heard from GPs, care providers, and small businesses alarmed by these changes. I also sponsored an event in Parliament celebrating pubs. Across my constituency, including in villages such as Whittington, 91 pubs and three local breweries support over 1,600 jobs. Labour's decision to cut business rates relief and raise employer National Insurance puts these community hubs at risk. In other news, I voted for a ban on mobile phones during



the school day to support children's wellbeing, sadly, the Government blocked this proposal. And after pressure from Conservative MPs, the Government U-turned on its refusal to block solar panels linked to modern slavery, an important step in protecting human rights. On 12th April, Parliament sat on a Saturday to debate emergency legislation on British Steel, something that has only happened a handful of times in modern history. While I support steel jobs, I have concerns over the scale of new powers being pushed through without proper scrutiny.

### Locally:

Celebrating Norton Barracks - Spring is in full flow, there have been fantastic events locally, I was honoured to attend the 75th anniversary of the presentation of the Silver Drums at Norton Barracks. It was a great celebration of our proud local military history. It was also good to meet veterans and tour the new youth facilities, an excellent addition to the community. I look forward to attending more events in the local area and the wider constituency.

## Church Services

### Sunday 4th May

11:00am

3:00pm

### Easter 3

Parish Communion

Forest Church Outing to Perry Wood

### Sunday 11th May

11:00am

### Easter 4

Family Service

### Sunday 18th May

11:00am

### Easter 5

Parish Communion

### Sunday 25th May

11:00am

### Easter 6

Family Communion

### Thursday 29th May

10:00am

### Ascension Day

Holy Communion

### Sunday 1st June

11:00am

3:30pm

### Easter 7

Parish Communion

Forest Church

### Sunday 8th June

11:00am

### Pentecost

Family Service



# View from The Tump



*Oak Tree on Whittington Tump, Photo by Philip Halling*

This is the opening article on a new series on Whittington Worcester UK.

There are several other villages called Whittington in England and overseas.

Perhaps one day we shall be able to achieve some cohesive linkage.

Whilst they might all share the same name only one has a landmark called The Tump.

The Tump is geographical feature and an historical enigma with a public fascination.

The story of The Tump will involve ownership by the Berkeley and farming by the Weston families.

There will be news of the excavations perhaps 100 years ago to investigate its origins. Was it Roman or Elizabethan and used as a beacon warning of invasion or was it for burial? In more recent times for the QE 2 anniversary in 1977 loyal villager Tony George planted an Oak tree.

The Tump is surrounded on three sides by busy public highways and will be seen by millions.

The extent to which there was and is any public access will also be considered in this series.

So too we will reflect on the characters of Whittington who have helped make the village what it is.

There is a Church and a Village Hall and a CoE Primary School and a Pub, The Swan all made by many.

House and Landowners and Clergy and Teachers and Councillors and Worshippers and Drinkers made the village. The Cricket Club and the College for the Blind and the Archdeacon's House each represent stories over times. Villagers have come and stayed for generations and some have come and gone yet all left their marks.

The Churchyard is full of characters who have played their parts in the evolution of this Village as it has expanded. Several have written about the village and Les Wiltshire left a book which will be a wondrous source of reference.

The famous painter William Benjamin Leader lived in Whittington Lodge adjacent to the Church.

Four generations of Tanner family show loyalty to their community.

Where once prize-winning pedigree Aberdeen Angus cattle roamed now a global cheese packaging business operates. On the edge of the village bordering to the City boundary is the spot where Gunpowder Plotters were executed in 1606. There are many tales to tell and this is just the beginning and ideas and inspirations will be welcomed.

David Hallmark ... resident since 1975 so 50 years this year, nephew of Ted Hartwright who lived here over eighty years.

*David Hallmark*

# Orchard fit for a King!



*Community Orchard in celebration of the King's Coronation*

On a bright Saturday morning in the middle of March, around 30 residents from Whittington's Wildmore estate gathered on their top meadow to plant 25 fruit tree saplings and 300 shrubs and bushes to create a mini woodland planting area. Whittington Parish Council made a successful bid for a community orchard under the Government-funded 'Coronation Living Heritage Fund' to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and to further his lifelong work conserving the natural environment. The Parish Council, in partnership with Worcestershire County Council brought this to fruition. Community orchards have been planted under this scheme throughout Worcestershire and across the country and they will be a lasting legacy to the King's well-known passion for nature and the environment. Expert guidance was on hand

from Wade Muggleton, Senior Greenspace Officer at Worcestershire County Council who sourced the saplings, shrubs and hedges and oversaw the planting.

Helping the green-fingered residents were County Councillor, Linda Robinson and District Councillor, Rob Adams who both got stuck in with the digging, planting and mulching! Parish Councillors, Helena Bennett, Christine Boase, Richard Boase and Adam Hooper joined in the fun.

Richard Boase said: "This has been a long time in preparation, but I am delighted that so many residents turned out to plant our new orchard. I hope that in a few years' time, they and other residents will enjoy picking and eating fresh fruit from our shared community orchard."

*Richard Boase*





# Victory in Europe Day

Germany officially surrendered on 7th May 1945 and the conflict was finally over!



**SIFTA SALT**  
Never Cakes  
Sifta Salt & Co. Ltd, Sandbach, Cheshire

## The Daily Telegraph

and Morning Post

LONDON LATE EDN.

This is the Gin  
**Gordon's**  
Stands Supreme  
Maximum Price  
per bot. 21/3, half-bot. 12/3  
G.O. Bottles & Co., London, W.C.

No. 28,048 LONDON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1945 Printed in LONDON and MANCHESTER PRICE 1½d.

### NATION'S GREAT OUTBURST OF JOY ON VE-DAY

ROYAL FAMILY FOUR TIMES  
OUT ON PALACE BALCONY

### EYE-WITNESS DESCRIBES SURRENDER SCENE

GERMAN FLEET  
TO GO TO  
ALLIED PORTS

DRAMATIC 20 MINUTES  
THAT ENDED WAR

HUMBLED GERMANS

**JOYOUS CROWDS  
HAIL THE KING  
AT PALACE**

**MR. CHURCHILL'S V  
SIGN FROM BALCONY**

British family instinct inspired  
tens of thousands of men and

FROM EARLY MORNING vast  
crowds, celebrating V.E. Day,  
waited outside Buckingham  
Palace in hopes of seeing their  
King and Queen.

Their wish was gratified in the  
afternoon when their Majesties,  
accompanied by Princess Elizabeth  
and Princess Margaret,  
appeared on the balcony and  
acknowledged with smiles their  
tumultuous reception.

Later, they came out again on  
the balcony, this time with Mr.  
Churchill, whose appearance was  
greeted with wild expressions of  
delight. Informality and good  
fellowship with the rejoicing  
people were the message as the  
King's wave of the hand and the  
happy smiles of the Queen and the  
Premier.



## St Philip & St James' Parish Church Whittington

*A Ninth Century Chapel rebuilt in 1844*

In the Worcester South East Team  
St Philip & St James Whittington and  
St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

Vicar: The Rev'd Andy Stand . 01905 358150  
Church Officers for Whittington

Churchwardens:  
Miss Janet Pearson . . . . 01905 357485  
Miss Jayne Rayer . . . . . 01905 351344

Asst. Warden: Mrs Brenda Giles . . . . . 01905 25709

Organist:

Hon Secretary: Mrs Liz McKinnon . . . . 07803 600807  
email: lizziemck@rocketmail.com

Hon Treasurer: Mrs Brenda Giles . . . . . 01905 25709

Safeguarding Officer: David Chestney . . . . . 01905 359708  
Elizabethan Room

bookings coordinator: Mrs Caroline Mayfield . 01905 764822  
email: caroline.mayfield40@gmail.com

Magazine Editor: David Chestney . . . . . 01905 359708  
email: david.battenhall@outlook.com

St. Martin with St. Peter

Team Rector: Rev'd Peter Hart . . . . . 01905 355119

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Richard Wood

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Mike Bunclark

Holy Trinity & St Matthew Ronkswood

Vicar: Rev'd Rob Farmer

Team Administrator: Rebecca Caskie . . . Tel: 01905 358083  
email: worcestersoutheastteam@gmail.com

Team Office, St Martins Church,  
London Road, Worcester WR5 2ED

For enquiries about Baptisms, Thanksgivings,  
Marriages and Blessings,  
please contact the Team Administrator as above.

The Team Office at St Martin's is open on:  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Visits, ideally should continue to be by appointment.  
Rebecca can always be reached by phone and email.



## The Great Horse picture

Tim Hickson

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



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



*Hampton Court Palace charcoal stoves*

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

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



*Almshouses*



*Croome Court charcoal stoves were here*



# k|c| Carpets Ltd

*Quality Carpets start here!*

- Choose at home or visit our showroom
- Experienced advice
- Modern and traditional floor coverings
- Old fashioned personal service
- Surprisingly competitive prices

*Start with a 'no obligation' quotation and finish with a beautifully carpeted home.*

6 High Street, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 1BG  
Tel: 01386 552152

## E HILL & SON

Funeral Directors Ltd  
Defford Road, Pershore

01386 552141

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



Faithfully Serving Our Community

for over 60 years.

Reputation for Dignified, Quality Service.

Private Homely Facilities.

Golden Charter Funeral Plans Available.

Privately owned by Beverley funerals

GILES  
INTERIORS

### Made to Measure Curtains & Blinds

Visit us today to see our wide range of fabrics, poles, blinds and soft furnishings.

We offer a free in store estimating service and professional advice to our customer's specific requirements.

61 High Street Pershore  
Worcestershire WR10 1EU  
Tel 01386 556411  
[www.gilesinteriors.co.uk](http://www.gilesinteriors.co.uk)



### A personal approach to accounting and tax



Find out about our range of accounting and taxation services:  
Pershore: 01386 552644  
[enquiries@crowthers.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@crowthers.co.uk)

**crowthers**  
chartered accountants  
[WWW.CROWTHERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.CROWTHERS.CO.UK)

Sunday roasts at

The  
angel



Featuring the best  
local ingredients

[angelpershore.co.uk](http://angelpershore.co.uk)  
01386 552046



## PERSHORE BROAD STREET MARKET

Local Produce



Artisan Goods

First Saturday of the month, 9am-2pm

## THE BANKING HALL

PREMIUM FUNCTIONS VENUE IN  
PERSHORE'S HISTORIC BANK HOUSE



[BANKINGHALL.CO.UK](http://BANKINGHALL.CO.UK) 01386 552046

## Make Your Garden Bloom

Gardening gifts galore!  
with FREE delivery

- ✕ Garden design kits
- ✕ Luxury gardening gloves
- ✕ Seed gift sets
- ✕ Journals & notebooks



[www.borderinabox.com](http://www.borderinabox.com)

FREE UK DELIVERY



## Farming

Mike Page

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

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

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



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

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

## The Home Wrecker

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

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



"I have learned that in all negotiations nothing matters except the will to reach agreement"

*Harold Macmillan*

"One man's wage increase is another man's price increase!"

*Harold Wilson*



## If you want the best mortgage for you - We are able to recommend every mortgage lender in the UK

So if you are:

- A First time buyer looking for 95% to 100% mortgage
- A Home mover
- Re-mortgaging to raise capital
- Buying your council house
- Wanting to reduce your mortgage payments
- Looking for a Buy-to-let mortgage\*\* or looking for a commercial loan\*



### GEOFFREY A POTTER & CO Independent Mortgage Advisers

*Geoffrey A Potter is authorised & regulated  
by the Financial Conduct Authority*

Longmead, Hatfield Lane, Norton WR5 2PY

T: 01905 820523 or 01905 820557

E: gap6@btconnect.com - Skype: Pottergap6

**For the BEST Mortgage  
For the BEST Service  
From the BEST People**

**Call any time  
Mobile 07836 506481-**

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage  
\*\*Please note Buy-to-let mortgages are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

**Edwards** MOTORS

**KIA**  
Movement that inspires



• NEW & USED SALES • SERVICING & MOT  
• PARTS & ACCESSORIES • MECHANICAL & BODY REPAIR

Your local, one-stop, independent, family-owned destination for new and used Kia and Mazda cars. **VISIT US IN KEMPSEY!**

EMAIL enquiries@edwardsmotors.co.uk WEBSITE edwardsmotors.co.uk



KIA 01905 828828



MAZDA 01905 828800

**Edwards** MOTORHOMES



NEW & USED SALES

DEDICATED TEAM OF SPECIALISTS

HABITATION

SERVICING

PAINT, BODY

AND FIBREGLASS REPAIRS



AUTO TRAIL ROLLER TEAM Hobby motor

CALL 01905 829000 EMAIL enquiries@edwardsmotorhomes.co.uk  
WEBSITE edwardsmotorhomes.co.uk

19 MAIN ROAD, KEMPSEY, WORCESTER WR5 3PA

## Your local vets in Pershore & Evesham



At Martin & Carr we know that quick diagnosis leads to better results. We have invested in superb diagnostic facilities including ultrasound, video endoscopy and x-rays, enabling our clients and their pets to get accurate and quick answers and our onsite laboratory means most blood samples can be analysed the same day.

### Services

- Keyhole Spays
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Advanced Surgery
- Endoscopy & Laparoscopy
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Acupuncture
- Puppy Parties
- Nurse Clinics

**Contact us to make an appointment**

**Pershore**  
01386 553631

**Evesham**  
01386 413601

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

## SUNNYSIDE GARAGE



**MOT'S**



**Servicing**



**Diagnostics**



**Repairs**



**Tyres**

**ALL  
MAKES &  
MODELS**



**QUALTY USED CARS**

**Tel: 01905 828 100**

**www.sunnyside-garage.co.uk**

Old Rd South • Kempsey • Worcester WR5 3NJ



# Gardening to save our butterflies, bees and birds

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

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

*Here's my Top-Tips ...*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Nikki Hollier**

nikki@borderinabox.com

@borderinabox

www.borderinabox.com

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

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



## May gardening tips

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester

### Early May

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

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

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

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

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

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

Don't forget your houseplants

feed and water them regularly.

Control algae and blanketweed in ponds.

### Mid May

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

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

Trim over aubretia and arabis after flowering to keep them neat.

Prune wall trained pyracantha and chaenomeles after flowering. Keep strawberry fruits off the soil using straw or mats.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Make up summer flowering hanging baskets and containers.

### Late May

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

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

Plant out leeks, marrows,



courgettes and melon plants.

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

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

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

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

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



Specialist Plant Centre  
**Grange Farm NURSERY**

Guarford  
Malvern  
WR13 6NT  
01684 562544  
grangefmnursery@btconnect.com



A specialist plant centre situated in an array of farm buildings, with an abundance of beautiful plants to create your own unique garden.




Opening times:  
Monday – Saturday  
9am – 5:30pm  
Winter 9am – 5pm

- Shrubs & trees
- Herbaceous plants
- Pots & compost
- Climbers
- Herbs
- Veg plants

*Personalised Garden Gift Vouchers*

**Shire Bath Re-Enamelling Ltd**



Bath resurfacing, sink, shower tray resurfacing and chip repairs.

25 years experience • 5 year guarantee  
07775 427575  
www.shirebaths.co.uk

**Homeurf Garden Services**



Mowing, strimming, hedge trimming  
Local, reliable & friendly at competitive rates  
Phone 07854 940961 or 01684 593240  
jackmarklew67@hotmail.co.uk

**The Devereux Centre**

Are you keen to learn or update your first aid skills for work and personal safety?

The Devereux Centre offers Life Saving Skills Training Courses



- CPR and Defibrillation
- Fire Safety and Practical Fire Extinguisher
- Emergency First Aid at Work
- Emergency Paediatric First Aid
- Mental Health First Aid, Levels 1, 2 & 3

See our website for 2025 course dates

**Rooms to Rent**  
Consultation, Counselling, Conference and Meeting rooms are available for hire. If you are interested and would like a tour, please contact us.

T: 01684 214333  
E: [info@thedeveuxcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@thedeveuxcentre.co.uk)  
[www.thedeveuxcentre.co.uk](http://www.thedeveuxcentre.co.uk)




**INSIDE AND OUTSIDE**



**INSIDE**  
All aspects of DIY:

- Carpentry
- Decorating
- Loft insulation
- Shelving (maybe made to your design)
- General repairs (as simple as putting up curtain poles)

**OUTSIDE**  
**WE REALLY DO MEAN "NO JOB TOO SMALL"**  
All aspects of garden maintenance and clearance:

- Jet washing Drives and Pavements
- Lawns mowed, edged & laid
- Bushes trimmed/shaped
- Small trees pruned
- Borders weeded/planted/shaped
- Gravel laid
- Fencing erected/painted/replaced



**Also, man with a van.**

If you have a job, just give us a call we'll come and look for free, Sarah

We have a photograph portfolio of some of our previous work

**Steve & Sarah on 07389 180862**

**Bedwardine Funeral Services**






A caring and sensitive Service • Available 24 hours a day  
Private Chapel of Rest • Pre-paid Funerals

One of Worcester's most respected, independent funeral directors. Established in 1991, with an emphasis on serving the local community. We pride ourselves on providing a traditional, modern and bespoke service, which is second to none.

Focused on caring for families of the bereaved and making sure their requests and their loved one are met with the utmost compassion and professionalism.

The Coach House, 30 Bromyard Road, Worcester WR2 5BT

**01905 748811**  
[www.bedwardinefuneralservices.co.uk](http://www.bedwardinefuneralservices.co.uk)



## Ailsa's Kitchen *Ailsa Craddock*

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

### New Potato Salad with aioli -

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



### Crab and Asparagus with Thai Mayonnaise

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

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

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



## Changes to local government

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

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

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

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



# *The Lungs of Worcester will be concreted over!*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





## Spring Bees

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

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

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

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

Martyn Cracknell



*This 1st Class stamp was issued in 2015*



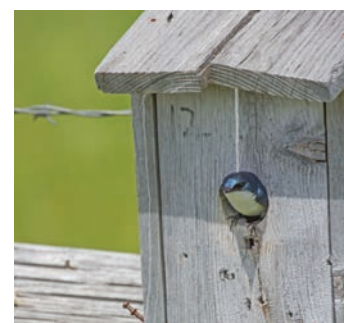
## Village Life

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

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

from their face. No awareness of others or their trajectory as we try to navigate the same pavement space, and certainly no attempt to step aside. Is this a desire to zone out of the general maelstrom they find themselves in or is it just a reflection of modern manners? I suspect a combination of both. How sad for those who miss out on their surroundings and contact with fellow humans as a result. The highlight of any day spent in London, for me, is finally taking a seat on the train home from Paddington. Huge sigh of relief that I've made it to the train, but it's far more than that. A day of crowded streets and underground carriages during which not a single soul has made eye contact let alone exchanged a look. Then the first person you vaguely look towards on the 17.34 from Paddington smiles and you both silently know you're sharing an immense relief! On that particular journey I took a seat next to a lovely person who struck up conversation

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



John Driscoll



# Romy's Uni Life

Romy Kemp *Liverpool University*



## The Easter Break

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



## VETERINARY ADVICE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!



### The Importance of Vaccination

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

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

### Recommended vaccinations:

#### Dogs

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

#### Cats

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

#### Rabbits

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

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

Best wishes *Eliza*

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





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

### Absolutely Norway

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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



# The Walled Gardens at Croome Court



Chris & Karen Cronin, photo by Kitchen Garden Magazine

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

**Website: [www.croomewalledgardens.com](http://www.croomewalledgardens.com)**

**Facebook: The Walled Gardens at Croome Court**

**Instagram: @croome\_walled\_gardens**

**X: @Croome\_Gardens**



# Sweet dreams are made of this . . .

Angela Johns

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

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

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



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

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

# To collaborate or not?

Emily Papirnik

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

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



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

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

Napoleon

**The Art of Wellbeing Centre**  
Make time for your personal wellbeing in a calm and tranquil environment.

**Classes, Events and Therapies:**

- Breathwork and Meditation
- Kobido Facials and Massage
- Pranayama Yoga
- Private Therapy
- Counselling, Psychology and Psychotherapy
- Singing Bowls Sound Baths
- Spiritual Development
- Tai Chi and Qigong

Email: [sandi@theartofpranayama.com](mailto:sandi@theartofpranayama.com)  
 Mob: 07887 877865 The Art of Wellbeing Centre  
 Tel: 01386 552821 @pershire\_wellbeing\_centre

36 High Street,  
Persnore,  
WRIOD DP

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

**Weighted Blankets**

**Sports massage**

**Blog**

**APP**

**EFT**

**Journey through Perspective**

**Energy Healing**

**me helping me**

[www.mehelpingme.com](http://www.mehelpingme.com)



## DAVID MARTIN & SON LANDSCAPING, MACHINE & GROUNDWORKS

- ❖ **MACHINE & DRIVER HIRE AT COMPETITIVE RATES**  
Established over 25 years in Kempsey.  
Fully Insured.  
References available upon request.



- ❖ **SEASONED LOGS FOR SALE**  
£80 per bulk bag.  
Free delivery locally.  
Smaller or larger amounts available upon request.



**CALL: 07985 464718 FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

## Let's hear it for heat pumps!

William Jenkin



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

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

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

*Have you got 300mm of loft insulation?*

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

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

*Get on the BUS*

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

## The Gutter Consultant

\*All makes and styles fitted or replaced. Square, Round and O'Gee. All colours. Repairs undertaken, or refitted where necessary etc.

\*All debris and plant growth removed from guttering.

For a local friendly service call **Tim Davis** for a **FREE** quote.

**01905 820137 • 07889 445353**



Worcester: 01905 820 629

Mobile: 07546 043 006

Email: [john@kjbcarpetcleaning.co.uk](mailto:john@kjbcarpetcleaning.co.uk)

**KJB**

**Carpet Cleaning**

We are a local family run business  
Providing a friendly, professional,  
high quality Carpet & upholstery cleaning service.

- Fully Trained & Insured.
- Domestic & Commercial.
- One off, Regular, End of tenancy carpet cleaning.



Please Call or email For A Free No Obligation Quote

**115 Main Rd, Kempsey, Worcester, WR5 3JY**

**[www.kjbcarpetcleaning.co.uk](http://www.kjbcarpetcleaning.co.uk)**

Contact us now for a FREE site inspection or to find out whether you can get a government grant towards the installation of your air source heat pump

01684 437060

[avmiles@td@gmail.com](mailto:avmiles@td@gmail.com)

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



Malvern Solar: your local installers of air source heat pumps, solar panels and battery storage. Save money and the planet.





# Are benefits taxable?

Carol Draper FCCA

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

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

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



responsibility to inform HMRC.

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

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

Carol Draper FCCA  
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd

"He who fears being conquered is sure of defeat"

Napoleon



Clifton-Crick  
Sharp  
Accountants

40 High Street  
Pershore  
Worcestershire WR10 1DP

01386 561100

mail@clifton-crick.co.uk  
www.clifton-crick.co.uk

# When can I use Trading Standards?



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

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

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

They can be reached on:  
0808 223 1133

What sort of things can I report?

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

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

You can also tell them about a business if:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Are Your Locks Behaving Badly?

No Call Out Charge • Free Onsite Estimates

Same Day Service Available\* • No VAT On Labour

**FIXING ISSUES BEFORE THEY BECOME BIGGER PROBLEMS**

All Types Doors & Windows Locks Serviced, Repaired, Upgraded

UPVC Multi-Point Lock Repair Specialist

Door Realignment & Adjustments

Additional Home Security Inc Garages, Gates & Sheds

A Local, Reliable, Independent, Family Run Locksmith Service

For More Help & Advice Contact Stewart

**..THE LOCKSMITH..**

01905 570 999 07871 44 20 11

www.locksmithworcestershire.co.uk



## GARRY JARVIS LANDSCAPING & FENCING SERVICES

- Fencing
- Landscaping
- Lawns
- Artificial Grass
- Tree Work
- Hedges
- Patios
- Drives  
(Blockpaving - Gravel)



*We are friendly, reliable, competitive and our sense of humour is completely free, as are our quotes.*

**Call Garry on**  
**01905 821567 | 07988 455899**

## T. J. Shepherd and Son Groundworks & Garden Services

Property Maintenance & Repairs

JCB Hire

Foundations & Drainage

Concreting, Fencing, Turfing, Patios, Drives

Brickwork & small building projects undertaken

Now offering Grass and hedge cutting

Proud to be members of Upton's oldest families.

**Telephone: 01684 594461**  
for a free quote without obligation



## A-Y SERVICES



Established over 30 years - Fully insured

**House & garden clearances - Maintenance & repairs**  
**Window cleaning - Fencing & landscape gardening**  
**Gutters - fascia - cladding - Cleaning, repairs or renewals**  
**Driveways - patios - paths - Power-washing or Installation**  
**Flat and rubber roofing / roofing repairs**  
**Re-pointing - chimneys - walls - apex - ridges**  
**Chimney sweeping & cowl, bird guards, pot fitting services**  
**Rubbish removals - Demolition & dismantling**  
**Tree work & hedge cutting**

Give me a call for a free no obligation quotation



**07704 992938 | 07876 308058**



Registered waste carrier No. CB DU 390692

## A.J. TAYLOR LTD. ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

www.ajtaylor-electrical.com 218 Worcester Road, WR14 1AG

### Looking for a EV Charger Installer?

give A.J. Taylor Ltd a call on **01684 569 357**  
or email us at [enquiries@ajtaylor-electrical.com](mailto:enquiries@ajtaylor-electrical.com)



**Domestic EV Charging**



**Workplace EV Charging**

Smart EV chargers and load management options available

**£350 OZEV grant available for workplace schemes\***

\*Terms and Conditions Apply



www.jogoodwinphysio.co.uk  
07792526401  
[jogoodwinphysio@gmail.com](mailto:jogoodwinphysio@gmail.com)

EXPERIENCED CHARTERED  
PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
BSC(HONS) MCSP MACCP



- High quality, professional, personalised assessments and treatments
- Muscle & Joint problems
- Pre and post operative rehabilitation
- Post injury rehabilitation & pre injury prevention
- Advice & support to get you fit, active & back to what you love
- Long term condition management
- Assessment & treatment of vestibular, dizziness and balance problems
- Acupuncture
- Sports massage and taping



**Hollybeds Farm**  
**Earls Croome**  
**Worcester**  
**WR8 9DA**



*Fresh pasteurised  
Milk & Milkshakes*

COME & VISIT OUR FARM, SEE THE COWS, TREAT YOURSELF TO THE FRESHEST MILK & MILKSHAKES, SOLD VIA OUR SELF SERVICE VENDING MACHINES. THEN BRING YOUR REUSABLE GLASS BOTTLE BACK WHEN YOU'RE READY TO REFILL OPEN DAILY 7:30AM - 7:30PM  
HOLLYBEDS FARM, EARLS CROOME, WORCESTERSHIRE  
WR8 9DA  
[WWW.THEREALLYGOODDAIRY.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEREALLYGOODDAIRY.CO.UK)





## From the Boundary



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

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

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

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

## A view from the Middle

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

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



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

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

## Thoughts from the Snug... Trump Trump Trump

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

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

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

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

Buddy Bach



**CALLING ALL CRICKET ENTHUSIASTS**

Are you ready to step up to the crease?

**Amigos Kempsey Cricket Club**



is on the lookout for new players to join our squad!

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)



**WORCESTER PODIATRY**

Expert care for all your foot health needs!

Under New Management




TAKING ON NEW PATIENTS

Specialising in comprehensive footcare  
Chiropody | Verruca treatment  
Fungal nail care | Pain and injury management  
Shock wave therapy | Laser treatment | Custom orthotics

01905 428434 | [info@worcesterpodiatry.co.uk](mailto:info@worcesterpodiatry.co.uk)  
[www.worcesterpodiatryandlasercentre.co.uk](http://www.worcesterpodiatryandlasercentre.co.uk)

Scan to book online



**Puccini Messa di Gloria and Faure Requiem**  
**Saturday 10th May 2025**  
at 7:00 pm

Great Malvern Priory, Church Street  
Malvern WR14 2AY

Tickets  
£18 / 17-21s £12 / 16 & under Free with paying adult  
[www.trybooking.com/uk/EDCJ](http://www.trybooking.com/uk/EDCJ) and on the door

For more information visit: [malvernfestivalchorus.co.uk](http://malvernfestivalchorus.co.uk)



**MALVERN FESTIVAL CHORUS**  
Charity Number 506787

**EAR WAX REMOVAL**

Consultation with video camera £20  
One ear - including consultation £40  
Two ears - including consultation £60

**RHAD MSHAA ISABELA BAILEY**  
**Ogles Pershore Pharmacy**  
Tel: 01386 710444  
Mob: 07961 649288

**LET'S CURE CYSTIC FIBROSIS**  
**CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH**



**Tickets sales on entry Pershore Football Club**  
**Adults £5, kids go free** 23.05.2025  
7pm Kick off  
Arrive from 6pm

**Raffle prizes**  
1. Shower (worth £800)  
2. Dyson supersonic  
3. £100 treatment at iconic salon  
4. £50 Just Eat voucher  
5. £50 cash and many more

**To buy raffle tickets prior contact Kate Jordan on Facebook**



GoFundMe

**Pershore Operatic and Dramatic Society**

**LEGALLY BLONDE**  
*The Musical*



**2nd - 7th June 2025**  
Director - Paul Turvey, Musical Director - Andrew Hamming, Choreographer - Vicky Stone



**Number 8, Pershore - [www.number8.org](http://www.number8.org)**  
Book by Heather Hach, Music and Lyrics by Lawrence O'Keefe and Neil Benjamin  
Based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture  
This amateur production presented by arrangement with Musical Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI [www.mti.com](http://www.mti.com)






# A fair field full of folk

Brian Johnson-Thomas

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

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

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

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

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

Book online at: [www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk](http://www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk) or by phone to 044 482 5151

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

For details see: [www.lfo.org.uk](http://www.lfo.org.uk)



34072 at Corfe Castle - Photo by Matt Toms

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

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

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

see [www.gwsr.com](http://www.gwsr.com)

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

For details, contact : [davidhallmarkveconcert@gmail.com](mailto:davidhallmarkveconcert@gmail.com)

Spring at last! Let's enjoy very moment.



Born with Teeth





**JUNE 8TH 2025**  
LOWER MOOR PLAYING FIELD

**PARTY IN THE PARK**

**DIANA'S DAY**

Lower Moor Playing Field, WR10 2PH, 12:00 - 19:00

**MUSIC FESTIVAL \* FOOD \* CLASSIC CARS \* STALLS**

**LIVE LINEUP**  
MEMPHIS MIKE, ROUTE 33,  
MARK COOPER, ROCK CHOIR,  
RICHARD GOLD, AMERICAN CAR CLUB

**FREE ENTRY**

SPONSORED BY \* SPONSORED BY \* SPONSORED BY \* SPONSORED BY

Henson  
Call: 01908 628411

Scotts  
Call: 01908 628411

SmartCut Ltd  
Call: 01908 628411

**Norton Garden Club**  
Invite you to a  
**PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY 7th JUNE**  
1-4 pm

**St James the Great Church**  
Norton Juxta Kempsey WR5 2PS

*Advice on plants and plant  
care from Retired Royal  
Horticultural Society  
Consultant*

TEA, COFFEE and  
HOMEMADE CAKE

All proceeds to St James' Church

**BiSH BOSH BASH**

**VILLAGE FETE + EVENING GIG**  
**SAT 21ST JUNE - 1-4PM**  
BISHAMPTON VILLAGES HALL - WR10 2LY

**COME AND JOIN US FOR A FAMILY  
AFTERNOON WITH LOTS OF NEW  
GAMES, A NEW ARENA, MORE  
STALLS, OUTDOOR REAL ALE,  
PIMMS + FIZZ BAR, BBQ, FUN DOG  
SHOW, SILVER BAND, ALPACA  
PETTING AND A LOT MORE FUN**

**EVENING GIG - NO TOOLS REQUIRED - DOORS at 6PM**

 **bishamptonfete**

**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.*

**pershore  
carnival**

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

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

**Procession down the High Street  
from 12pm**

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

**The Big450  
Bess-tival Concert**

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

**MAGIC  
QUEEN**

**EUROPE'S TOP QUEEN TRIBUTE**

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

**JUNCTION 7**  
Worcester's best-loved covers band

and:

**KINGS OF THE QUARTER MILE**

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

**THE BIG 450 BESS-TIVAL**

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

**thebig450bessfestival.co.uk**

**COMMUNITY CHOIR**

**Tickets £10**  
(refreshments included)

**RAFFLE**

**A Musical Afternoon  
of Celebration**

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

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

**Proceeds: Maggs Day Centre  
& St Paul's Hostel**

**Proceeds: St Marks  
Church and The Royal  
British Legion**

**Tickets available on the door & from Choir Members**

**Dragon Tree Martial Arts**

**Teaching  
Fitness  
Fun  
Confidence  
& Respect**

**Dragon Tree is open to ALL abilities**

We promote health, fitness & wellbeing  
through Our Martial Arts

We believe in good teaching practice  
with equality for ALL students

Our classes include skills to reinforce the  
lessons your child needs for their life

**Training Every Thursday**  
**Kempsey Primary School, WR5 3NT**  
**6:15 - 7pm Little Dragons (up to 11yrs)**  
**7:00 - 8pm Martail Arts**

**Contact Sensei Dave Webster**  
**For more info & private lessons**  
**07870 948180**

**GRAND MASTER  
CLIVE HARRISON'S**

**FAMILY  
TAE KWON-DO**

**Beginners Always Welcome**  
**Mondays 7:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Kempsey Parish Hall**  
**WR5 3JA**  
*50 Years Of Experience In  
Martial Arts*

**Self Defence  
Anti Bullying  
Confidence  
Fitness  
Flexibility  
Self-Esteem**

**Instructors**  
Grand Master  
Clive Harrison 9th Dan  
Rachael Harrison 4th Dan

**07976986439**  
**clive01@talktalk.net**



# Music Matters

Steve Ide



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

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

releasing music has never been easier.

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

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

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

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

## Notable new albums

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

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

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

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

## Add to playlist . . .

Spike Island by Pulp

Back on 74 by Jungle

Racing green by High Contrast

The world's biggest paving slab  
by English Teacher

Killer Bee  
by Ben Kweller, featuring The Flaming Lips

# Jazz News

Peter Farrall

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Sarah Spencer's Sax "n" Bone Band

Wednesday 28th May

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

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



# Coffee Break

### Crossword

1		2				3		4		5		6
7				8		9						
10								11				
12						13		14			15	16
17					18			19	20			
21		22				23						
24								25				

### Across

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

### Down

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

### Sudoku

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

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

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

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

### Wordsearch

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

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

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

### Brainteaser

#### Math Puzzle

92 + 3 = 73

75 + 2 = 22

84 + 3 = 43

97 + 1 = ??



## Poets' Corner

XLIV

Shot? so quick, so clean an ending?

Oh that was right, lad, that was brave:

Yours was not an ill for mending,

'Twas best to take it to the grave.

Oh you had forethought, you could reason,

And saw your road and where it led,

And early wise and brave in season

Put the pistol to your head.

Oh soon, and better so than later

After long disgrace and scorn,

You shot dead the household traitor,

The soul that should not have been born.

Right you guessed the rising morrow

And scorned to tread the mire you must:

Dust's your wages, son of sorrow,

But men may come to worse than dust.

Souls undone, undoing others,-

Long time since the tale began.

ou would not live to wrong your brothers:

Oh lad, you died as fits a man.

Now to your grave shall friend and stranger

With ruth and some with envy come:

Undishonoured, clear of danger,

Clean of guilt, pass hence and home.

Turn safe to rest, no dreams, no waking;

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

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

But wear it and it will not fade.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

## Quiz!

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

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

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

4) What is the capital city of Bangladesh?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

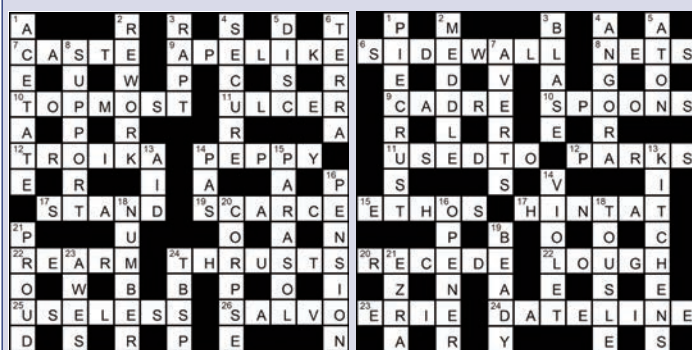
14) What was the title of Lady Gaga's debut single which topped the UK charts in early 2009? a) Just Dance b) Let's Go c) Love Me

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

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

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

## April Answers



May BrainTeaser solution: 21

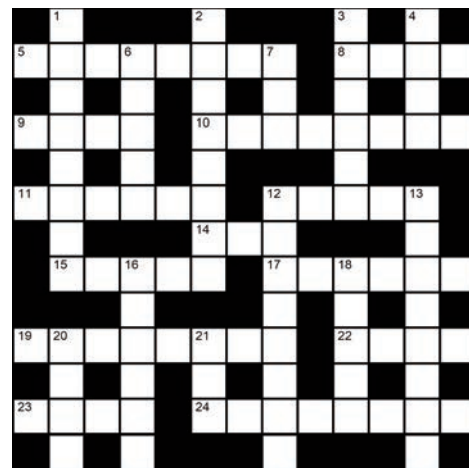
## Anagram Crossword

### Across

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

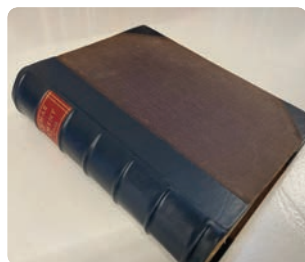
### Down

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





*Do you have a cherished book that is  
in need of restoration or repair?*



*Bring it to us for a free quotation!*

*Bring your memories to life!*

We transfer to DVD, USB & Audio CD

VHS - Slides - Photos - Cine films

Camcorder tapes - Photos from video

Tape repairs / editing - Foreign tapes converted

Open reel audio, Dictaphone, Cassette &

Vinyl to CD or MP3



*Life is for sharing ...*

*A Lifetime of Stories*

Turn cherished memories and  
thoughts into a beautifully edited  
book for the family to enjoy.



*Photocopying*

*Black & White and Colour Copies*



*Photographs*

Printed from your mobile phone,  
memory stick or email.

Old Photographs scan and print service  
Photograph repairs available

*Printer Cartridges*  
*Inkjet & Laser*

Available to order delivered to  
your door or collect

*Recycling service available*

## Hughes & Company The Pershore Press

8 Church Street Pershore WR10 1DT

Tel: 01386 803803 Email: [print@hughes.company](mailto:print@hughes.company)

Publishers of  
**Pershore, Apton, Powick,  
Kempsey & Whittington Times**



**To receive our monthly newspapers by email**

Email your request to:  
[news@hughes.company](mailto:news@hughes.company)

Stating your name, which paper(s) you would like to receive and  
the email address you would like them sent to.

**You will receive the next edition direct to your inbox!**

## The Complete Package

*Free Monthly Newspapers  
plus online versions*

Access to 88,000 residents

Advertisements from £15.00

Pay as you go monthly - No contracts

email edition

To advertise -

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

For FREE editorial -

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

Published by:

Hughes & Company

Telephone 01386 803803

Proprietor / Editor Alan Hughes

Opinions expressed in letters and articles published are not necessarily  
those held by the Editor or the Publishers, Hughes & Company.  
The Publishers hold no responsibility for the accuracy of any  
details contained within the advertisements.

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



# Worcestershire Parkway

## A-buzz with excitement over bee-friendly exhibition




Local schoolchildren taking part in the workshop at Worcestershire Parkway Station

Great Western Railway is hosting a display of bee-friendly skeps designed by artists and local schoolchildren to promote bee conservation along rail networks. In partnership with Worcestershire Community Rail Project (CRP), Platform and the Bee Friendly Trust, the Bee Friendly Skep Project has arrived at the station in the form of eight beautifully decorated bee skeps, which are bringing a warm spring welcome to visitors to the station. A bee skep is a traditional form of beehive. They are typically made from wicker or straw, woven and coiled tightly into a bell-shaped or flat-topped structure. Worcestershire CRP received £1,000 from the Community Rail Development Fund to host educational workshops for pupils from Norton Juxta Kempsey CofE Primary School and the aptly named Honeybourne Primary School.


Three workshops were held; two in classrooms where the children decorated the skeps and one at Worcestershire Parkway station. The Bee Friendly Trust facilitated the workshops in conjunction with Platform, a rail education scheme that works with schools to empower young people in accessing the railways. Platform delivered important rail safety education and also brought children by train to the station workshop. The station workshop featured a hive of activity where children learned about bee conservation, took part in gardening and unveiled the display of the eight uniquely designed skeps, with artistic contributions by themselves as well as professional artists. One of those artists, Sarah Hoyle, is no stranger to GWR's stations having also painted a bee-themed mural at Oxford station in partnership with the Bee Friendly Trust back in 2021.





## 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



PCSO Claire Doughty  
07814 040601




PCSO Lee Stirling  
07483 108189


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



PC Molly Keeler  
07817 947084



PCSO Rebekah Ashley  
07773 053576




PCSO Jo Rice  
07929 091572

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




NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS


Sign up to receive alerts from your local policing teams  
[www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)




Information correct at date of publication (February 2025).



**SPOT & SHOP!**



Chance to WIN £50 CASH



**This month's anagram**  
**DOMES WORDSTAR**

## 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

**This month's prizes!**

- 1st - £50 cash
- 2nd - £25 cash
- Donated by Hughes & Company
- 3rd £20 Food Voucher at The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley
- 4th £10 Voucher at Revills Farm Shop, Defford
- 5th £10 Voucher at Craftypyro, Bakers Arcade, Pershore
- 6th Reg Moule Gardening Book
- 7th Pat's Pantry - Jar of home-made marmaladeljam

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

**Upton Times closing date: 23rd May 2025**

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Hughes & Company/Upton Times  
8 Church Street, Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1DT



# Hugo: The “Tail” of a reactive dog

Christine Boase

It starts in February 2024 when we brought home our eight-week-old male Miniature Schnauzer puppy, Hugo, a companion for our demanding two-year-old female Mini Schnauzer, Helga. He was one of two males in the litter. We proudly took him out that day in our arms. We met passers by and people with their dogs. Hugo growled and barked. Everyone thought it was cute and amusing, as did we. This “cuteness” continued.

At twelve weeks old Hugo was ready to have lead walks. Again, we proudly marched out with our dogs. Hugo was still barking and growling at people and other dogs. At this point it still hadn't quite sunk in that there was a serious reactivity issue with Hugo. People would say he is protecting us and Helga, or he will grow out of it. He didn't grow out of it. We couldn't take him to the park, pub, café, garden centre, town, in fact nowhere public. I have had many dogs, different breeds, none with this type of issue. We decided to take some action. There followed six weeks of puppy classes and a 1-hour session with two different behaviourists, all this before Hugo was five months old and

all to no avail.

Hugo's reactivity got worse, manic barking and growling at everything on our walks. We now couldn't stop and chat with the dog walkers we had become friendly with when we just had Helga. It was very frustrating and extremely embarrassing. Hugo is a gorgeous, fantastic, loving dog at home and Helga adores him. When Hugo was about eight months old, we used the REHOMING word!!!!

I had heard about residential behavioural courses, so in desperation I looked online and spotted a behaviourist up in Nottinghamshire. It sounded perfect, in fact too good to be true. The dogs in training live in the house (no kennels). There are deer, goats and chickens to desensitise dogs to livestock. Hugo would be taken out and trained in real life situations. They also advised us to check our pet insurance as it may cover the cost of the training. So, at ten months we took Hugo on the three hour drive up to Retford, Nottinghamshire where he would stay for three weeks. We then waited. The day we collected Hugo we also had some training ourselves. We left with a slip lead, clicker



Helga (l) and Hugo (r) at 16 weeks old

and whistle, plus a Leadership Programme that we had to follow. We have regular phone support from the behaviourist as and when we need it.

## THE SCIENCE OF REACTIVITY

When a dog experiences a stress situation various chemicals are released into the dog's brain. Certain chemicals can remain in the brain and if the dog has a series of these experiences in a short space of time the chemicals will build up until he is “over the threshold” (very stressed). At this point he can't respond to any commands.

So, our lovely puppy was over the threshold from eight weeks old to the point we dropped him off with the behaviourist at

ten months, and we had no idea. We have learned an enormous amount about dog reactivity, and we are now able to manage Hugo's issues in the “real world”. We don't think he will ever be perfect, but we can now walk our dogs and not feel pressure or embarrassment. During this journey most people have been incredibly supportive, but a small number of people have been quite judgemental, they have no idea what we have gone through to help Hugo.

I hope this story gives some people hope if they also have a reactive dog. Massive thanks to Clare Steele, our behaviourist and her team at Waggy Tail Farm.

## Dragon Boat Racing



**Wednesday 25 June at 6.30pm - Come and try a new sport!**

Free Dragon Boat Racing  
Taster with Pershore Phoenix  
Dragon Boat Club -

learn to paddle with the team,  
enjoy the exercise, have some  
races!

Book via the website  
(or Facebook) for  
Wednesday 25th June at 6.30pm

(message us for other dates or  
if you can't wait until then!) ...  
[www.pershorephoenix.com](http://www.pershorephoenix.com)



# What's On...

## Thriving Community Hall in Whittington

You can't miss Whittington Community Hall when you drive through the village, with its standout architectural designed light green roof. Built in 2021, it's a popular community space for the locals to be proud of. Visitors love the light airy hall with its south facing countryside views over the open fields to Whittington Tump. It's a bright modern facility that's hired for parties, classes, events and meetings, which can be enhanced with access to some state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment. To book the Hall or check availability, visit:

[www.whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk/hall-hire](http://www.whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk/hall-hire)

Great news for residents of Whittington Parish, there's a discount when you hire the Hall! There is a variety of regular weekly fitness classes. See the Hall's website 'What's On' page for contact details of the various instructors.

Two special community events are coming up.

*A VE Day 80 Celebration* on Thursday 8th May from 12.30pm with light refreshments, organised by the Hall, Whittington Church and School, its free to attend.

*Quiz Night with Fish & Chip Supper* on Saturday 10 May the returns. Tickets are £10pp and go fast so email: [mike.paige321@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.paige321@btinternet.com) to secure your place.

The Hall Committee has new community event plans for the autumn. Chairperson Susan MacLeod said, "we are excited to be working with 'Live and Local' to bring a variety of fun and professional entertainment, including music, drama and comedy, it will be very different to anything we have had so far in the Hall and I'm sure residents will be delighted".



To see what is coming up follow Whittington Community Hall facebook and [www.whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk/whats-on)

The Hall is a charity run by its management committee - a team of nine local enthusiastic volunteers look after the charity's business to keep the Hall thriving, supported daily by two part-time self-employed contractors - a booking secretary and a caretaker.

A further local contractor helps with occasional ground maintenance. The caretaking work is now looking to be a shared with a second contractor.

Anyone interested to find out more about the role 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@icloud.com](mailto:lizdance@icloud.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)

## Useful numbers

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



## Hughes & Company

Printers - Publishers

Bookbinders - Stationers

8 Church Street, Pershore WR10 1DT

Tel: 01386 803803

print@hughes.company

www.hughesprinters.co.uk

Four generations of printers

# Whittington Times



## Gheluvelt to Gheluvelt charity cycle

Ex-serviceman Russ Walker is inviting fellow Worcestershire cyclists to join him on a 320-mile charity ride to Belgium in memory of his great-grandfather, one of the survivors of a key battle which helped turn the tide of the First World War. Russ, boss of Grimley-based Atwell International, is planning a summer cycle marathon between Gheluvelt Park, Worcester to Gheluvelt in Flanders to honour the memory of the men of the 2nd Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment, and to raise funds for Worcester's St Richard's Hospice, the Alzheimer's Society and the Mercian Regiment Museum.

Former RAF man Russ already has a core team of volunteers helping to organise the Gheluvelt to Gheluvelt challenge between June 26 to 30, and is now looking for cyclists of various abilities to join him on the road. "We are looking for passionate

individuals to help make this charity event a success," said Russ. "We need cyclists ready to take on this adventure, support crew and vehicles, fundraisers, organisers and sponsors. Are you ready to make a difference and join an unforgettable journey?" The route covers roughly 80 miles each day, taking in overnight stops at Premier Inns in Newbury, Berkshire, Crawley in Sussex, and Dover, before a two-hour crossing on day four to Dunkerque. Awaiting you at Gheluvelt is a visit to the local chateau, Ypres, and the Menin Gate. Plus a celebration meal, including Belgian beer and chocolates. Gheluvelt Park in Ombersley Road, Barbourne, Worcester, is a permanent memorial to the sacrifices of the men of the Worcestershire Regiment's Second Battalion who, on October 31, 1914, staged a



heroic fightback against overwhelming German forces which restored the British lines and inspired Allied forces across the Flanders battlefield. On inaugurating Gheluvelt Park as a living memorial after the ceasefire in 1918, Field Marshall John French declared

that 1914 battle 'the 2nd Worcester's saved the British Empire.'

To enrol for the Gheluvelt to Gheluvelt ride, or for more information on how you can help, call Russ on 01905 641881 or email: russ@atwellinternational.com

## 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

**Cost effective legal advice**

*Let us handle things...*

*Over 45 years experience*

Available 24/7  
365 days a year  
10-12 hours a day