

Kempsey Times



A free monthly newspaper for Kempsey, Norton, Severn Stoke and surrounding villages

Issue 6

July 2024

FREE



The Nash, Kempsey

June seemed to just disappear and the summer is still to arrive. We had a few fine days and then rain, cool and sometimes windy days. However, we will have to see what happens on St Swithin's Day (July 15), because according to folk law, if it rains on that day it will rain for 40 days but if it's fair, 40 days of fair weather will follow! Let's hope we will have a late summer. In America they are having a heatwave so we can always blame global warming.

Lots of local events have taken place with Fetes, Flower shows, Jazz and Brass Band Festivals. All very enjoyable! This month we have the finals

of the European Football Competition, Wimbledon, The British Grand Prix. The Olympic Games begins in Paris and we will have many Brits competing

in an incredible number of events. For a small country it is amazing how many events we take part in and do so well. We also have Test Cricket against the West Indies. So an exciting month ahead. We have had an election, which resulted in a new Government. We shall have to see what happens, new broom etc. Women's Hour and Country Watch by Susan Catford is not available this month. Susan recently wrote about her cancer and treatment to help

bring awareness to everyone. Susan is undergoing further treatment. *We all send her, our colleague and friend, the very best wishes and support at this time.*

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County & District Report

Councillor Martin Allen

By the time you get to read this, the General Election will be over, all the excitement and expectations left behind in the wake of the result. What changes will a new government bring?

Hopefully, good ones. I'm

hoping for a much-needed change in the planning law: too often crafty developers run off to Planning Inspectors when they don't like a decision. Local people should have the final say, not rich companies and swanky lawyers!

Food waste and other waste changes coming down the line

Did you know that between 27% and 35% of waste in our area is food waste? As it rots in our landfill sites, methane gas is released; which is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide for causing global warming.

The last government announced that from 01/04/2026 weekly household food waste collection would commence. All councils must comply with these instructions. The government has given MHDC funding towards the capital costs, which is to be used for the purchase of new vehicles and food caddies, plus other essentials. Initially, MHDC were only given £900,000, but MHDC appealed and received an additional £90,000.

It is unclear whether the council will receive any more funding for capital set-up costs. Currently, the funding provided by the government is not enough, and other reserves MHDC hold may have to be used. This includes another £1 million the government

provided. MHDC do not know what funding the government will provide to help with the ongoing weekly running costs. The running costs are unknown, with new employees required, payment to dispose of the food waste, plus the daily operation of the collection vehicles all to be considered. Currently, it is planned that food waste collected will go to either a Waste Transfer Station or straight to an Anaerobic Digester located in Stourbridge, Dymock or Bishops Cleeve.

Other changes coming:

- The Government has announced from 31/03/26 all councils must collect aluminum foil plus aluminum foil tubes such as Pringles. Also, from 31/03/27 soft plastic will have to be collected.

- Deposit Return Scheme: From October 2027 the Government has stated that consumers are to be charged an additional deposit fee when purchasing a drink in a single-use container. It will exclude glass bottles.

D-day celebrations up on Kempsey Common – what a success!



It was a great honour to be asked to light the beacon for the D-Day Celebrations held at Kempsey Common. I knew that it was an important moment in the Parishes of Severn Stoke and Kempsey, and I was determined not to let you down. My sincere thanks goes out to everyone who gave

up their valuable time for free; they were the heroes of the evening. Lenghtsman, Simon Bott, was on hand to ensure I got my bit right. I'm not sure he needed to point out where I was meant to light the beacon, but his cheeky smile when the beacon was lit showed I got it right!

Scan the QR Code on the right or search the internet for <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com> to find out more about saving money and reducing your food waste.



Finally

I realise you almost got away from hearing about my veg plot: parsnips look amazing, but my tomato plants don't! It's a frustrating game – a little bit like being a councillor.

As always, I'm around if needed, sometimes to be found shouting at some cabbages. I will leave you to work out where they can be found!

Martin

To commemorate 80th anniversary of the D-day



To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-day landings on 6th June 1944 a panel created in Kempsey depicting the destruction of St. Lo in Normandy will take its place with 79 more, all telling the story of the events of D-day and the subsequent 80

days it took the allied forces to reach Paris. Each panel has been knitted or crocheted by volunteers in the U.K. and as far away as the U.S.A. and New Zealand. The project called The Longest Yarn was the idea of Tansy Forster who lives in Normandy. The exhibition will be displayed in Notre Dame Church in Carentan, Normandy from the end of May until 1st September. It will then tour the U.K. until May next year when it will then go on show in the U.S. This panel was created by Julie Smith (here in the photograph) who lives in Kempsey in collaboration with Lyn Standfield from Poole in Dorset. For more information about the project there is a website: thelongestyarn.com where there



is a link to the gofundme page and an etsy shop where hand made and commemorative

items can be purchased helping to raise much needed funds.

Julie Smith

D-Day 80 Beacon Lighting on Kempsey Common



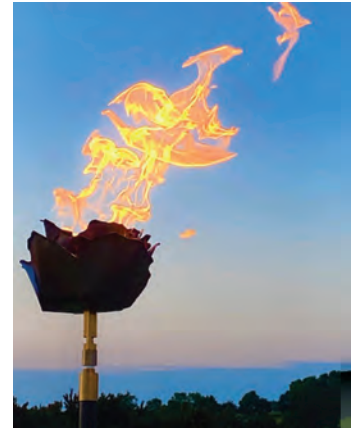
What have a County Councillor, a Takeaway Fish and Chips Van, and a Nineteen Forties Tribute Singer got in common?

Well they joined the company of Malvern Hills Brass Band, a WW2 Jeep and a pop up Museum from the RAF Defford on the sixth of June. It was the D-Day 80 Commemorative Beacon Lighting event which took place on the Eightieth Anniversary of D Day on Kempsey Common. Around five hundred people drawn from the Parishes of Kempsey and Severn Stoke and Croome D'Abiot gathered in a mindful and atmospheric evening which combined family orientated enjoyment with respectful reflection. The Forties Chanteuse? The irrepressible Ruby Rouge who came all the way from Chesterfield for the evening. The event was funded by The

Parish Councils of Kempsey and Severn Stoke along with generous donations from County Councillor Martin Allen and a number of private individuals. A small Events Team formed from Kempsey Parish Council and Kempsey Promotions CIC planned the Beacon Lighting over a number of months under the Project Management of Parish Councillor Neil Stevens. Attention to detail such as including a shuttle bus service provided by local company Aston's Coaches ensured that the Common was accessible for everyone.

There was no shortage of food and drink, with offerings from Manny's Eats, IWood Prosecco and Pimm's Bar and a traditional Tea Room from the Lovely Jubbly Tea Stop. While Kempsey School's PTFA were assisted by volunteers from Tesco St. Peter's,

the team from McDonald's Malvern took on the less glamorous job of litter clearing. 6th. Worcester (Kempsey) Scouts combined car park marshalling with a bucket collection - £120 raised for the Royal British Legion and MND. MC for the evening, Larry Freeman from Croome D'Abiot reminded all of us that the beacon marked a look back for the collective debt we owe to the heroes of 1944, while shining into a hopeful future for sustained peace in today's world. After a collective and rousing countdown from ten, the Beacon was successfully lit by our County Councillor Martin Allen – himself a veteran of the Falklands Conflict of 1982. Commenting as the good humoured crowd made their floodlit way down from the



Common, Simon Bott said "Events such as this Beacon Lighting are exactly what Kempsey's Community Interest Company is all about. Like the memory of all the country's fallen heroes, maintaining Community Spirit is a vital factor to be protected and sustained."



Kempsey Common Dreamin'

(with a nod to the Mamas and the Papas)

All the flags have flown
And the songs are sung
Hand in hand with heroes
Goodbye to the sun
Lighting up a Beacon
To recall their names.

Kempsey Common Dreamin'
On the Longest Day

The Common is our church
A house without a roof
Community united in an act of (faith/truth?)
Gratitude abounds, on this day of days.

Kempsey Common Dreamin'
On the Longest Day

Freedom is so precious, did we forget to say?
Remembrance is vital, our little price to pay
Sacrifices made, in the cause of hope
Passing on a baton, a legacy to share
Honouring the fallen, The Remaining who were there.

Kempsey Common Dreamin'
On the Longest Day



Severnside Parishes

Contact Information

Curate in Charge: Rachel Colthurst -
email: rachel.colthurst@motov8.org.uk

Baptisms: email: libbirty.holt@motov8.org.uk

Funerals: email: rachel.colthurst@motov8.org.uk

Weddings:

email: weddings@severnsideparishes.co.uk

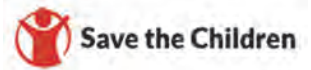
Please see social media and notice boards for more information.

Save the Children update



Many thanks for all those who kindly supported the plant sale on the 8th June. It was a great success and we raised £362.90. Thank you to all who gave us plants, this was very much appreciated.

Money raised will go to the Save the Children Emergency Fund, protecting children in crisis.



Save the Children

We had a wonderful response to our Plant Sale on June 8th. The plant stall raised amazing £180-00 then of course we had our tea and homemade cakes for sale in the church where lots of people gathered to enjoy them while chatting among

friends, it was a lovely atmosphere. In total we raised £378-00 a wonderful amount which will help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Heather Davies 01905 821040
Julia Grant 01905 820138

Cornflower Club



On May 22nd we celebrated Sally's 80th birthday, a cake was made by Mary and we made a toast to Sally with Prosecco. We were very

fortunate to have Ian Lockyer at the club to entertain us with his guitar playing and singing lots of the old pop songs we all knew.

We now have break for the summer and meet up again in September.

We always have room for new members and would love to welcome ladies and gentlemen over 60 years of age to join us. We meet every two weeks in the Parish Hall 2-30 - 4-30 where we enjoy meeting with friends, listening to our guest speaker/entertainer and finish with a cup of tea with biscuits. We would love to see you

Sally Linsey 01905 820476
Julia Grant 01905 820138



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St James Church Norton

Tuesday 10:00am

St Mary's Church-Kempsey

Thursday 1:00pm

St Mary's Church-Kempsey

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All Welcome!

For more information Please contact Kay Mason

01905 356216 / 07921 122802 Email: kay.mason@motov8.org.uk

Unconditional love



I love my dog! She welcomes me home, greeting me like she hasn't seen me in ages; she follows me everywhere – even into the loo; she is always loving, interested in what I'm doing, ever-ready for a stroke, a tummy-rub or a snuggle. No matter how little attention I pay her, whether I am pleased with her or a little frustrated with her, she loves me – unconditionally - and just can't get enough of me, or my attention. When I'm joyful she dances around on her back legs, tail wagging and joining in with the jubilation; when I'm sad or cross, she comes and sits close as if to say, 'I'm with you and we will get through this together.' I only wish she could understand the words, 'I'll be back!' whenever I leave her

alone for a while; those puppy eyes just get me every time! Why am I telling you this? Well, it's struck me recently as I've been welcomed home for the umpteenth time, that there are many similarities between the love of a dog and the love of God. Maybe it's got something to do with the fact that dog backwards spells God!! No! Actually what I've realised is that both dogs and God love unconditionally. "Unconditional love" is a near-cliché. People use those words as if it happens rather naturally. Consider the young couple, proudly showing off their first baby to friends and family, who will certainly tell the world that their love for their beautiful new baby is without a question of a doubt - unconditional love.

Sadly, as we know only too well, the reality is that that kind of love only comes easily for God and Golden Retrievers, and very grudgingly for human beings. Our love comes with a lot of conditions, a lot of strings attached. It doesn't mean we're bad people, it just means we're human. Selfless love doesn't come naturally. It's a choice, takes work, and needs practice. Equally perhaps, part of the joy of the unconditional love our dogs have for us comes from their desire to love us whatever we've done or said to them. Humanly, we get caught up in our shortcomings, mistakes, doubts, fears, and we allow all of this to swirl within our minds and spirits. Deep down we don't feel very lovable. But the truth of the matter is, we are lovable. We are God's beloved and no matter how far we stray, how depressed or angry we may be, or how much shame we feel, God is always there, waiting for us, ready to welcome us, forgiving us, loving us unconditionally, and saying, 'Believe in me. You're not alone in this. We will get through this together.' In the Bible, Jesus told the story of a wayward son who had squandered everything and found himself all alone with his next meal coming from a pig trough. Desperate, and remorseful, he decided to return home to his father, preparing to eat humble pie and declaring he

was no longer worthy to be called a son, and fit only to be his father's servant. However, the story continues, 'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.' He dressed his son in the finest robe, put a ring on his finger and celebrated his homecoming with a party (Luke 15: 20-24). God is the father in this story who, just like an overjoyed dog, welcomes home his son - who stands in our place. This is not a reluctant, offended, I-told-you-so God. This is a God who joyfully runs, whose welcome is unrestrained and passionate, who cares for nothing more in this world than to have us safe and sound in his arms, wanting just to be close to us, and reminding us that we are both loved and lovable – no matter who we are, or what we've done. So today, wherever you find yourself, however you feel about yourself - take heart - and don't forget that the joyful welcome we receive from man's best friend serves only to remind us of the inexhaustible, unlimited love of God, the love that always welcomes us home and always wants to celebrate.

*Rachel Colthurst
Curate-In-Charge
Sevenside Parishes*

Ask questions and get help with your devices on:
Alternate Mondays / Wednesdays 11-12pm at The Firs
Come for coffee, company & help with your smart phone or tablet

Monthly Mondays 4.30-5.30pm at The Youth Centre, Plovers Rise
19 August, 16 September, 21 October, 18 November, 16 December.

Find out how to: use parking apps; book Worcester's On Demand bus service; stay safe online; video-call family and friends; use Kempsey surgery online triage form; save energy; access entertainment; do your shopping online; access banking and benefits.

Thursdays 3-5pm from 11 July at The Youth Centre, Plovers Rise
Multi-Agency Support Hub. Advice from Age UK, Healthy Worcestershire. Tea, coffee and cake with local councillors & politicians. Access and contribute to Kempsey's Community Eridge. Share your vision & views on the future of the parish. Find opportunities for volunteering.

Members of the public wishing to attend meetings of the Parish Council, please note that the Council's monthly meetings now start at 7pm on the second Monday of each month.

To learn more about the work of your Parish Council, please visit www.kempseyhub.co.uk

Kempsey PC has three vacancies for Parish Councillors.

To find out more, please call 01905 828183 or email kempseyparishcouncil@gmail.com

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Severn Stoke & Croome D'abitot News

Happenings in Severn Stoke and Environs

St. Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

We are hoping that some of the repairs to the Church building will start this month.

We are introducing a Card Reader in church to accept donations to church funds from visitors and congregation. You are invited to use your Bank Card to give optional amounts shown on the screen. The Reader will be placed close to the small entrance door in the Chancel, which is open every day from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

It can also be used portably for payments for the Artisans and Crafts Fair on Saturday, 13 th July. 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Please see the separate advertisement for further details on page 26.

Friends of St. Denys, Severn Stoke

Raising funds to modernise the church!

The Severn Stoke and Kinnersley 100 Club Draw winner of £30.00 for June was Mike Everitt of Madresfield.

Christian Aid Week '24

After the Big Brekkie comes the big thank you!

Many readers I'm sure are followers of the hit TV series "Call the Midwife".

In the course of one episode, quite a few years ago now, Sheila, formerly Sister Bernadette, says quietly to her husband Dr Turner, "Oh Patrick. There is so much love in our home- and so little outside."

Is she right?

I think most of us would extend the love and kindness we enjoy to include our Church family and the village in which we live. The vast majority of us, though not quite all, are blessed with friends we can call on and neighbours who will gladly help us out in a crisis.

But there's still truth in what Sheila says. There is so much cold and hunger and stark human misery "out there."

Men, women and children daily beg us to broaden our understanding of kinship, as Jesus did, and include them in our kindness.

This, surely, is what "Christian Aid" is all about and not least this year in which we focussed on Burundi, the story of Aline Nibogora and so many other women whose lives have been transformed by their own courage and resilience and with the vital support of "Christian Aid".

I am delighted to report that as a result of our appeal this year the Kempsey Christian Aid Group has been able to send £1,106.58 to support this work.

Much of what we received was gift aided. We don't know yet how much that will amount

to, but our best estimate will be at least £100.

All in all, this is a great and heartwarming result.

It was mostly raised from donations made by individuals who heard the story and responded with kindness. At all our Severnside churches the theme was taken up in Sunday Worship and opportunities to give were offered. And then there was "The Big Breakfast" at St Mary's which drew a wonderful crowd of folk including enthusiastic support from the village "Come on in" group and the Cornflower Club.

Kay and Tony Mason cooked fabulous sausage and bacon baps while other volunteers kept everyone supplied with tea and coffee. We enjoyed a quiz too. In fact, St Mary's buzzed with the voices and chatter of people happy just to be together! Many said they wished it happened every week!

Meanwhile, Libbirty Webber and Rachel, our Curate in Charge, took the message into Norton Primary School for a School Service attended by the children and some parents. A video was shown and, again, in an enjoyable way, the voices of fellow human beings trying to escape hunger and awful abuse were heard. And hearts were touched. It's been hard work but so, so worthwhile.

Thank you everyone for your prayers, your practical involvement and your generosity.

Owain Bell
The Kempsey
Christian Aid Group

A few words from...

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP

Pledges flood defence action as first priority!

Harriett Baldwin has pledged to continue her work pressing for flood defences following her re-election.

She will continue to press for action on two outstanding permanent flood defence projects – in Severn Stoke and Tenbury Wells – and will be looking to hold meetings with the relevant Government

Ministers as soon as possible. She has also pledged to continue her work lobbying for improvements to the North Cotswold Line and action to increase capacity at Pershore's train station car park.

Dame Harriett commented: "I was honoured to be re-elected to be Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire and I am pleased to have retained a strong mandate to speak up for local people and the issues they

care about. Throughout the election campaign, I said that the two flood defence schemes in Tenbury and Severn Stoke are my top priority and I will be looking to hold meetings as soon as possible to identify a way to move both forward. Continuing the work of improving our local train service was also a key aim during the campaign and I hope see progression on this matter soon too. But with a change in



Government, we'll need a period of reflection and understand what the wider plans are, but I pledge to be a strong local voice for the things that local people care about the most."

Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

Quick fire 5 minute update from the Parish Clerk for Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot

I write this during a power cut, of which we have had one or two lately. The advantage is that the phone has stopped ringing and there is no wifi for the emails. I've checked on my neighbours, some of whom have back-up generators for their medical equipment and their fish tanks. Now, with cup of tea in hand, below are some of the things we have been helping with lately in no particular order..... Persistence by residents, staff at the National Trust, the parish council and our County Councillor has meant that the Police Crime Commissioner has made recommendations about parking enforcement at the entrance to Croome Court National Trust car park. An extended yellow line scheme will be trailed this summer after the current consultation. Thank you to all that are involved. Residents sent a timely reminder for the zebra bollards at Croome London Arch to be tidied and strimmed. Our Lengthsman promptly popped over and dealt with this – thank you to him. He also travelled the parish removing graffiti from the speed signs and arranging for fly tipping to be removed by the district council. Residents can report fly tipping direct to the District Council. www.malvern hills.gov.uk/report-it Residents have asked the parish council to arrange for the mud, grass and weeds to be cleared

from the centre of the road down Madge Hill. The parish council arranged a site inspection, but Highways have declined to clear on the basis that there are no safety issues.

After receiving a parishioner request, the hedges down Madge Hill have been inspected by Savills, who confirm that there are no pedestrian safety issues and that the hedges will be cut after the bird nesting season has finished.

Visitors to the parish have raised concerns about the condition of the informal layby at the top of Madge Hill (entrance to the Panorama). This has been passed to the National Trust and to our County Councillor for their consideration.

Residents have asked for the parish council to contact farmers and arable land tenants in the parish to remind them of their legal obligation to reinstate footpaths to a level surface after cultivation or to spray a marker line after the crop is established. A reminder has been sent to those that the parish council has contact details for. Specific problems should be reported via the County Council website. Search 'Worcestershire report a road or path issue'.

We've had an email about possible funding cuts to the Upton Library and parish councillors will debate this at the next meeting, once I have received a bit more detailed information about why this situation has arisen. We've had communication about a recent assessment of the church bells at St Denys' and parish councillors will wait for further information before bringing this to full council. Neither of these issues fall within the parish council's

direct responsibility but councillors will consider if and how to be involved to try to ensure that such facilities continue.

The parish council received concerning news regarding the flood bund proposals, namely that material sources that were initially thought to be suitable were found on close examination not to be so, delaying further an appointment of a construction contractor. Parish councillors wanted to be quite sure that they understand the context of all this and so requested a meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) top managers (above and beyond our current EA liaison officer). This meeting was declined by the EA on the basis that we are in a pre-election period. Parish Councillors are not to be deterred and will continue to request a meeting – particularly in light of the fact that residents and councillors raised concerns about the soil quality at meetings with the EA in 2022 and 2023.

Parish Councillors continue to look at resident parking problems at Knights Hill. Some aspects of this may be a quick fix, some more long term. Resident cooperation is appreciated on this matter, please.

A street light column in Stonnall Close is due to be replaced – residents will be notified if any road/lane closure

is required with as much notice as possible.

I have been assisting some residents with ordering a bigger wheelie bin and I have been occasionally popping in to visit residents when their neighbours haven't seen them in a while, and they get concerned. Parish Councillors will continue to care for the old parish hall site in Severn Stoke whilst the Management Committee consults on the future of the Hall Charity and until the flood bund timetable is clarified. Options for planting wildflowers on the land were turned down by the site agents over concerns (real or imagined) that any future planning applications would be impacted by the presence of wildflowers.

Parish Council accounts for the 23/24 financial year are all audited, up-to-date and residents may request to view these up until 1st August, though in truth I will make our accounts available at any time if anyone asks.

We still have parish councillor vacancies. Please come join us – as you can see from the above, we get involved in an awful lot and it is interesting, varied and is very fulfilling.

Lisa Stevens
Parish Clerk, Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot
Tel: 07950 256363

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or join us Thursday to Saturday for our lunch menu

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Xsighted Morris Dancers!



Elgar Court Care Home were so excited this week to see the amazing Morris Dancers and their musicians, "So XSighted"! What makes this even more special is that all of the Morris Dancers are partially sighted. THE visually impaired Border Morris Dance side, based in Malvern, Worcestershire, came to the care home this week to

perform a number of highly choreographed routines along with live music played by other members. Residents at Elgar Court Care Home were delighted by the vivacious performance and wonderfully entertaining Morris Dancers, and thoroughly enjoyed having tea and cake with them afterwards. General Manager Sarah Cadwallader

said, "We continually strive to ensure our home and residents are involved with our local communities, and keep everyone connected. Our home felt so lucky that SO XSighted were able to come to Elgar

Court – they are certainly very popular! Residents and staff were full of admiration and awe at the stunning display they gave – and our residents are certainly looking forward to seeing them again at our home!"



A friendly face and a friendly space!



Local support with low mood and anxiety

In all the excitement of the Euros, Wimbledon and the Olympics, make sure you don't miss the other events July has to offer: World Chocolate Day, Great British Pea Week (who knew?) – and at the end of the month, the International Day of Friendship. Originally set up by Hallmark in the 1930s, a sceptical public saw through this as a ruse to sell more cards and the idea fell into disuse. However, different (less commercially minded) groups have continued over the

decades to promote the idea, seeing the values of friendship as crucial to a fulfilled life. The culmination of this was the UN declaration in 2011 that each 30th July be celebrated as World Friendship Day. What value can we put on a friendly face and a friendly space? Anyone dropping into the Wellbeing Hub on Pershore High Street is sure to find these – along with a cup of coffee and the offer of more practical help if needed. The Hub has recently launched a new venture designed to offer an extra level

of help for anyone coping with low mood and anxiety: the Mental Health Peer Support Group. "We provide a friendly, safe and inclusive space where people can share their experiences of living with anxiety and low mood," says Mary Gleaves, a volunteer at the Hub. "The hope is for members to offer support and empathy to each other and identify strategies to improve their wellbeing." Set up with support from the nationally renowned charity MIND, the Mental Health Peer Support Group is staffed by volunteers from the Wellbeing Hub. "We are just facilitators," says Fiona Warman, "the members run the meetings." Fiona, a long-serving volunteer, adds: "Group members talk among themselves, sharing their experiences. People are kind to each other, and I have not seen anyone pressured to talk until they were ready." "Our team members are there to encourage discussion," adds Mary. "They make sure the group feels safe, and most importantly... they make tea!" **How can people join the group?** "Drop into the Hub for a leaflet," says volunteer John Powell, "or call or text the Support Group

number (see below) leaving your name and number. One of our staff will get in touch and talk with you about how the group works and check it meets your expectations. Every part of the process is confidential." "My experience makes me realise," adds Fiona, "how mental health issues can affect not just the person but also their family and work colleagues. One of the best comments I've heard from a group member is: 'This makes me feel normal'." No matter what our life experiences are, all of us need friendly faces and friendly spaces to help us cope with things. This new venture aims to meet that need for anyone in the Pershore area who might benefit from it. **Happy World Friendship Day!**

Paul Morris

*Pershore Wellbeing Hub
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For information on the Mental Health Peer Support Group, call or text 07596 593837



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Commemorating D-Day



We joined the nation commemorating and celebrating D-Day. The exhibition in our reception and crafting projects gave a focus to reminiscing - wonderful for our team to hear such moving stories from residents. On the 6th June we had a church service and a party in the afternoon. Many of our residents dressed up, we had musical entertainment with lots of 1940's songs and tributes to the courageous men and women who fought in the war. Continuing our fabulous link with Worcester Wheels, we ventured out for a narrow boat adventure. Where better to enjoy a G&T and a picnic on a sunny day than on the Pamela May Community Boat! We took the boys on tour with a trip for our Gents Club to The Anchor in Kempsey. They all love our local - thank you to

the team there for making the visit so special. Our ladies love to lunch too so they also had a trip to Bluebell Farm, Farmhouse Inn.

Back home, we celebrated Bee Day with a fantastic bee keeper who showed us honeycombs from her hives and brought her honey and mead to taste. A great new learning and sensory afternoon.

We celebrated Donut Week in the only way possible! By eating lots! Plus, marked World Turtle Day with a talk about turtle conservation.

Residents are working hard in the garden: Our veg beds are growing well, fernery and rockery complete, miniature gardens and hanging baskets done and bind weed well and truly excavated. Thank you to the students of Kings School for their help. If anyone has an hour or so to help in the week, we would be extremely grateful. We are welcoming new admissions for long stay or respite care. Please do contact our home manager Melanie



Dawson and see the brochure on our website.

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Are you traveling with a child with a different surname this Summer?

With the summer holidays looming, this is a common question we are often asked by our clients who wish to take their child on holiday, either in the UK or abroad. The legal position on taking your child abroad depends on your family's individual circumstances regarding parental responsibility.

Do I have Parental Responsibility?

Mothers have automatic parental responsibility for their child from birth. If you are married or in a civil partnership when the child is born, both parents have automatic parental responsibility, and you will not lose this if you get divorced or the civil partnership is dissolved. Father's who are not married or in a civil partnership with the mother do not have automatic parental responsibility. For unmarried fathers to have parental responsibility of their child, their name must be registered on the child's birth certificate.

The Importance of Parental Consent.

Under the Child Abduction Act

1984, it is a criminal offence for a person to send or take a child under the age of 16 outside of the UK without the "appropriate consent". In most situations where both parents have Parental Responsibility, consent must be given by both parents to be able to travel.

Exceptions to the rule:

The first is where the parent travelling has a "Lives With" Court Order in their favour which permits them to take the child on holiday for up to 28 days without the consent of the other parent. The second is where the parent travelling has a Specific Issue Order, specifically permitting foreign travel.

How do I get consent to take my child on holiday?

It is best to begin conversations with the child's other parent as early as possible. You should also be prepared to be as open as possible with the other parent about the holiday and provide them with specific information regarding flights and accommodation. Once you have been able to obtain their consent, it is vital that you get

proof of this consent in writing as this will prevent any delays at the border when travelling with your child.

Can I withhold consent or what happens if the other parent withholds consent?

Parents should think very carefully about the reasons for not giving their consent for their child to go on holiday. Consent should only be withheld for a good reason. However, if you have tried to reach an amicable agreement but the other parent has refused to give their consent or has not provided you with the necessary proof of consent to travel, then you may need to seek permission from the court.

Is consent required to take my child on holiday in the UK?

You do not require consent if you intend to take your child on holiday within England and Wales, provided there is no Court Order in place which prevents you from doing so. Although Scotland and Ireland are in the UK, they have separate legal systems and so parental consent would be required by the other parent if you plan on travelling to either country.

How can we help?

If you require advice or assistance regarding parental consent when travelling, please contact our Family Law Team at Bradley Haynes Law by contacting Fern Bowkett via email:

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or by telephone 01905 900 919
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Camera Club



"Reverse Aviator" by Johnny Wilkinson

As (at the time of writing) summer seems to be about to arrive, it is appropriate that the greater proportion of the Club's forthcoming events and meet-ups are in the open air. In July and August, as well as a number of informal outdoor gatherings and a formal workshop in Oxford over two days, we do have two (Zoom-based) Club meetings. The first, on Wednesday 10th July, will take the form of a Members' Evening, during which a wide range of technical issues will be addressed and, in addition, a number of members will show images from their recent travels and endeavours.

The second, on Wednesday 21st August, will be a talk by our regular contributor and tutor, Leigh Preston FRPS, in which he will show "what is currently beyond his lens".

We intend that all of these occasions should be of interest to potential, as well as current, members, so it is definitely worth looking to see what is happening between mid-May and the end of August - and making contact with us - via our website:

www.kempseycameraclub.uk or our Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/kempseycameraclub

We would be delighted to see you!

In the meantime we hope that you will enjoy these two images - "Chilli Double Shot" by Shelagh Allen and "Reverse Aviator" by Johnny Wilkinson - as in the previous issue, one of four top placed and one of seven commended images, respectively, in our recent projected image competition on the theme of "Reflections".

Malcolm A Hay
Secretary



Loneliness Awareness



The busy summer holidays might seem like an odd time to think about loneliness, but recognising and acknowledging its presence is relevant at any time of the year.

Marmalade Trust define loneliness as 'a perceived mismatch between the quality or quantity of social connections that a person has and what they would like to have'.

Loneliness is personal to each of us; our need for social connections is unique.

We assume that the feeling of being lonely is exclusive to the older generation, yet according to BBC Radio 4, All In The Mind, "The Loneliness Experiment" (2018), 16-24-year-olds are the loneliest age group in UK. It is easy to imagine that change brings positive outcomes, but often the stress of fitting in, such as at college, can lead instead to loneliness.

Smaller rural communities have a lot in common with the

issues around loneliness; geography can cause a sense of being isolated more than elsewhere in the same county. Smaller towns may seem isolating, but they often offer a greater sense of community, inclusion and connection. The theme for this year's loneliness awareness campaign is:

Random acts of connection.

Why not offer to volunteer at a local community group or charity, or offer to involve yourself in a local event to see how you can help?

Be connected and part of your unique community by asking "How can I help?"

To find out more about tackling loneliness visit www.marmaladetrust.org

To find out more about volunteering contact Samantha Palmer; Email: volunteering@communityaction.org.uk

"Humans are vulnerable and rely on the kindnesses of the earth and the sun; we exist together in a sacred field of meaning."

Joy Harjo

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The Canadians

Tim Hickson

Many years ago I was in Papua New Guinea and one evening I walked up the hillside behind the town of Lae. There I found a Commonwealth World War 2 Military Cemetery, neat and well-tended.

Amongst the graves were those of two 18-year-old English nurses. I felt sad that these two lasses lay on the other side of the World to their homes. A few years later I moved to live in Pershore and, one day, I went to look at the military graves in Pershore's Cemetery on Three Springs Road. They were in neat rows and clearly looked after, as are all Commonwealth graves. In amongst them, as well as that of an 18-year-old British lad, there were four 19-year-old Canadians among many in their early 20s. Again I felt sad that these young people were lying so far from their homes but grateful that, in our time of need, they had come to help.

At that time, alongside the cemetery there were open fields and I thought it was at least appropriate that these young Canadians should be lying among the English countryside. Later, when it was clear that houses were to be built alongside, I was unhappy to learn that these buildings which would obliterate the pastoral scene were planned to have roads named after plums. Instead, a change of mind used the names of some of the Canadians and I am so pleased that that is what happened. So, I gather, are the families of the Canadians.

In the previous edition of this paper, D-Day was commemorated. Again, we were reminded of the major contribution of Canada. Of the five beaches assaulted, those codenamed Utah and Omaha were attacked by US forces, Gold was stormed by British troops but Juno, after many

losses, was taken by the Canadians. Sword was first secured inland by British and Canadian airborne troops, headed by a number of Free French soldiers, before the British and Free French landed on the beach. Furthermore, there were many Canadian sailors and airmen involved. It is also worth remembering that the earlier, 1942, Dieppe raid involved mainly Canadian troops. That it was a disaster, caused by poor decisions but not by the bravery of the men. Of the 4,000 soldiers, 75% were killed, wounded or captured.

Nearer home, 'our' Canadians were based at RAF Pershore and were airmen. Most of them were training to fly or be crew in the twin-engined bomber, the Wellington.

These were mostly aircraft not considered in a good enough state to be used on operations and, due to the urgent need to get the training completed, often they had to fly in bad weather. Hence the number of accidents caused by mechanical problems as well as those where crashes into Bredon Hill or the edge of the Cotswolds were caused by poor visibility. Indeed, of Bomber Command's more than 55,000 fatal casualties, over 8,000 died in accidents. RAF Defford started, in September 1941, as just three concrete runways on Defford Common to help the young men to practice what are still the most dangerous parts of any flight, take-off and landing. However, in May 1942, the trainees had to return to RAF Pershore as Defford was then needed for the development of airborne radar.

It is also worth remembering that many British, who joined the RAF, crossed the Atlantic where Canada provided flying training. Canadian industry expanded greatly, building arms



and vehicles including Lancaster bombers. Also the Canadian Navy, tiny in 1939, grew hugely during the War to help protect the convoys of ships crossing the Atlantic to bring vital supplies to Britain. Much of the food was provided by Canada. Before WW2, Canada had been a quiet country on the edge of World affairs. At the end it had punched way above its weight as well as modernising its industry and

economy and, later, joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, NATO, which still helps us to deter foreign aggression.



SUPPLEMENT

Memories of a Country Village: Part 5

Kempsey Worcestershire

1911 – 1995

By Cyril Weaver

Henry Whittaker

Other memories about Henry Whittaker recall his enthusiasm for outdoor life as well as sport, so his school always had a really good hockey team.

To look after his large garden and lawns, not forgetting the playing field on the corner of Squire's Walk and Olde Road South, he employed a few local lads like Alfie Smith and Dan Martin as groundsmen and gardeners. They were under the care and watchful eye of old Walter Beard the Head Gardener who lived in the cottage close to the school's main gate.

Now, I must be honest if I were to say that, in my own opinion, none of them were ever asked to work very hard because the gardens were clearly over staffed. Sometimes when work was slack, the lads were even allowed to play in the school's hockey

team, which they enjoyed much more than work.

One morning those so called workmen (or should I say overgrown school boys) were potato planting at the bottom end of the playing field, when they were informed that the home match arranged with a visiting side that afternoon was cancelled. The visitors had double booked a game against another team in Worcester.

Now that nice, kind old school master, not wishing to disappoint his pupils, decided to take them to the pictures in town. That of course did not apply to those working lads; their job was to carry on spud planting.

In the early afternoon, old Henry bundled his lads into his big, old car. Some travelled in the front, some in the back, the rest stood on each side of the running boards and he motored into town. I'm sure he could have done with that charabanc, but he did that quite often, which had to be seen to be believed and certainly something you could not do today.

Then, no sooner had they moved off, than the team they should have played called, to see if they could borrow two, or perhaps three, players for their match in Worcester. Poor old Mr Beard, how he tried to stop them, but no those workers just left everything. They just downed tools, dashed off to collect their hockey sticks and gear. They were gone, leaving that poor old man all alone in the potato patch, madly waving his arms, raving and shouting his poor, old head off. However, there was no hint of annoyance or criticism of the boys from Henry when Mr Beard had to explain what happened. What a kind soul he was.

Life was like that at Kempsey House School; pretty spontaneous and often not well planned. As I have already mentioned, Henry Whittaker was very keen on nature and wildlife, so would take the boys for long walks, or rambles as he called them.

On one of these rambles through Kerswell Green he noticed, much to his disgust, that a footpath had been closed and the style fenced off. Of course, something had to be done, and without doubt Henry was just that man to do it! On the following Sunday morning, (better the day, better the deed) with his band of very willing helpers toolled up with ropes, bars and goodness knows what, that obstruction was removed and the footpath re-opened. Very satisfactory.

But, low and behold, by the following week it had all been replaced, but this time much stronger and with plenty of barbed wire. A battle line had been drawn and, by goodness, did that news spread through that village. So, when the next attack was due to take place, it seemed three parts of the whole village were at the scene.

Although the army of attackers went well prepared with cars, ropes, bars and most everything you could mention, they met some very stiff opposition. When Henry's army moved in and started to fit the ropes to the fence to be pulled away by the cars, they were met by sticks, brooms, and one woman, would you believe, even started throwing pepper all over them!

For those watching, and of course those taking part, it was the best bit of fun on a Sunday morning we could remember for ages. In the end, good old Henry's side, with our old pal Battler Bennett, leading the charge, won the day with bruises, not

medals, to show for it. That battle of Kerswell Green was talked about for a long, long time. However, nearly fifty years later the authority of the Ministry of Transport prevailed and the actual site of this minor skirmish was obliterated by the construction of the M5. Not even Henry Whittaker and his band of loyal men could have stopped what is called progress. What dear old Henry would have called it I dread to think.

More characters I remember.

Of course Kempsey like all the other villages had its share of what were known as characters. One I can well recall was Old Tom Parlour who lived at the house called Severn Trow just below the church. This story involving Old Tom was told to me by my father, but I remember it being retold many times in many pubs in the village and beyond. In fact, it became a legend.

Mr Parlour was the village hay-warden looking after both Ham Meadows and all common land, and as a young boy I would often see him ride around Kempsey on his donkey. I'm very sorry to say the gentleman had trouble with his speech; he had a dreadful stammer. One day, while in the Crown Hotel he met a new fellow called Mr Marks who was just starting his own private bus service, but who I'm also sorry to say had the very same speech problem. At first Mr Parlour accused him of mockery, then Old Marko, as he was known, did the same. It was just like the old time pantomime joke, 'Oh yes you did...' "Oh no you didn't". Of course the few customers thought it great fun until it almost came to blows and someone had the sense to step in and explain. I don't think those two ever became friends but the story was never forgotten

to be continued

Farming

Mike Page

The Red Tractor quality assurance scheme came about first in the year 2000 and was designed to show that farm outputs had been produced at or above a standard that recognised certain minimum levels of food hygiene and purity, above laid down minimum levels of animal welfare in the case of livestock products, and having regard to minimising any detrimental environmental impact. The Red Tractor symbol, showing that a particular farming enterprise was compliant is now to be seen increasingly in supermarkets and other retailers so that purchasers can know the product they are buying is UK sourced and of a high standard. The first Farm To Fork meeting of top Government leaders (including the PM) and top agricultural leaders took place at No 10 in 2023, and the second such meeting took place just a few weeks ago. Many aspects of food production and the wellbeing of the agricultural industry in general were covered, and how that should be managed to ensure the UK remains as self-sufficient as possible in food production, and all done to a high standard have been

agreed, but important areas of difference remain. The use of hormone implants to enhance growth in cattle (injected as a small pellet in the soft tissue of the rear of the ear) was banned in the EU many years ago; it was done here on this farm back in those days, when beef cattle were a regular feature on the farm. Keen to demonstrate their freedom to set up new international trade agreements once outside the EU following Brexit the UK Government signed up to a deal with the governments of Australia and New Zealand where the use of hormone implants is still usual practice, as it is in many other countries. There is much scientific debate as to whether the use of hormone growth promoters in this way does pose any risk to human health, but representatives of the agricultural industry in the UK have been arguing with the Government for some years now that to allow meat, produced using methods that are illegal here on the grounds of human health risk, to be sold in the shops alongside home-produced beef, has got to be



Harvest Hopeful

wrong. Tackled in interview about this seeming anomaly in policy, acting as Government spokesman Jacob Rees-Mogg declared that he had been over to Australia on several occasions in connection with Government business, and had consumed beef whilst over there many

times; the fact that he was still alive to tell the tale was surely proof enough that Australian beef was perfectly safe. Statements like that leave me questioning the competence of some of those in Government. Perhaps things will change after 4th of July?



Harvested Already



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Summer Fun with your Dog - There is nothing better as a dog owner than seeing the end of the dark days and the start of the summer sun. Those rainy cold walks which feel like a chore soon turn in to the best parts of our days. For me exploring novel places and watching my dogs enjoying sunny summer walks is one of my favourite things to do. However, whether it is on the beach, in woods or just having fun in the local park there are a few things to be aware of to ensure your furry friends have a fun filled and safe summer.

Never leave your dog alone in the car - It is amazing how quickly cars heat up. Opening windows or leaving water will not make a difference so even if you are only getting out the car for a brief period your pet should come with you.

Avoid heat stroke - On extremely hot days sadly walks may have to be postponed to avoid heat stroke, which can be life threatening. If the temperature allows, then early morning or late-night short strolls when the air is coolest are best. Heat stroke can affect dogs even without walking so always ensure your pet has access to shade. Frozen treats, cooling mats and paddling pools can all help keep things cool. If you are worried your dog is overheating phone your vets for advice, never throw cold water on them as sudden cooling can be dangerous.

Don't let your pet get sunburnt - Dogs and cats can get sunburnt too! Animals with white or very thin fur are most at risk. Access to shade is important and the use of pet sun cream is vital on any risky areas. If you are worried chat to your vet about whether your dog needs some protection.

Watch out for grass seeds - Grass seeds (or Awns) can be a nightmare for your pet at this time of year. They can get into ears, eyes, paws or just about anywhere! Check through your dogs coat after a walk and remove any loose seeds before they can become a problem.

Wishing you all a fun filled summer with your pets!

Best wishes

Amy



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martinandcarrvets.co.uk

Gregory's World!

Gregory Sidaway Exeter College, Oxford

And ... Cut!

That's a wrap on my second year, fellow reader. Time to say my goodbyes, dust off the suitcases and give Fry the air fryer a thorough scrub. A cheesy idiom wafts to mind: it's not about the destination, but the journey and those you meet along the way. I'm happy to have met Fry – he was happy to smell of soap for once instead of Tesco's own-brand crinkle-cut oven chips. As I won't be staying on Abingdon road next year, Fry won't spend the summer in storage in Oxford; he came home with me, along with suitcases bulging with half of the English Faculty Library, and a Gandalf cardboard cutout. Yet, while I was still teetering on the cusp of second year, an opportunity arose for me to reflect. 'Reflecting' sounds like a dangerously mature and adult thing to do, so I'll say it was more like an opportunity 'to rewind'. This opportunity was 'Iquitos', a student film written and directed by Thomas Woodcock. Having been in the works for three terms, it was appropriate that it would be nearing completion now. You might remember I partook in some hammed-up villainy and top-hattery in Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* last December. Well, shortly after that, still riding

the acting high, I discovered the 'Iquitos' project and auditioned at Magdalen College. My character was the mysterious 'Out-of-time Man', a cackling harbinger of death who was also out-of-space (he taunts characters in their dreams) and out-of-sensible-shoes. I was supposed to look rough around the edges, so I spent a few weeks thinking manly thoughts until I had a stubble. I had a sneak preview of the finished scene; I'm leaning against a column of Magdalen's colonnade, hunching over a pocket watch and chortling maniacally – not my finest look. On camera, you can see my breath steaming in the air, a reminder of how cold it was all those months ago, before Christmas, when we started shooting. I remember being freezing ...

... that was before my river stunt. For context, my character is purified into a kinder version of himself (with shoes that fit) by being symbolically pushed into a river. That's all very poetic – but actually shooting the scene wasn't symbolic at all. The scene's requirements changed the closer we got to shooting it. First, I was going to have a stunt double. Then, they were going to find me a wetsuit. Then, they decided a wetsuit under my outfit

would look obvious. Then, they pushed me into the river. To actually stand on the edge of a jetty with a camera pointing at you and the water lurking darkly behind you, and to be told to just fall backwards 'whenever you're ready' ... is a bit difficult. Something in me was yelling: 'Hang on, what?', but eventually I powered through. I fell back and the water swamped me in frigid darkness. But that was it, right?

Rule One: when it comes to film, never assume anything. On Valentine's Day (of all days), Tom returned and said he needed to film my icy plunge from a different angle. Also, the script had changed: I wouldn't be falling backward any more, I would be shoved with a stick (the girl on stick duty took far too much delight in this). Saying all of this, I do understand the urge to want the perfect shot – so I obliged. I was in and out in a heartbeat. When asked whether I would fall in a third time, however, I was cold enough to give my honest answer. I'd forgotten my towel, which didn't help matters. The mums who'd taken their children to play at Hinksey Park that morning looked a bit puzzled to see a bedraggled, barefooted me in a soaked-through shirt and trilby



hat, staggering in the vague direction of home and a hot shower.

I just hope they used both takes! I hoped to be able to see the finished product at uni – clearly, I forgot Rule One! A brief game of Frisbee with the laptop containing the film on the last night of term went about as well as you'd expect. Hopefully, though, 'Iquitos' should be recovered and watchable soon. The film holds memories I already associate strongly with Year Two's wider opportunities, so a quick rewind seems fitting before we enter summer. Twelve weeks is a chunky wedge of time to have off. You may be reading this and thinking: 'Jammy git!'. I can't really argue with you there – but I promise it will be worth it. We have many more adventures on the horizon.

Buying a used car – top tips

Problems with used cars are consistently the top complaint made to Citizens Advice Consumer Service.

Cost of living pressures mean more people are looking to save money on big ticket items. Analysis of Citizens Advice research shows 3.5 million people (15%) are currently looking to buy a used car so it pays therefore to follow some simple rules when considering a purchase to minimize the risk of problems.

1. Check the trader

If you're buying from a trader (a business that sells cars) you should:

- look for an established firm with a good reputation
- look for a garage that is a member of the Consumer Codes Approval Scheme - this means you can act through the Code Sponsor if something goes wrong

If you're buying from an individual seller:

- (a) you're entitled to expect that the vehicle is roadworthy, unless you and the seller clearly agree it is bought for scrap or for spares and repair
- (b) check the car's history
- (c) check the car's details with the DVLA using their free online vehicle checker and check the MOT history on GOV.UK
- (d) get a private history check. This might cost up to £20, but will give you valuable information about serious problems the car might have. If you're still not sure, get an independent report. You'll need the seller's permission to get it inspected. This will give you detailed information about the car's condition and will cost around £120 to £250
- (e) inspect the car and take a test drive. You should

arrange to view the car in daylight, preferably when it's dry – it's harder to spot damage to the car if it's wet.

2. Paying for a used car Ask questions if you're unsure about anything in the small print. Remember you can stop the deal if you feel like you're being pressured into paying too much or buying additional features. And make sure you get the original (not a photocopy) of the log book (the V5C registration certificate) and the valid MOT test document. Never buy a car without the log book. The way you pay will affect what rights you might have if something goes wrong. For example:

- (a) if you pay by cash, use a debit card or
- (b) if you pay using finance arranged by a trader, you might have extra protection if there's a problem later,

**citizens
advice**

because you can take action against the finance company as well as the trader (or instead of the trader).

Contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on: 0808 223 1133 if you need more help – a trained adviser can give you advice over the phone.



What is the difference between all these honeys?



Honey comb and four different honeys from the same bees but at different times of year

We have just returned after three days at the Royal Three Counties show at the Malvern showground. As usual, beekeepers from Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire joined forces to provide the displays in the Bees and Honey marquee. At this show we had three glass sided observation hives each one connected by a pipe to the outside so that the bees could fly freely. On their return with either nectar or pollen gathered locally, they dance on the comb, to tell their sisters what they have found, in which direction and at what distance.

This is not normally able to be seen. We also had hives behind a mesh screen which we opened several times each day to show the public what is going on inside a hive. Alongside these and many other exhibits there was a competitive honey show with runny honeys of every shade from nearly black to water white, and set honeys from chalky white to chestnut brown, and a honey sales table with honeys from hobby beekeepers across the three counties. The question we were asked most often was, 'What is the difference between the

honeys?'

The basic difference is the kind of flower from which the nectar is gathered. Some flowers yield a very pale nectar, such as borage or oilseed rape and even after it has been concentrated by the bees, it remains very pale. Others like Polygonum have a brown nectar. The sticky residue on leaves of oaks, sycamore or beech trees caused by insects feeding, is called honeydew and can be collected by bees on humid mornings to produce an almost black honey with a taste of malt or treacle. All honey is liquid when extracted from the comb. However, its texture may change according to its source. Some will stay liquid, such as Robinia (false acacia), lime tree or Himalayan balsam, due to the high fructose content of the nectar. Others like oilseed rape, raspberry or ivy will set rock hard due to the predominance of glucose in the nectar. Between these extremes, most honeys are a mixture of nectar from various floral sources and contain a balance of fructose and glucose. They will usually crystallise or granulate slowly from the bottom of the jar, with coarse crunchy crystals. This is perfectly good to eat, but if you wish you can re-liquefy the honey by standing the jar in shallow hot water.



Commercial honey producers may heat and ultra filter their honey, to remove pollen and any other particles as this slows down the crystallisation and increases shelflife, but hobby beekeepers do not do this. The only practice which some hobbyists use is to stir or mix the honey as it is beginning to set, using a big 'potato masher'. This breaks up the crystal structure, so the honey remains spreadable and does not go 'rock hard'. Such honey is described as 'soft set'. Honey in the jar is a pure natural product, with nothing added and nothing taken away, but the real gourmet product is, of course, 'Honey in the comb'

Martyn Cracknell

*Worcestershire
Beekeepers' Association*

Edward Elgar learned orchestration at Powick Asylum

The old Powick psychiatric hospital opened in 1847 as the Worcester County and City Lunatic Asylum, was closed down in 1989 and mostly demolished for a housing estate. Only the old medical superintendent's house and a red brick building called White Chimneys remain. In the 1870s two successive enlightened Superintendents at the Asylum instituted a series of orchestral concerts in the ball room there as well as Friday night dances accompanied by the Staff Band. They thought that dancing to the music would calm patients' disturbed minds, a progressive outlook for the times, as well as provide entertainment for the staff. The 20-year-old Edward Elgar first visited the Asylum to play in the concerts in 1877. Two

years later he was appointed Band Instructor, paid £32 per year for the one-day-a-week job and five shillings for every quadrille or polka he composed for the Band, and he continued in this post until 1884. One can imagine him trudging every week from Worcester, music case in hand, along the Malvern road through Powick village to the somewhat forbidding institution on the hill. The band consisted of a piccolo, flute, clarinet, two cornets, euphonium, half a dozen violins, cello, double bass and piano. These seven Powick years were a significant part of Elgar's training as a composer, the equivalent of going to a music college. An Elgar biographer calls this a 'hands-on apprenticeship': 'He learned what would sound good, not because any teacher,

but because his own ear, told him' (Elgar the Music Maker by Diana McVeagh, Boydell, 2007). It is fascinating to hear these tuneful early pieces for Powick; some of the material found its way into later works of Elgar's maturity, e.g., 'The Wild Bears' from The Wand of Youth and the opening of 'Sabbath Morning at Sea' from the song cycle Sea Pictures. The manuscript scores (separate parts only) gathered dust for a century until performed again for a medical conference at Birmingham University. The late conductor Barry Collett, Honorary Life Member of the Elgar Society and winner of its Elgar Medal, took a great interest in this music. In 1998 he performed it with his Rutland Sinfonia in the chapel of the Asylum and recorded it ten years ago with the Innovation Chamber



Ensemble (players from the CBSO): 'Elgar: Music for Powick Asylum' (SOMMCD252). Michael Trott
The Elgar Society.

The Elgar Society began its life in Worcester and Malvern in 1951, and the West Midlands Branch continues to flourish.

For details of meetings (held at Holy Trinity Church Hall, 1 North Malvern Road, Malvern WR14 4LR), see www.elgarsociety.org/branches/west-midlands

Cooking for fun!

Ailsa Craddock

I have to write this a month ahead in order for the paper to be set up and printed so I am hoping that these recipes are going to find us in the middle of a July heatwave!

Why are the British never satisfied - when its wet, we wish for dry; when it is cold we wish for hot and then try to keep cool. And what better way than a nice dish of ice cream.

I have always loved ice-cream – not the Mr Whippy soft stuff but proper ice cream with eggs and cream and different tastes. When my brother was little, he used to think “various ices” on a menu was a flavour and there seems to be no ending now to the “various” combinations – you can even have savoury ones for in between courses.

A few years ago, I entered a competition and won an ice cream maker but I also have a few favourites which don't need one – you just whip it up and freeze. If you haven't got a maker, and it's asked for, you can get by with taking the mixture out of the freezer and mashing the ice crystals in for a few times. Keeping it easy for you, these are all made without a maker – so you can definitely say you made these all by yourself.

French chocolate Ice cream

(daughter no1's favourite)

50g castor sugar

4 tablespoons water

175g plain chocolate

3 egg yolks *(save the whites*

for meringues etc – you can even freeze them)

300ml double cream

Melt the sugar and water in a pan to a syrup. Break up the chocolate into a bowl and add the hot syrup. Mix until smooth and add the yolks. Whip the cream until stiff and add the chocolate, folding it through until all combine. Freeze. Simple!

Lemon Ice Cream

1 large lemon, juice and zested

200g castor sugar

250ml milk

250 ml double cream

Combine the zest and sugar. Put the milk in a bowl and stir in the zest mixture until the sugar is dissolved. Stir in the lemon juice.

Whip the cream until stiff and gently fold into the lemon

mixture. Line a loaf tin with cling film overlapping the edges. Pour into the tin, cover over with the edges and freeze. Tip out and slice to serve.

Stem Ginger Ice Cream

4 eggs, separated

110g icing sugar

3 – 4 pieces of stem ginger, finely chopped

275ml double cream, stiffly whipped

Whisk the yolks and icing sugar together until pale and very thick. Fold in the ginger and whipped cream. Using a clean whisk

Peach Ice Cream

Peaches are just coming into their own now so make the most of this most delicious of soft fruits!

6 ripe peaches

600ml pot double cream

397g can condensed milk



Put the peaches in a heatproof bowl and pour over boiling water. Leave for five minutes and peel off the skins and remove the stone.

Roughly chop them and set aside. Whisk the cream with the condensed milk until thickened slightly and falls in ribbons from the whisk. Add the peach chunks to the cream, stirring gently. Put

into a 2 litre plastic container and freeze for 3– 4 hours or overnight. Take out of the freezer 20 – 30 minutes before you want it.

Ice cream will settle happily in the freezer for at least a month - make all of these and you don't have to think about a treat for a while!



Reg Moule

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Creating a focal point in your garden with sculptures



I visited the gardens at Showborough by Twynning recently which inspired me to write this article about creating a focal point in your garden using sculptures and art. You might be thinking this is not your style, but hang on as I've got some ideas that you can implement at home that won't break the bank! Let's start with the basics – why would you create a focal point in the first place? Personally, I think having a focal point helps with the aesthetics and can tie in different garden elements. It's like creating the equivalent of the fireplace in the lounge but outside.

There are many types of focal points you can use such as

water features, trees, ornamental firepits and large pots/urns. If you use mirrors, please note, birds are unlikely to see them and can fly headfirst and injure themselves. In extreme cases, the sun can be reflected by the mirror onto a flammable product and start a fire. So please ensure any mirror is used in a safe place. It's important to consider what style you prefer and where you're going to place it. Such as enhancing the view from the kitchen window, in the heart of a courtyard, at the end of a path, or to draw attention to an otherwise overlooked area. What style would suit your home? Something contemporary made from stainless steel or metal or



something softer to suit a cottage garden which coordinates with natural materials such as willow and stone. For example, if you have a shady garden and not many colourful flowers are in bloom underneath a tree, you could add sculptural items such as these ceramic proteus flowers, or woven willow seed heads dotted through the border. These can add colour and interest all year round. If you have some gaps in the garden border, add a wooden plinth and place a decorative pot on top – coordinate the flower colours around the plinth with the pot such as this blue/grey pot with raspberry-coloured wallflowers. Once the



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wallflowers have finished flowering, add some magenta cosmos that will flower all summer long. If you want to add a shrub behind the pot, a dark purple-leaved shrub or tree such as a Japanese Maple will look fabulous.

If you prefer something more whimsical and fun, how about these fat hens – I thought they added so much joy to a boring fence post!

So be creative and add some colour and fun to your garden this summer – enjoy local days out to craft fairs and markets to pick up a unique find that's perfect for your plot!

July gardening tips

Early July

When sowing seeds water the bottom of the drill, sow seeds and cover with dry soil. This maintains moisture levels around the seeds for a longer period. Cut back straggly violas to encourage new shoots, Use trimmings for cuttings. Water and ventilate the greenhouse regularly. Take clematis cuttings. Conventionally, these are taken by cutting the stems into sections between the leaf joints but I find that they also root when cuttings are taken at the leaf joints too.

Prune plums, olives, fruiting and ornamental cherries now. Treat large cuts with wound paint but do it straightaway or it will not be effective. Prune and shape bay trees. They will tolerate fairly severe cutting back now.

Mid July

Keep camellias and magnolias moist at all times from now until early October. This is an essential aid to the setting of next year's blooms. Giving them

a couple of handfuls of sulphate of potash now helps as well. Trim hedges including conifer and other evergreen hedges. Be careful with water – early morning and late evening are the best watering times. If you have slug problems morning is better. There is no need to water the lawn. Take particular care of planted containers. Keep them fed, watered and dead headed. I find using a more potash orientated fertilizer like Phostrogen is good. Cut down herbaceous geraniums and poppies as they stop blooming to encourage new shoots. Give roses a boost with a dressing of rose fertilizer. If greenfly attack water lily foliage, just sink the leaves under the water for a few hours. Keep feeding and training tomatoes and other greenhouse fruiting plants. Try growing oriental vegetables, like Chinese cabbage, this is the best month for sowing. Sow beetroot, Florence fennel, Swiss chard, raddichio, and turnips in the veg. garden. Spray potato

Reg Moule *BBC Hereford & Worcester*

foliage with Vitax Copper Mixture or one of the plant invigorators if attacks of potato blight are likely. You could also try using soluble aspirin two tablets per gallon of water sprayed over the foliage two weeks. Prune summer fruiting raspberries after harvest by removing old, fruited canes. Air layer straggly houseplants, usually near the top, to create a new plant. Pinch out the tips of unwanted grape shoots after one leaf, to concentrate the plant's energy on fruiting. Take conifer cuttings from stems that are characteristic of the variety.

Late July

Thin out oxygenating plants in pools as they can cause problems if over abundant. Pinch out the tops of outdoor tomato plants once four trusses of fruit have formed. Sow parsley for winter use. Onions, garlic and shallots are ready to harvest when foliage turns yellow and bends over. Sow autumn / winter salads, e.g. claytonia, salad rocket,



corn salad, land cress, and winter hardy white Lisbon onions. Cut the old foliage off strawberry plants after harvest. New growth soon appears. Give them some sulphate of potash too. Take fuchsia cuttings to be trained as standards. Lantana, golden privet and elaeagnus are also suitable for training in this fashion. Take semi – ripe cuttings from most shrubs – they will root easily now. To encourage the production of plenty of embryo figs for ripening next year, pinch out the growing points of the new shoots once they have made five leaves.

A changing of the guard

Carol Draper

I usually comment on business or tax issues, but this month I would like to take the opportunity to reflect, say thank you and look forward.

Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co was established in 1981 by Laurie Clifton-Crick and Tony Sharp. In 1989 Laurie and Tony were joined by Peter Dann, who became a partner in 1992.

The Chartered Accountants firm of Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co. took over the premises of 40 High Street, Pershore in 1991, having lost patience with the regular flooding of its office at Band House in Worcester.

As time progressed Tony left to pursue his interests in Jazz and Bee Keeping and some years later Laurie retired. Peter took control of the company and established Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd in March 2012.

Before joining Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co, Peter worked in industry, including spending some years at Allen Gears in Pershore. While retaining his interest in industry, with a level of intelligence that is often awe inspiring he has expanded his expertise and is never happier



than when he is dealing with complex and detailed business and tax transactions. However, time marches on and after 35 years with Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Peter has decided to pass on the baton.

Looking to the future Peter says "I am delighted to report that Carol has agreed to take over the practice which means a trouble-free transition for all our clients. Carol, together with Meinir, Karen and Ysabella, are a hard-working and gifted team which will preserve our reputation for top-quality and friendly service."

From my point of view, while Peter's inability to operate a basic filing system can be exasperating, I will miss his calm, considered approach to issues and his ability to look at problems from different angles. I will even miss the numerous queries on computer systems that never work for him! Peter, you will leave a big hole. Thank you for taking me on in 2003 and here's looking forward to the continued success of Clifton-Crick Sharp.

Carol Draper FCCA
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd



Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co

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Une Aventure Francaise

Angela Johns

I've just returned from a blissful trip across the French countryside. Even the stretches of motorway between forays through quiet, quaint villages and cycles down empty, endless country lanes, were simple and straightforward. Quality, well-maintained road surfaces, no middle lane hoppers and plenty of 'Aires' for comfort breaks, many with fabulous views.

Leaving the car in Toulouse, we cycled our way to the coast along the Canal du Midi, country lanes, up and down hills, through gorges; via cafes, local markets, hotspots and softspots. All fuelled by the curiosity of what the next leg of our journey would bring, along with picnics that included plenty of cheese, olives and fresh baguette.

My schoolgirl French grew from simple manners and 'please may I have' to a fair description relayed our rental host back in Toulouse about our travels South, the last time I washed my hair, all about the weather and the camping sites. Perhaps my pronunciation was a bit rudimentary at times as he didn't look as nearly impressed as I felt about my little speech. I was rather chuffed I could utilise the 5 minutes daily French lessons I've been doing since Lockdown.

I didn't get the welcoming committee I had imagined on my return home. I had to eat the beautiful patisserie pastry I'd bought as a present fresh that morning on a last visit to the boulangerie, as the recipient decided to spend another night at his girlfriend's and I just couldn't let it go to waste. I took a photo of it to prove just how delicious a present it was (with just a hint of "Well I thought you would be here when I got home" plus sad face emoji).

When the stars aligned and we finally all got together to swap news and stories from our time



apart, it felt good, It's great to hear the highlights and the funny, but also the ordinariness and the not quite perfect. That's the thing about sharing your experiences in life. The retelling makes you feel more connected and understood. It also makes you see your experience is as individual as you are. The same but different. Not nearly as important to anyone else as it is to you. Your holiday photos might be seen with a detached interest unless you find the common thread that pulls you together – a shared dream, a me too, or simply a happiness in your happiness.

Telling our stories is important and meaningful. Our desire to be heard matching our desire to feel that we belong. The content may differ but our feelings and emotions are common between us. We think we are alone until someone makes you feel that they have said, "I hear you".

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

You can find her at angelajohns.co.uk

Financial advice of true family value
 Nick.Morris@sjpp.co.uk • avongreenfinancial.co.uk

Replacement parts - a good idea?

A good reason for writing my book is because, where the body is concerned, prevention is ALWAYS better than cure. I was in a shop recently and overheard a conversation between a customer and the person behind the counter. 'I see you are back, how did the hip replacement go?' The reply, 'I'm much better thanks, not so much pain now.' Customer replied, 'they're good these replacement parts aren't they, my mum has had two hips and a shoulder and they are just going to do her other shoulder, she doesn't get out much but at least she isn't in pain.' I couldn't believe what I had just heard! All these medical interventions, and she doesn't get out much!! I had a client come up from Somerset recently, she had had a hip replacement in January. A very active triathlete, she specifically requested (after hearing from others) not to have her leg length changed, as it would really impact her activities. Unfortunately the surgeon increased her leg length by 1cm! When you have an increased (or shortened) leg length you REALLY do understand that 'staying aligned' really matters. You cannot walk around successfully, with even a half centimetre difference, without impacting your whole structure. (I often have clients who have been told they have one leg longer than the other when it isn't the case at all. It is generally an elevated hip - that wasn't considered in the assessment - or a flat foot on one side and not the other.) How is the other hip going to bear the weight? Does the

pelvic and spinal position change? Will there be back and shoulder problems? Yes, yes and yes! What if the option is fusing rather than replacing, is that any better? Fusing, whether it's a big toe or a spinal vertebrae, it stands to reason that fusing anything that is designed to move is asking for trouble. What happens to the parts around the 'problem area' that are reliant on that movement? They have to work harder of course, which makes them wear out quicker; again the whole structure feels the difference. I have a book called 'Crooked, outwitting the back pain industry' by Cathryn Jakobson Ramin; amongst many topics she mentions a legendary German orthopedist who has trained more than three thousand surgeons in fifty-five countries to implant spinal disc replacements. Out of ear-shot of his colleagues he said, 'you know, with fusion, we are just doing a brutal thing to the spine. It's almost medieval to fuse everything and eliminate the function and take the muscles away from their insertion points so that the spine can no longer work.' He thought he had found a better way with an implant, but no one knew how long they would last and a trail of damaged patients was left behind. Brutal it is!

Please don't let 'replacement parts' become the norm, please treat the marvellous piece of machinery that is your body with respect. My book will help with this.

"It just makes so much sense"

STAYING ALIGNED

The foundation for a pain-free, healthy body.

Karen Harris

OUT NOW!

The book that will help you **MAKE THE CHANGE!**

Available on Amazon

What does alignment mean to you?

Emily Papirnik



Are Your Ducks in a Row?

Is that what alignment means to you? Is the idea of having everything perfectly lined up a source of frustration because it often feels unattainable?

Having your "ducks in a row" is a common metaphor for organisational precision and preparedness. It suggests a sense of control and readiness, but the pursuit of this perfect order can sometimes be overwhelming. Often, life doesn't allow for such precision, and this misalignment can lead to stress and sense of failure. Understanding that life is inherently messy and imperfect can be a more compassionate and realistic approach.

Energetic Alignment

Consider enabling flow through eastern principles such as healing practices, chakra balancing and acupuncture with meridians. Energetic Alignment involves the harmonious flow of energy throughout the body, impacting physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. By integrating these practices, one can achieve a more profound sense of harmony and vitality, addressing not just physical symptoms but also underlying energetic imbalances.

Letting Go

Is alignment about allowing what needs to be dropped, released, or let go? This aspect of alignment involves the process of emotional and mental decluttering. It is about recognising what no longer serves your growth or well-being and having the courage to let it go. This can include outdated beliefs, toxic relationships, and personal growth. It is a continual process of assessment and release, ensuring that your internal and external environments support your highest good.

Body Alignment

Body alignment to support better movement is something I address almost every day. Physical alignment refers to the optimal positioning of the body's structures to ensure efficient function and to minimise stress and injury.

Personal Experience

When I feel aligned, nothing can stop me. I move forward with purpose, inspiration comes thick and fast, I don't find myself questioning what I feel or understand. This personal state of alignment is characterised by clarity, confidence and a sense of flow. It is when your goals, actions and values are in harmony leading to a profound sense of fulfilment and effectiveness.

Alignment can mean different things to different people. Whether it's about physical health, emotional balance, or achieving harmony in life, the concept of alignment plays a crucial role in how we move forward and find purpose. Embracing alignment in its various forms can lead to a more balanced, harmonious and fulfilling life. It's a personal journey of continuous adjustment and growth, ensuring that all aspects of your being are working together towards your highest potential.

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Tuesday 16th July at 2pm
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*For more details, contact Sally Whyte,
Speaker Coordinator on
u3apershoresally@gmail.com
www.u3asites.org.uk/pershore/home*

**Summer
Garden Party**
Sunday 21st July 2024
from 2 – 4 p.m.

at The Tynings,
(A National Garden Scheme participant)
Church Lane, Stoulton.
Entrance £8 (children £4)

To include homemade cake and tea/coffee
(to be served in Stoulton Village Hall)

Live Folk Band, Plants for sale
(Church will be open with flowers in the church)

All proceeds will go to St Edmund's Church Fabric Fund




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**Angel Bombing
Community Project 2024**



Calling all knitters and Crocheters!

Can you help us to share some Christmas Joy around the
Communities of Severnside Parishes for December 2024?
We are asking for your help to knit or crochet
as many Angels as we can before December 2024.
So in December we can Angel Bomb the communities in Norton,
Kempsey and Severn Stoke with a host of yarn Angels!

Join us on Fridays
at Create and join in
with other creatives, knitting
at St Marys Church, Kempsey
from 9.30 to 12pm during term time.



There will be yarn and patterns available for you to use in the church.
If you prefer to make the Angels at home, please contact us for the pattern.

St Marys Church, Church Street, Kempsey, Worcester WR5 3JH
Email: kay.mason@motov8.org.uk or Call: 07921 122802



**Artisan Craft Fair
St Denys Church**

Severn Stoke Worcestershire WR89JQ

Saturday 13th July 2024 10:00am - 4:00pm
We are raising funds to modernise our church.

Selling refreshments, raffle tickets & lots of lovely stalls
*Stalls selling paintings, cards, candles, silk scarfs, crochet toys,
knitted blankets, handmade soaps & melts, crystals, wildlife
photos, preserves, honey, help pets in care &
Amicii Trust Dog Rescue.*

Please come & support us & these lovely stall holders
*We cannot guarantee card machines will work, so
please bring cash with you ☺*

We look forward to seeing you at our first Artisan craft fair
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Top of the Town



When the invitation to review the Brighton i360 first dropped into my Inbox my first thought was "but what is it?". I soon learned that it's a glass viewing pod that rises to 450 feet above Brighton beach. Imagine a transparent doughnut with a thin stick through it and you get the general idea.

We quickly decided that the best way to Brighton from here was to ditch the car and let the train take the strain. We went on the new Great Western Hitachi train from Pershore but the new Worcestershire Parkway station has the advantage of both more car parking and a convenient X50 connecting bus service. The train was clean and comfortable – I particularly liked the fact that the filter coffee, served at seat, was as good if not better than those served in chain coffee houses, but a little bit cheaper. We arrived in London Paddington station on time. That has also had a make-over and the toilets there are now, actually, free. There's progress for you! Those of us who enjoy having Bus passes will know that Buses in London are free for us to use – but not the Underground. So we chose to travel across Town

to Victoria station by Bus. This takes you via the West End and all the posh shops. So we had a good look around Liberty's and enjoyed a nice lunch there before going on to Brighton. (We did much the same on the way back, stopping at Fortnum and Mason's where our lunch, served by pleasant and helpful staff, of two big-ish Welsh rarebits followed by two scones apiece with copious amounts of cream and jam washed down with a big pot of tea cost us just under £40 in total). Our Hotel in Brighton was the Metropole, formally the Doubletree by Hilton Brighton Metropole, and again we found a pleasant ambience with a helpful and courteous staff. Our room was comfortable and the sea views quite spectacular. I enjoyed a room service breakfast on the Sunday morning (well, it was Father's Day) but the following morning's breakfast buffet was a real treat given the range and variety of food on offer (and, yes, they have genuine Lea and Perrins Worcestershire sauce available). The Metropole was originally a splendid Victorian edifice and the recent renovations have only

served to enhance it further. Look on the Hilton website for the best deals at www.hilton.com

It's only a short hop from there to the tower of the i360 and we went there on the Saturday night for a cocktail or two whilst also drinking in the spectacular views. There was quite a range to choose from so we settled for a Sussex Daiquiri and a Cherry Reef (sort of vodka based), both of which were a reasonable £12 and £14 apiece. The following day we went back in daylight just to savour the views all along the coast in both directions and as far inland as the South Downs. Here follows a true confession. I was offered the chance to take a walk around the roof of the pod, 450 feet above the beach, but decided against it. If I'd gone ahead then an instructor would have led me up a ladder to the roof and then clipped me to a safety harness. I could then have taken a 360 degree walk around the viewing tower. If that's the kind of thing that appeals to you then a Walk 360 ticket costs just £40. Ordinary tickets, bought online cost just £18.50 per adult and the evening Sky Bar experience costs £28.80 if booked online.

Brian Johnson-Thomas

Children and OAP's get a discount.

For further details see:

www.brightoni360.co.uk

Back at home the Longborough Festival Opera (just outside Stow on the Wold) is well into its spectacular Season showing the whole of Wagner's Ring Cycle, which is – as you might expect – sold out. They do, however, have tickets available for two extra performances of Die Walkure on July 12th and 14th as well as Puccini's La Boheme which is being staged between 27 July and 6 August. See www.LFO.org.uk for details. Finally, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford on Avon have announced some Summer activities, including a brand new season of free performances by community and youth groups in the Holloway Garden Theatre running from Saturday 20th July to Sunday 1st September. These performances will complement productions of As You Like It and Two Gentlemen of Verona performed by the theatre's Next Generation Act young company, which runs from Thursday 18th July and Thursday 22nd August respectively.

See www.rsc.org.uk for more details.



Thoughts from the Snug . . .

Insubordination. Bawdy banter preferred by veterans.

Inspired by the 'D'Day remembrance events (and the recent VE celebrations) Snug discussion wandered around tales we had been told by veterans of various wars and conflicts. It was noted that most of the stories were light, amusing and often very irreverent accounts. Rarely, we recalled, had we heard any veteran from any conflict recount the truly horrific, awful detail that they must have endured. We realise these (sometimes bawdy) accounts of their war helped to soften and reduce the actual reality and brutality of conflict. Funny anecdotes were a counterpoint to the terrible conditions they suffered. All services personnel have stories of evil drill sergeants, unnecessary hair-cuts, square bashing, punishments like cleaning toilets with a toothbrush and medical examinations.

A favourite story from the late, great Spike Milligan in his self-deprecating memoir, 'Hitler. My part in his downfall' illustrates the point very well. Spike was attending his first medical examination and the Medical Officer ordered Spike to go behind the screen and take his clothes off. Spike enquired, "Shouldn't you at least ask me out to dinner first?" The M.O. was not amused! Result? A charge for insubordination.

We like insubordination, as it is a most entertaining and welcome distraction from reality.

Buddy Bach

Poets' Corner

A Shropshire Lad

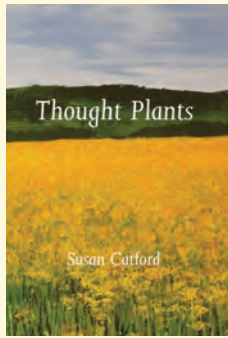
Reveille VI

When the lad for longing sighs,
Mute and dull of cheer and pale,
If at death's own door he lies,
Maiden, you can heal his ail.

Lovers' ills are all to buy:
The wan look, the hollow tone,
The hung head, the sunken eye,
You can have them for your own.

Buy them, buy them: eve and morn
Lovers' ills are all to sell.
Then you can lie down forlorn;
But the lover will be well.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936



'Thought Plants' is Susan's first book and is a new collection of writing and poems exploring ideas, events and everyday life. At times serious and thoughtful, at others enjoying the whimsical, lighter side of things. It has grown surprisingly well from early seeds and a fertile imagination.

120 pages A5 full colour illustrated by Susan Catford

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Spot & Shop - June Winners

- 1) Tim Gutteridge
- 2) Tina Haines
- 3) Andrew Bale
- 4) Jayne Fuller

**Last month's answer:
Pilates for All**

Fun Quiz!



1. Which World Cup Finals tournament first allowed in game substitution?
2. Who scored the most goals in the 2016-2017 Premier League?
3. Edson Arantes do Nascimento is the birth name of which famous footballer?
4. What is the minimum number of games required to win the FA Cup?
5. Who is the most red carded player in El Clasico?
6. What is Southampton Football Club nicknamed?
7. Which famous footballer released an autobiography called 'Sober: Football. My Story. My Life.'?
8. Who plays at Blundell Park?
9. Which two teams competed in the 2017 FA Cup Final?
10. What nationality is Edgar Davids?
11. Which retired Colombian goalkeeper performed the famous 'Scorpion Kick'?
12. Which football club did Elton John become chairman of in 1976?
13. What year was FIFA created?
14. Which corporation became the Premier League's official ball supplier in the 2000/2001 season?
15. Which football team is nicknamed 'The Magpies'?
16. True or False: FIFA has more country members than the United Nations?
17. Who became manager of Chelsea in 2016?
18. Who won the World Cup in 1938?
19. Which Premier League team has a canyon on their badge?
20. Who won the European Golden Shoe award for the 2016/2017 season?

Answers: 1. 1970 tournament 2. Harry Kane (21 goals) 3. Pele 4. Six 5. Sergio Ramos 6. The Saints 7. Tony Adams 8. Grimsby Town F.C. 9. Arsenal and Chelsea 10. Dutch 11. Rene Higuita 12. Watford F.C. 13. 1904 14. Nike 15. Newcastle United 16. True 17. Antonio Conte 18. Italy 19. Arsenal 20. Lionel Messi



COMPETITION TIME!

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



- This month's prizes!**
- 1st - £25 cash
Donated by Royal Oak, Kinnersley
 - 2nd - Cotswold & Beyond Book
Value £20
 - 3rd - Reg Moule's Gardening Diary
Value £10
 - 4th - Pat's Pantry -
Jar of home-made marmalade

Complete and return this form or email:
news@hughes.company for your chance to win!
Kempsey Times closing date: 29th July 2024

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Telephone/email: _____

Return to: Kempsey Times, Hughes & Company
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Letters to the Editor

The July issue of Kempsey Times will be the last to be delivered to those who subscribed to KLINKS. We want to thank those who delivered our magazine over many, many years, all this was voluntary, they have now earned a long deserved rest. Our thanks must go to Alan Hughes who stepped in when Klinks came to an end. He very kindly took on all the costs of those who advertised in Klinks

and put them in the Kempsey Times which saved the church a considerable amount of money. Thank you so much Alan.
You will of course still be able to get the Kempsey Times from various places including the St. Mary's church. These will be in the porch as well as in the church itself.
Thank you once again.

Julia Grant

Dear Editor,
Re: From the Snug Cricket
Really humorous!
Could have also mentioned The Scorer who never scores a Run and Runs, how they Re-scored by running the length of the Wicket - not to confuse Wicket with Stump
And
4 or 6 Runs are scored for a Boundary without the Batter having to run at all .
Plus,

when a Batter is OUT he goes IN(to the Pavilion) and someone who is IN there comes OUT
And, of course, some foreigners have thought the whole process is a RAIN CEREMONY
Just added thoughts; No offence intended to the Writer.

Ken Harris

Dear Editor,
Having read your interesting article in the Upton Times Magazine - I thought I'd get in touch as it brought to mind that in about 1940 when our family was closely involved in the blitz in Birmingham and we were constantly in danger - my parents brought us to Worcester. Having nowhere to go - somehow my parents found the Ballingers farm in Clifton, and they looked after us all in their lovely farmhouse - then - they cleared a cottage in the village - where we lived

happily for quite a while - and my sister and I went to the school at Severn Stoke. (now a private house I believe) I am nearly 95 now but I can remember quite a lot. There was a Rimell boy who sat behind me in the classroom, can't remember his Christian name, but he was very nice indeed, unlike the boy sitting next to him! The Ballingers were simply wonderful - I will never forget.
Yours sincerely

Barbara M Briscoe (Mrs)

TOOLS WITH A MISSION

This charity collects and refurbishes gardening, carpentry, building tools, sewing machines and bicycles for distribution in Africa.

We collect them here in Kempsey and send them to a national centre to be shipped to needy families.

Please telephone Joy Clee 01905 820317

Weddings



*At St. Mary's. Kempsey between James Gregory and Leanne Challoner
8th June 2024*



*At St. Denys. Severn Stoke between Daniel Camm and Fiona Daly
8th June 2024*

The Walter de Cantelupe Inn Kempsey

Tickets £25 Under 12s £20 Under 3s free

Spanish Summer Paella Party
SUNDAY 21st JULY 2024
STARTS 1PM

followed by an evening of Ibiza/House/Classic music and laser show

then a DJ set till dusk

Scan the Pan

Useful numbers

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- Kempsey Mobile Library
- Second Tuesday in the month 01905 822722
- Kempsey Police Station 101
-(In an emergency always call 999)
- CrimeStoppers 0800 555 111
- Kempsey Post Office 01905 828469
- Kempsey Doctors Surgery 01905 820466
- Kempsey Parish Council 01905 828183
- MHDC Council
- Out of hours Emergency hotline - In an event of an emergency call: 0300 003 5367
- 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 01684 862490
- Planning Dept 01684 862221
- Pot Holes 01905 765765
- Severn Stoke Parish Council 07950 256363

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Copy Deadline
August Issue - 22nd July 2024



- Green recycling bin
- Black waste bin

JULY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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OCTOBER

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Kempsey Times



David Annis swims for Great Britain

David Annis from Pershore has been selected to swim for Great Britain in the Junior Europeans in Lithuania at the beginning of July.

18-year-old David was first selected to swim for GB in December 2023 where he travelled to Canada with the team and competed at his first international meet.

David took home five medals, four silver and a gold in the 4 x 200 metre freestyle relay where the team took the European junior record.

David continued his success in the recent British Championships in London where his performance gained him a place in the GB Junior team competing in Lithuania. David will race in the 400 and 200 individual medley, 400 and



200 freestyle and the 4 x 200 freestyle relay. Pershore Swimming Club Head Coach said: "David is a dedicated, hardworking athlete who has been a great role model to so many swimmers throughout the county. We wish him every success."

Swimming Club Qualified



Pershore Swimming Club qualified and competed in the SwimGainz A Final at the Alan Higgs Sports Centre in Coventry on Saturday 1st June. The team finished in 5th place after some really strong swims from the young up and coming swimmers at the club.

Head Coach Tom Naughton said:

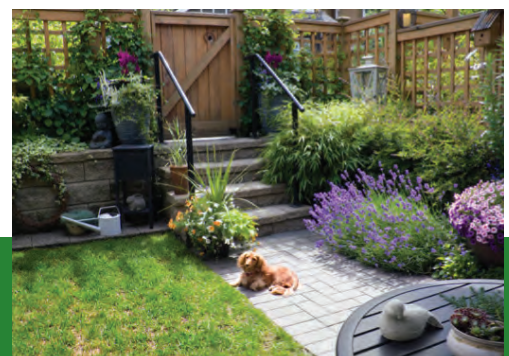
"Great to see the young swimmers really racing hard to win, putting into the race what they had been working on in training. Well done to everyone!"

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