

Kempsey Times

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



Issue 27

July 2026

FREE



The Talbot Pub on a sunny day

Summer has arrived with a vengeance! We have heard warnings all over the place and we are being advised to take precautions against heatstroke and dehydration. Fortunately, the heatwave will not last long and we soon will be back to normal temperatures. In the meantime take care! Lots has been happening in Westminster, culminating with the resignation of the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer.

This seems to be a regular event these days as we have had seven Prime Ministers in ten years! We will have to see what happens, but it is all very disruptive.

We are now deep into the Fifa World Cup. England made a tremendous start but we seem to have stumbled a little in our last match. We need to do

better in our next game to make sure we qualify for the play off section. The world of cricket looked very good after the first test against New Zealand, but they gave us quite a drubbing in the second test. The next match should be very thrilling. We have started a newspaper in Tibberton this month. This is a very exciting development and we now publish seven newspapers. Each of the papers are online and we have 'today' as our daily update for late

news. We are continually told that the country is in an economic crisis. We are so busy in our little world that we don't have time to think about it! Enjoy the summer!

Explore our website
www.hughescompany.uk
featuring
today!
Online news, products
and services!

 **WORCESTER
PODIATRY**



**TAKING
ON NEW
PATIENTS**

01905 428434

Expert care for all your foot health needs

Come and see us for:

- Chiropody
- Verruca treatment
- Fungal nail care
- Pain & injury management
- Shock wave therapy
- Laser treatment
- Custom orthotics

info@worcesterpodiatry.co.uk

www.worcesterpodiatryandlasercentre.co.uk

Scan to book online



Edwards
MOTORS



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

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

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



KIA 01905 828828



MAZDA 01905 828800

Edwards
MOTORHOMES



NEW & USED SALES
DEDICATED TEAM
OF SPECIALISTS
HABITATION
SERVICING
PAINT, BODY
AND FIBREGLASS REPAIRS



AUTO TRAIL ROLLER TEAM Hobby motor

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

19 MAIN ROAD, KEMPSEY, WORCESTER WR5 3PA

**SOLAR STILL
WORTH IT IN 2026?**

**INTERNATIONAL
PRICES
INCREASING
SOON**



2020 www.2020solarpv.com
SOLAR PV 01386 802020

• Local Company • 16 Years in Business

County and District Report

Councillor Martin Allen



You might have seen reports in the press or heard on the radio about concerns at County Hall, and I know many of you will understandably be worried. People want reassurance that these issues are being dealt with responsibly, and councillors from different parties are now working together to tackle the County Council's debts and help put it on a firmer footing for the future. I'm not interested in

apportioning blame, but I do want to be clear to you: I voted against this year's 9% council tax increase, and I will not support a 9% rise next year.

The Talbot Head Hotel in Upton sold



Many of you will know about the long-running situation with the Talbot Head Hotel in Upton. I'm pleased to say there is some good news at last, as the building has now been sold to Colston Bakeries of Malvern. I recently spoke to one of the three directors, Peter Clarke, who was very open and encouraging about their plans. Their immediate priority has been to make the building watertight by repairing the roof and gullies. The outbuilding is expected to

be removed, and the two flats will be restored so they can be rented out again as soon as possible. There are no firm plans yet for the rest of the building, as some planning and careful thought will be needed before any further work begins. I have offered Peter and Colston Bakeries my full support, and it will be wonderful to see this much-loved building brought back into use, especially with the rowing lake hopefully opening next year.

Severn Stoke Bund finally starts



After a long wait, work on the Severn Stoke Bund is finally under way. One of the main jobs will be to raise Ham Lane. I spoke to the site manager in mid-June, and he's hopeful that most of the work will be finished by the end of September 2026. As you'd expect with a big outdoor project like this, progress

on the earthworks will depend a lot on the weather. A good deal of the material is coming from Holly Green, which is why many of you may have spotted the large mound of earth on the way to and from Upton. I'll keep an eye on how things are progressing and share further updates when I can.



Cllrs Louis Stephen, Martin Allen & Rebecca Rollinson

Beechwood Planting

During a visit last year, I noticed that people living in Beechwood would benefit from new planters, especially ones at the correct height for accessibility, so they could easily plant seeds. I was delighted to support this project with funding. On my most recent visit, I was thrilled to see the new planters were filled with beans, carrots, lettuce, and many other varieties. As an avid gardener myself, I know firsthand the physical and mental benefits of growing your own food.

Home Manager, Julie Wattis (on the far left of the photo) said: "Gardening is important to our residents, and they have thoroughly enjoyed planting various vegetables and two

Clematis and taking on the role of watering them. Pictures of the residents doing the planting are on our Beechwood Facebook Page for all to see."

I just wanted to let you know that there is coffee and cake available each Friday from 10:30am to 12:00pm. This initiative is designed to promote social inclusion and build meaningful connections. Additionally, there's now a Mother and Toddler group held on the first Tuesday of each month from 10:30am to 11:30am.

For more information, please contact Julie Wattis or her team by calling 01684 595959 or emailing julie.wattis@sanctuary.co.uk

ways; being a councillor is a bit like being a gardener: just when everything seems tidy and under control, the heavens open and a whole new crop of problems appears. One thing is certain – my life is never dull. As ever, I'm here if you need me.

Martin Allen

And finally ...

While the wonderful news about the Talbot is very welcome, I wish I could say the same for my veg plot. The cucumbers are struggling, while the weeds seem to be thriving. I know the events at County Hall are worrying for many people, and they concern me too. In many

Free Advertising

All start-up businesses will be eligible for three months free advertising.

The size of the free colour advertisement will be 1/8th page

To start a business, you need courage, belief and determination.

We are here to help you achieve success!

Hughes & Company

Printers & Publishers

Pershore, Worcs

Tel: 01386 803803 Email: news@hughes.company

A few words from... Dame Harriett Baldwin MP



Pledging Action on Student Loans

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP has welcomed an investigation into the cost of student loans, which have been made considerably more expensive after the Chancellor raised £7.5 billion in her last budget over the next five years by freezing the repayment threshold for longer. The Treasury Select Committee today launched an inquiry into the student loans system with experts and Government Ministers called to give evidence on the repayments which affect hundreds of thousands of graduates. Dame Harriett is a member of the House of Commons committee and had asked students to share their concerns and experiences ahead of the inquiry. The controversial 'Plan 2' scheme sees some graduates paying back more than expected as repayment

thresholds to pay back loans did not keep pace with inflation and interest rates have been varied during their loan agreement. "This has been a significant issue in my postbag and I encouraged local people to share their own concerns with the committee which will assess the policy," said Dame Harriett. "Getting a university degree is a big financial commitment for a long period of time and while it is often the right choice, people need clarity and stability in order to budget properly. A Conservative Government would scrap the profit element of Plan 2 student loans by only charging interest in line with inflation. We'd fund this by scrapping low-earning degrees that don't improve job prospects. We'd also fund 100,000 new apprenticeships for 18-21-year-old. We must give young people the best start in life."

Tales from my travels

Lucy Clayton-Smith



On 8th October 2024, I hauled my large backpack onto my shoulders (it didn't last long), hugged goodbye to my mum at Heathrow and set off for Livingstone, Zambia.

At 36, I took the opportunity to pack up my corporate life in London and try travelling the world. I had made a list of reasons to go, but high amongst them was the passing of Dame Deborah James, fondly known as Bowel Babe, who so sadly lost her life aged 40. We never truly know what life has in store for us, so I decided not to put my dreams on hold any longer. One month turned into over fourteen months of travel across five continents and twenty-one countries. People often ask me about my favourite place, but I don't really have one. I adored South America and loved my time in Africa. Both felt

wonderfully real and authentic to me, not to mention the incredible wildlife, which in places like Livingstone is often right on your doorstep!

Many countries hold special memories and experiences, and I look forward to sharing more of these travel tales in future editions, if I'm invited back!

When I returned to Worcestershire earlier this year, I launched Curated by Clayton-Smith. My business is inspired by my own experiences, the countries I travelled through and the lessons I learnt along the way.

Because I came to realise that travel isn't just about the destinations we visit. It's about how travel makes us feel; the memories we create, the people we meet, the perspectives we gain and the experiences that stay with us long after we return home.

For care homes Help us recycle community equipment

When residents no longer need their community equipment, returning it promptly means another patient can benefit sooner.

What You Can Do

- Notify the equipment service when a resident is discharged or passes away
- Designate a Recycling Champion in your home
 - Store equipment safely for collection
 - Keep equipment labels and ID tags intact

To arrange a collection, contact the Community Equipment Service

WHCNHS.CommunityEquipmentService@nhs.net
01905 520832

www.hacw.nhs.uk/services/service/worcestershire-community-equipment-service-44/#service-how-to-arrange-a-collection-tab



The following equipment can be provided to care homes, anything else would need to be provided by the care home:

Walking stick; walking frames/crutches; syringe pumps
Bespoke Slings; mattresses and cushions medium to high risk - following assessment
Alternating Dynamic (and pump); overlays/mattresses/cushions, medium to high risk - following assessment

Different rules apply to Nursing Homes, please contact the service if you require clarification.

Northanger Abbey at the Worcester Rep

Worcester Repertory Company has announced the full cast for *Northanger Abbey*, an upcoming outdoor production taking place this July at The Commandery Gardens in Worcester. 2026 marks the Worcester Repertory Company's 19th outdoor theatre production at The Commandery, with *Northanger Abbey* promising a playful, musical, and just-a-little-bit-scary take on Jane Austen's coming-of-age novel. The role of Catherine Morland will be played by Charlie Fraser-Swarbrick, who returns after portraying Marianne Dashwood in Worcester Rep Company's hugely successful production of *Sense and Sensibility* last year. Also returning to Worcester Rep Company are Julia Bentley, who will play Eleanor Tilney and Mrs Allen, and Nate Harter, who will take on the roles of John Thorpe and Henry Tilney. Alex Whitworth will portray Isabella Thorpe and Mrs Morland, while George Ormerod will play James Morland, General Tilney and Frederick Tilney. Jane Austen's joyful romance follows the naïve Catherine Morland, whose obsession with



(L-R) Charlie Fraser-Swarbrick and Julia Bentley in last year's production of *Sense and Sensibility*

Gothic horror novels fuels her overactive imagination. When she is invited to stay at Northanger Abbey, nothing is quite as it seems. Thankfully, she finds a down-to-earth suitor in Henry Tilney, although his unusual family may prove just as mysterious as her beloved novels. This version of *Northanger Abbey* is adapted and directed by Paul Milton, who returns following last year's production of *Sense and Sensibility*. The production promises to transport audiences to Regency England

for a fabulous few hours of romance, laughter, and gothic satire. Theatregoers are encouraged to bring a picnic of their favourite snacks and tipples to enjoy the outdoor theatre experience surrounded by the beautiful gardens at The Commandery. Chairs are available to hire from The Commandery, but visitors are equally welcome to bring their own chairs or picnic blankets. Ticket prices start at £10.50 for under-25s and £21.00 for adults. A Flexi Ticket, priced between £15.50

and £23.00, is also available, allowing audiences to choose their preferred performance on the day rather than booking far in advance. A £3.50 transaction fee applies to all ticket purchases. 'Northanger Abbey' runs from Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th July and Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th July.

To purchase tickets, visit worcestertheatres.co.uk/whats-on/northanger-abbey Contact the Box Office team on 01905 611427

Visit the team at Huntingdon Hall.

Helping you
buy your
dream home
with confidence

RICS Home Surveys & Valuations

We pride ourselves in our local knowledge,
value for money service, expertise in property
of all ages and excellent customer service.



Talk to our team of Chartered Surveyors



Scan the QR code to find out more

GJS Dillon

The House Surveyors

t: 01905 28684

www.thehousesurveyors.co.uk

Citizens Advice

citizens
advice

When a couple separate disputes can arise about money, children and possessions. Mediation is a way of sorting any differences between you and your ex-partner, with the help of a third person who won't take sides. The third person is called a mediator. They can help you reach an agreement about issues in dispute.

You can try mediation before going to a solicitor. If you go to a solicitor first, they'll probably talk to you about whether using mediation first could help and it's better to try and reach an agreement through mediation if you can. This is because you could save money in legal fees and it can be easier to solve any differences. You usually have to go to a first meeting with a mediator before you apply to court. If you apply to the court, you might need to show you've at least been to the first meeting with a mediator. This is called a 'mediation information and assessment meeting' (MIAM). You need to show you've been to a MIAM if you apply to the court to either:

- Decide how money is split between you and your ex-

partner when you separate

- Make a decision about your children - e.g. who they'll live with or how much contact you'll have with them

Mediation isn't free, but it's quicker and cheaper than going to court. If the differences between you and your ex-partner are about a child, you might be able to get a free voucher worth up to £500 for mediation. Check if you qualify for the Family Mediation Voucher Scheme on Gov.uk.

If you're on a low income, you might also be able to get legal aid to pay for:

- The introductory meeting - this covers both of you, even if only one of you qualifies for legal aid.
- One mediation session, which covers both of you.
- More mediation sessions - only the person who qualifies for legal aid will be covered.
- Help from a solicitor after mediation, for example to make your agreement legally binding. You can find your nearest family mediator on the Family Mediation Council website.

From the Parish Council



Solar Power for a Brighter Future at Kempsey Youth Centre Kempsey

Youth Centre is taking an exciting step towards a greener, more sustainable future with the installation of new solar panels, a project proudly part-funded by the Malvern Hills District Council Legacy Fund. This investment marks a significant milestone in the Parish Council's commitment to reducing carbon emissions, lowering energy costs, and improving the long-term resilience of community facilities. The Youth Centre supports a wide range of activities for young people throughout the week. By introducing renewable energy generation on site, the Parish Council is ensuring that the building becomes more environmentally responsible while also reducing running costs—freeing up resources that can be reinvested into community spaces.

What's Happening and When?
To prepare for the installation, a series of scheduled works will take place over the coming weeks:

Mon 22nd June

A concrete pad will be installed on the western elevation of the building (to the right-hand side). This will house the new battery storage unit, enabling the centre to store and use solar energy efficiently.

Fri 31st July to Mon 3rd August
Scaffolding will be erected

around the building to allow safe access for contractors.

Mon 3rd August

Solar panels will be installed on the roof. All external works are expected to be completed by the end of the day.

Public Safety and Access

The Parish Council would like to reassure all users that the Youth Centre will remain fully open and operational throughout the works. Activities, clubs, and bookings will continue as normal. Visitors are kindly asked to follow any instructions provided by contractors and avoid fenced-off zones while equipment is in use. If you have any questions about the works, please contact the Parish Office.

Pavilion Community Café Expands Its Offer After Wonderful Community Feedback

The Pavilion Community Café continues to go from strength to strength, with visitors sharing fantastic feedback about the warm welcome, friendly atmosphere and great coffee served at the Pavilion on Plovers Rise. The Parish Council is delighted that the café has quickly become a valued meeting place for families, walkers, sports groups and residents looking for a relaxed community space. Thanks to this growing support, the café team is now expanding the offer to include a range of savoury options, including freshly toasted paninis —



perfect for a light bite after a walk or an afterschool quick tea. Residents can stay up to date with new menu items, special treats and extended opening hours planned for the summer holidays by following the café's Facebook page: Kempsey Pavilion Community Café. The Parish Council encourages everyone to tell a friend, neighbour or teammate about the café. As a new community venture, spreading the word helps ensure more people know we're here and can enjoy everything the café has to offer. The Pavilion Community Café is proud to be growing with the support of the community — and there's plenty more to come.

Planning report

Just when it was (nearly) time to breathe a sigh of relief, the proposal for 99 dwellings off Napleton lane with access from Bannut Hill is, like a bad penny, back again. Hallam Land has appealed against the refusal of planning permission. Although they asked for a full-blown inquiry, the Planning Inspectorate has decided on a hearing. Hallam suggest this is a 'downgrade' but this is not so. The Inspector will have seen all the evidence, will decide what the main matters to be decided are and will lead a discussion to clarify any uncertainties. No courtroom antics, no leading questions and no cross examination, just a 'chat' to fill in any missing pieces - hopefully. The hearing is set for 8th September 2026, with further details to follow.

For now, Hallam's numerous documents can be seen on www.malvern hills.gov.uk/planning, Application M/25/00323/OUT – follow the Appeals column, or can be inspected between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday at the Council House, Avenue Road, Malvern, WR14 3AF. The council's documents are not

yet available, they have to be submitted no later than 16th July 2026, as do those of other interested parties, including the parish council - and you! How to do that is also on the website. Any representations made before the application was refused have already been sent to the Inspectorate.

While it is unnecessary to repeat them, you could and should, particularly if further information has come to light. Hallam's case obviously contests the reasons for refusing planning permission but at the heart, again, is the question of whether there is a five-year Housing Land Supply. Although the SWDPR Inspectors found that there would be a 5YHLS when the plan was adopted (in March this year), it had been prepared using an earlier version of government planning policy. It was known that a further review based on more recent policies would be needed. Hallam argue that there is insufficient land and that their site is sustainable despite being outside the village development boundary. If this is accepted, the SWDPR strategy to limit further village housing to within defined boundaries will be seriously compromised and fields around Kempsey and other villages up for grabs. There will be a Statement of Common Ground covering matters that are not in dispute. It remains to be seen what the council concedes. Worrying times!

For more information regarding the activities of the Parish Council, please refer to our website www.kempseyhub.co.uk

For all enquiries, please contact Sharon Dunn, Parish Council Clerk and Financial Officer on 01905 828183 or by email at clerk@kempseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

TRIMPETS Dog Grooming

Kerswell Green, Kempsey WR5 3PF
01905 371329

One to one grooming
Small to medium dogs

Over 50 years' experience

Hughes & Company Foil Blocking and Embossing Services

Gun slips, Belts, Handbags and more
Prices starting from £15

A. J. HUGHES

01386 803803

A. J. HUGHES

The Gutter Consultant

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

***All debris and plant growth removed from guttering.**

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

01905 820137 • 07889 445353



The Devereux Centre

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

The Devereux Centre offers Life Saving Skills Training Courses

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

See our website for 2025 course dates

Rooms to Rent

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

T: 01684 214333
E: info@thedeveuxcentre.co.uk
www.thedeveuxcentre.co.uk







Worcester: 01905 820 629
Mobile: 07546 043 006
Email: john@kjbcarpetcleaning.co.uk

KJB Carpet Cleaning

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

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

Please Call or email For A Free No Obligation Quote
115 Main Rd, Kempsey, Worcester, WR5 3JY
www.kjbcarpetcleaning.co.uk



DAVID MARTIN & SON

LANDSCAPING, MACHINE & GROUNDWORKS

- ❖ **MACHINE & DRIVER HIRE AT COMPETITIVE RATES**
Established over 25 years in Kempsey. Fully Insured. References available upon request.
- ❖ **SEASONED LOGS FOR SALE**
£80 per bulk bag. Free delivery locally. Smaller or larger amounts available upon request.

CALL: 07985 464718 FOR FURTHER DETAILS





GRANT BOOKS Ltd

1971
Publishers



Since 1971 we have published limited edition fine art books on Golf History, Biographies, Course Architecture, Golf Book Collecting and Club Histories

email: golf@grantbooks.co.uk website: www.grantbooks.co.uk
Persore Worcestershire
Telephone: 01386 803803

Bedwardine Funeral Services



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

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

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

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

01905 748811
www.bedwardinefuneralservices.co.uk

Inns and Taverns

Tim Hickson



White Lion Hotel, Upton



The Lygon Arms in Broadway

In earlier days, weary travellers were catered for, provided with food, drink and rest. For those travelling on horseback, the inn provided stabling or even, for riders in a hurry, a change of horse. Often these places were provided by the Church for pilgrims, as mentioned in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Once the railways came, this need was reduced, and also, railway hotels began. Finally, when cars became affordable for all of us, there were fewer travellers needing overnight stops. Of course, travellers who were not weary might still need accommodation, but hotels might be more attractive, as they might provide more than inns, albeit at a price. Hotels might have fancy restaurants, rooms with views, comfortable lounges and sometimes swimming pools. As a consequence of these developments came a change of use for inns. Some expanded into hotels. The Lygon Arms in Broadway is a good example. What began (the earliest written record is 1377) as The White Hart,

a coaching inn on the journey from Worcester, or even Wales, to London, became more than that. Looking up the history of the Lygon Arms and which famous names have stayed there is entertaining. We should not forget The White Lion hotel in Upton, a former coaching inn, was the setting for Henry Fielding's bawdy novel *The History of Tom Jones* in 1749.

Also, in Kempsey, the Walter de Cantilupe Inn celebrates the 1265 entertainment of Simon de Montfort, with his hostage King Henry III, by the then Bishop of Worcester, Walter de Cantilupe. De Montfort was on his way to the fatal Battle of Evesham. For many others, the focus of the hosts became the local people rather than passers-by. This led to these public houses, pubs, becoming the focus of the community in a different way than the church. They became places to meet friends to exchange banter, information and news. When I lived in Eckington, a visit to the Anchor would provide answers to any of my gardening

problems. This cheerful fellowship helped newcomers to integrate and the lonely to have company. Today, with an increasingly ageing population, this latter has become much more important. Politicians, please note! The Royal Oak in Kinnersley particularly caters for the horse-racing fraternity as well as for the rest of us. (Go and have a look.) During World War II, The Royal Oak, The Rose and Crown at Severn Stoke, and The Oak at Woodmancote were among those providing relaxation for those at RAF Defford. The Defford Inn even provided a codename for a type of radar tested at the RAF Station. (Look for Village Inn radar when next you visit the RAF Museum at Croome.) Ale, often brewed on the premises, helped to lubricate proceedings and, gradually, with increasing affluence, food beyond a packet of crisps began to be available. This move attracted families to inns. However, by taking up more space, there was one sad casualty: pub games. When I was younger, a major

part of visiting a pub was to have a game of skittles, if there was a skittles alley, or a game of darts. Other games I enjoyed were shove-ha'penny, bar skittles, dominoes, card games like cribbage and even marbles. Many pubs have been taken over by chains and their names and signs changed to reflect this. The loss of a local connection often leads to local stories, events and names disappearing, as well as intriguing inn signs.

A good example is the inn on the A44, from Spetchley to Evesham, which was changed from the intriguing Berkeley Knot to the Nightingale. Research shows that the Berkeley Knot is part of the heraldry for the Berkeley family who own Spetchley Park and, once, Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire (scene of the horrific murder of Edward II) and Berkeley Square in London. However, there are plenty of others that are fun to research. For example, pubs called The Masons Arms were places looking after masons or builders working in the locality.



The Anchor



The Nightingale

Sir George Dowty statue unveiling!

The unveiling of the statue of Sir George Dowty at the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) was a significant commemorative event that garnered widespread acclaim due to the meticulous planning of the Memorial Committee and the profound historical resonance of the site itself. The success of the event was attributed to the seamless integration of industrial heritage with the solemnity of the Bomber Command memorial, creating a bridge between the technological contributions of Dowty - whose aviation components were vital to the RAF - and the human sacrifice honoured at the IBCC. The Sir George Dowty Memorial Committee, led by Chairman Martin Robins, played the primary role in the event's orchestration. Robins was instrumental in coordinating the logistics of the unveiling ceremony, and his fellow Committee members provided the necessary administrative and historical oversight to ensure

the statue's placement aligned with the IBCC's rigorous standards for historical accuracy and aesthetic harmony. Their collective role was to ensure that the legacy of Sir George Dowty - a pioneer in aircraft landing gear and hydraulic systems - was presented not merely as a corporate history, but as a vital component of the wartime effort that enabled Bomber Command's operations.

Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, provided the necessary military gravitas, emphasising the operational necessity of Dowty's engineering innovations during the Second World War. His involvement served to validate the connection between the industrial home front and the front-line aircrews. Simultaneously, the Dean of Lincoln Cathedral provided the spiritual and civic context for the unveiling. By officiating the ceremony, the Dean underscored the deep-rooted relationship between the city of Lincoln, the Cathedral, and the surrounding



bomber airfields, framing the statue as a permanent fixture in the region's collective memory. Sir George Dowty's son, George Dowty, played a pivotal role by providing personal insights into his father's character and his commitment to the aviation industry. His presence and participation in the unveiling ceremony offered a humanizing perspective on the man behind the engineering achievements.

By sharing anecdotes regarding his father's dedication to the RAF and his post-war industrial impact, George Dowty ensured that the event resonated on a personal level, moving beyond the technical aspects of the statue to celebrate the legacy of a man whose work was integral to the survival and success of the crews honoured at the IBCC.

Will Mundy

Sir George Dowty's father was born near Evesham and became a chemist, a Latin scholar and a Methodist lay preacher. He purchased a chemist's business in Pershore and, since there was no Methodist Church in Pershore, attended Pershore Abbey. He died suddenly of a stroke in his early fifties, leaving his wife and eight children. Twenty years after his passing, the family arranged a reunion details of which are shown below. When Dowty's mother passed away in 1939, he made a donation of £1,000 (£100,000 in today's money) to the Pershore Abbey organ fund. In 1945, Dowty's twin brother was killed by a runaway Army lorry in Oxford - he had served as a church organist in Worcester. A special service was held on

Trinity Sunday in June 1946 at Pershore Abbey where altar rails Dowty had caused to be erected in his brother's memory were dedicated by the Archdeacon of Worcester. Visiting the Abbey some time later, Dowty found that a vicar who wanted to give the chancel a new look had the rails removed. Some were placed in a side chapel and the remainder stored in a room off the belfry. Words were exchanged and the rails are in the correct place today. Dowty's great uncle (also called George) who served in his latter years at St Mary's, Stockleigh English, Devon was renowned for both his dedication and hard work. His successors displayed the same attributes.

Martin Robins

VISIT TO GRAVE

Reference to the visit and a welcome to people who were once regular worshippers at the Abbey would have been made by Dr. Robert Murray, the vicar, but for the fact that he was suddenly called to Scotland the day previous because of a family bereavement. After leaving church the party went to the cemetery a mile away and placed wreaths on the grave of their father.

At the subsequent luncheon two other anniversaries were honoured—the 74th birthday of Mrs. Wm. Dowty and the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Dowty.

The seven brothers of this old Pershore family now control businesses giving employment to over 250 employees.

The party included Mrs. Dowty, senior, and daughter, Mrs. J. M. Fell, of Black-

FAMILY REUNION 20 YEARS AFTER

Through Snow and Flood To Pershore Father's Grave

Twenty members of a Pershore family, two of whom now have business or residential connection with Cheltenham, recently made their way through snow and flood, and from various distant parts of England, to be present at a family reunion in Pershore on the 20th anniversary of their father's death.

Mr. William Dowty, chemist, optician and photographer, of The Abbey Pharmacy, Pershore, died at the end of February, 20 years ago. He was esteemed as a business man of high integrity, and also for the zealous interest and support he and his family gave in the religious and social activities of the town.

The passing of the head of the house, the coming of the Great War, and the selling of the business to its present proprietor, was followed by the breaking up and scattering of the family. Four of the seven sons took part in the War, in which the young husband of the only daughter lost his life. The successful accomplishment of the reunion in the face of the terrible weather conditions was looked upon as a "doughty" deed by their many old friends in Pershore, who were delighted to see them and recall memories of the past.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Dowty, on their way from Southampton, had to leave their car all night in a snow drift near Andover. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dowty, from the Isle of Man, arrived at the Abbey a few minutes after the service had commenced.

What to plant now for late summer colour

July can feel like a slightly awkward moment in the gardening calendar. The spring rush is over, the early summer blooms are fading, and the borders can start to look a little tired around the edges. But this is actually one of the best times of year to add fresh colour, fill gaps, and set your garden up for a beautiful display that lasts right through to autumn. Here are a few ideas to brighten things up.

Zinnias

Bold, bright and brilliant
Zinnias love heat, which makes them ideal for the warmer summers we're experiencing. They come in vibrant oranges, pinks, reds and yellows - perfect for a cheerful late-season display. A little tip: Zinnias don't like being over-watered. Let the soil dry slightly between waterings and they'll reward you with weeks of colour.

Calendula

The cheerful all-rounder
Calendula (or pot marigold) is one of those plants that never lets you down. It grows quickly, flowers generously, and brings a lovely warm glow to borders and containers. Bees absolutely adore it. You can sow seeds directly into the ground now for flowers next summer, or pick up plants from the garden centre for instant colour. Keep deadheading, and they'll bloom well into autumn.

Rudbeckia

Sunshine in plant form

If you want something that stands out, Rudbeckias are a fantastic choice. Their golden, daisy-like flowers bring warmth and structure to the garden when everything else is starting to fade. Plant them in full sun and give them space to spread. They're brilliant for adding height and drama - butterflies love them too.

Reviving tired pots

If your containers are looking a bit weary, now is the perfect time to refresh them. A few quick swaps can make a huge difference:

- Add a new "thriller" plant like tall verbena or salvia
- Replace anything that's gone leggy or finished flowering
- Top up with fresh compost
- Add some new pots with a splash of colour, such as the zinnias or rudbeckia.

A little midseason refresh can carry your pots right through to autumn.

Don't forget foliage

Late summer gardens aren't just about flowers. Foliage plants like heuchera, coleus and ornamental grasses add texture, contrast and movement. They help tie everything together, so the garden feels intentional rather than patchy.



Nikki Hollier

nikki@borderinabox.com
@borderinabox
www.borderinabox.com

A final thought:

Gardening up, refreshing and keeping the colour going
You don't need to overhaul your whole garden - just add a few well chosen plants, and you'll have a display that carries you right through to the end of summer. And if you're ever unsure what to choose, go with whatever makes you smile. A garden should feel joyful, not complicated.



July gardening tips

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester

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 straight away 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 deadheaded. I find using a more potash-oriented fertiliser 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 fertiliser. 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, radicchio, and

turnips in the veg garden. Spray potato 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 for 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 overabundant. 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.

Four Composers' wives

Michael Trott



The Three Choirs Festival

The lives of composers associated with Gloucestershire and Worcestershire have come in for a lot of study, especially those whose music is regularly played at the Three Choirs Festival. Some were supported by wives who were interesting people in their own right, yet remain largely unknown. At 4pm on Sunday 26th July, at the Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester, Allan Ledger and Michael Trott will redress this

in part with an audio-visual presentation, entitled 'Four Composers' Wives', dealing with Lady Maud Parry, Lady Alice Elgar, Isobel Holst, and Ursula Vaughan Williams. *Maud Parry* Parry was friendly with the Pankhursts and passionate about women's rights, leading at least one suffragette march. Alice Elgar was a linguist and published author, and poet. She was her husband's business manager and



From left to right, Maud Parry, Isobel Holst, Ursula Vaughan Williams

in their early years ruled score paper for his work. Elgar set to music some of her poems.

Isobel Holst

Holst sang in a choir, played both the cello and double bass, and learned the violin for playing Bach cantatas. She copied out parts and arrangements for her husband, converted a barn into a music room for him, and had a flair for home-making. During World War I, she volunteered to work as a driver in the Women's

Reserve Ambulance Corps.

Ursula Vaughan Williams

Williams wrote four novels, five volumes of poetry, and libretti for composers, including two for her husband's last choral works. She was a great worker for musical causes and very generous to young musicians. She is the composer's wife who lived into our own times. She died in 2007, leaving a biography of Ralph Vaughan Williams and her own autobiography.

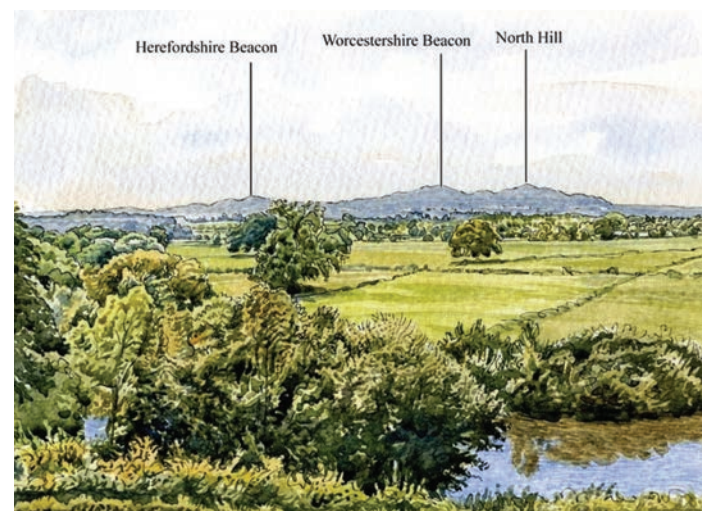
How the ice age affected Worcestershire

Richard Catford



Worcestershire geology. It's unique. There is no doubt we live in a beautiful region but the role of geology is rarely acknowledged in our delight. In-fact we live in a unique area where the location and examples of rocks from every geological era the world has experienced can be seen. No other area can claim such a wide, diverse range of geology in such a small area. The Earth Heritage Trust, based in Malvern, has established The Geopark Way based around the Malvern Hills. It is a series of walking trails

where ancient solid bedrock and superficial geology span the 12 geological eras between the Precambrian and Quaternary periods when the world's rock strata was created. The Malverns themselves are some of the oldest rocks in the world, formed over 700 million years ago. Around the Malverns are rocks containing fossils from Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous times, plus a wide range of shales, sandstones, mudstones and clays are all encompassed by our Geopark Trails. There were episodes when heat and



pressure caused by intrusions from volcanic activity that caused sedimentary rocks to change into metamorphic rocks, physically and chemically altering their mineral structure to create valuable minerals we mine and exploit today. The volcanic, tectonic activity caused folding and faulting in established rock strata. These upheavals pushed and pulled the area we now recognise as the British Isles from 60 degrees south of the equator to the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere over 700

million years. Our regions rocks prove tropical forests and deserts, polar deserts and icesheets all left their impact in the form of new geology. It's a complex time line but a fascinating journey. *The Malvern Hills GeoCentre is located at, Wyche Innovation Centre, Walwyn Road, Malvern, WR13 6PL. Open Monday, Tuesday Thursday and Friday Sunday 10 am to 3 pm. Guide book of Geopark Way is £15*

Village Life

John Driscoll



I wrote last month about the approach of the Summer Solstice, also known as Midsummer Day. That happened on Sunday 21st June, marking the longest day and all the delights of light early mornings and late evenings. I'm not too excited by the early mornings but find long evenings sheer joy. What's not to love about extra daylight and the possibility of warm evenings encouraging less TV and more time spent outside? Of course, the downside is that from the 21st of June, the hours of daylight start their slow decline. Summer is half over, and we just know it'll seem no time at all before autumn and then winter arrive – we just have to make the most of summer and enjoy every moment. We don't really do 'momentous' in our little village, but nonetheless, we have had two events worthy of mention in recent weeks. The first was the addition of 30mph roundels on one of our through roads to

supplement the existing speed restriction signs and repeaters. They certainly help to emphasise the speed limit and will hopefully act as timely reminders to those who seem to regard the speed limit as a suggestion rather than compulsory. We can thank Councillor Linda Robinson and some persistent locals for this very worthwhile enhancement. A small change, maybe, but it should make a significant difference. The second small but very welcome action has been the introduction of a commemorative plaque on a bench in the village that offers a beautiful view across open countryside to the Malvern hills. The bench has been in place for many years and is well maintained by a few dedicated village residents, but I confess I didn't previously know its significance or who placed it there. It turns out it commemorates a couple who lived in the village for many years until passing away a few years



ago. The bench is on one of their favourite spots. Without the plaque, their memory may have been forgotten. That would be a shame, as they were well-loved in the community and were known for supporting very worthwhile charitable causes. How refreshing that some in our community care enough to maintain this landmark, and that a few generous villagers happily paid for the plaque from their own pockets to ensure that the memory of these popular former residents is honoured. Our next village project should, in my view, be repainting the former phone box, now operating as a very popular book exchange. It has faded from its former vibrant GPO red to a rather wishy-washy faded pink, and although there's nothing at all wrong with pink, it really deserves better! Knowing our lovely community, I'm confident we'll pull together to get this done, and for the cost of a tin of paint, we'll transform this local

landmark. Its main claim to fame is the slightly wonky angle at which it perches, but such details haven't put the good folk of Pisa off their prized offering! Hardly a heady activity in the village then, but I'm guessing that's how we like it. Great change is on its way as we're very close to the proposed new town to be built around the Worcestershire Parkway station. Maybe we just need to dig in and prepare to fight for the continuation of our rural tranquillity in the face of such large-scale development. So, to end on a positive, and highly topical note, I've been told about a Harry Styles lyric – 'Fill up your own cup and let them fall in love with the overflow'. I've long since realised that we have some truly lovely people in our community who are happy to share their happiness and good fortune. Long may their cups continue to overflow, and let's all continue to benefit from their generous spirits!

Supporting your health and work with WorkWell

Did you know there's a free local service designed to help you stay well in work, or return to work if your health has been getting in the way?

WorkWell is a supportive coaching programme available to residents across Worcestershire. It's designed for anyone aged 16+ registered with a Worcestershire GP, who is either in work, off sick, or currently unemployed, and experiencing a physical or mental health challenge that is affecting their ability to work. You don't need to be signed off work to access support, and you don't need a GP referral – you can refer yourself directly. Through WorkWell, you'll be paired with a dedicated Work

and Health Coach like me, who will work with you one-to-one. Together, you'll create a personalised plan based on your needs and goals. This might include building confidence, managing a health condition at work, preparing to return after sickness, or exploring new employment opportunities. Coaches can also help you access other local services such as physiotherapy, mental health support, financial advice, or skills and employment support – all designed to give you the right help at the right time. Support is flexible and can be delivered in a way that suits you, whether that's face-to-face, over the phone, or online. If you, or someone you know,

could benefit from a bit of extra support, I am here to help. I am passionate about supporting people to live and work healthier. I work hard to put together a tailored plan and am always willing to go above and beyond.

To find out more or to refer yourself, simply follow our link, www.hwics.org.uk/our-services/workwell or speak to your GP practice for more information.

*Helena Loynes
WorkWell Coach for
Abbottswood Medical Centre,
Pershore Medical Practice and
Upton Surgery*



Ailsa's Kitchen

Ailsa Craddock

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. Summer has arrived!

French chocolate Ice cream

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.

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, whisk the egg whites into peaks and gently fold into the mixture. Pour into a 1.5 litre plastic container and freeze overnight.

Filo Crisps

Something a little different to serve with ice cream. The contrast between crisp biscuit and soft cream is really lovely! Lay a sheet of filo on a baking sheet, brush with melted butter and sift over some icing sugar. Repeat



Lemon Ice Cream

with 2 or more layers on top, finishing with a thick layer of sugar. Cut the filo into small squares and bake in the oven at 200°C for about 10 minutes until golden and crisp.

Sauces to serve with ice cream sometimes a good plain vanilla ice cream is all that is wanted – and a good sauce will elevate it to ambrosia!

Hot Chocolate Sauce

Put 150g dark chocolate into a pan with 25g castor sugar and 4 tablespoons of water. Melt together over a gentle heat then slowly increase and boil for 2

minutes. Beat in 25g unsalted butter and serve hot.

Melba Sauce

Mash or puree 250g raspberries. Stir in 75g icing sugar and the juice of half a lemon. The sauce can be served warm or cold.

Toffee Sauce

Put 50g butter, 50g brown sugar and 2 tablespoons golden syrup into a saucepan and heat gently, stirring, until the butter and sugar have melted. Bring to the boil and boil hard for 3–5 minutes. Cool and stir in 150ml single cream and while still hot pour over ice cream.

Cream at the top

A Nostalgic Look at the Daily Milk Delivery

I bought a bottle of milk the other day, and began to think back to when I was a lad, way back in the 1940s. In those days, we had our milk delivered every day by Mr Tustin with his horse and trap. It carried three large metal milk churns, full of fresh milk, straight from the farm. We would take a jug out to meet him, and Mr Tustin would fill it up, using a large ladle, and, as we had no electricity in the house, we had no fridge to keep the milk fresh, so we had to use other ways. All we had was a 'milk safe', which was a wooden box with mesh sides designed to let cool air flow through. This would sit on the marble shelf - the cold slab - in the pantry. If the weather got very hot, we would simply stand the jug in a metal bucket full of cold water and hope for the best. In those days, there were no instructions to tell you how long to keep the milk or how to store it. If it went off, you threw it out or spooned the



curds off the top and ran the rest through a sieve! All of my family of seven used to regularly drink this milk, and we all lived to over 80 years of age, so it clearly didn't do us any real harm. So with this in

mind, I looked at the label on my purchase. It had so much printed on it that I gave up trying to read it. It listed 15 or 16 different bits of information from the use-by date, to how to recycle the plastic bottle when

it was empty. What a long way from Mr Tustin with his horse and trap, and milk churns! As with most things today, I can't help feeling that things have gone rather over the top.

John Reynolds

Farming

Mike Page

There has been a lot of coverage in recent agricultural press of the season 1976 — now exactly 50 years ago — recorded as being the worst drought season within the UK in some 200 years or even more. The drought of 1976 started actually in the autumn of 1975, with a dry autumn and winter, so that soil moisture conditions were already much drier than usual by early 1976. There then followed a further prolonged spell (lasting through spring and all of the following summer) of much lower than usual rainfall, and the drought really began to bite. Cattle and sheep out in the fields started to run out of grazing, and were often to be seen browsing on hedge growth at field boundaries to help supplement the shortfall out in the field proper; part of the crops of grass grown to be harvested and stored at the farmyard for future winter supplies were instead taken directly to livestock out in the field, next door to where it had been cut and baled, to supplement their diminishing grazing. Some crops of spring barley or other

spring-planted crops quite literally died from lack of moisture rather than maturing to produce grain; not necessarily quite a total loss, as they could at least be harvested whole to become fodder to feed livestock the following winter. Crops that survived went on to produce lower than usual grain yields, and most straw was saved as potential fodder to supplement the lower than usual stores of grass fodder. Farmers are never less than resourceful, learning to cope with circumstances where the main factors (one of which is weather) influencing output are not within their control. We, and most other farmers of my generation, survived to tell the story of 1976. The tale of 1976 is not told entirely by simple recorded figures, as the drought of 1976 came to an abrupt end late in September with the start of a very wet autumn/early winter, so that the recorded rainfall figures for the whole year do not leave the year standing out as being all that much different from the norm. But with climatic change seemingly driven much



by mankind's activities — in particular the continued big-time use of energy derived from fossil fuels and increasing atmospheric CO2 levels — are conditions such as we experienced in 1976 going to become the norm? If so, and with Govt SFI schemes coming forward designed to encourage more environmentally friendly styles of farming, which will, in all likelihood, lower agricultural output, leading to much greater basic food imports, are we heading for national

trading difficulties? For now, optimism must rule with nearly all 2026 crops looking good, and cattle and sheep grazing contentedly on pastures growing with more than enough vigour to satisfy their needs. Troubles elsewhere in the World, and having potentially a major effect on World-wide trading, may lead to yet further UK trade problems, but at least, the present scene in UK agriculture, after two difficult seasons in succession, is looking (at least in the short-term) good.

Summer Sun

Great is the sun, and wide he goes
Through empty heaven without repose;
And in the blue and glowing days
More thick than rain he showers his rays.
Though closer still the blinds we pull
To keep the shady parlour cool,
Yet he will find a chink or two
To slip his golden fingers through.
The dusty attic spider-clad,
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;
And through the broken edge of tiles,
Into the laddered hay-loft smiles.
Meantime his golden face around
He bares to all the garden ground,
And sheds a warm and glittering look
Among the ivy's inmost nook.
Above the hills, along the blue,
Round the bright air with footing true,
To please the child, to paint the rose,
The gardener of the World, he goes.

Robert Louis Stevenson 1850-1894

A.J. TAYLOR LTD. ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

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

Looking for a EV Charger Installer?

give A.J. Taylor Ltd a call on 01684 569 357

or email us at enquiries@ajtaylor-electrical.com



Domestic EV Charging



Workplace EV Charging

Smart EV chargers and load management options available

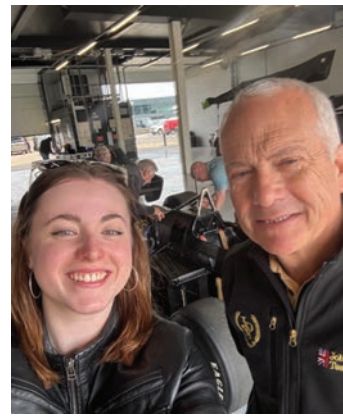
£350 OZEV grant available for workplace schemes*

*Terms and Conditions Apply



Romy's Uni Life

Romy Kemp *Liverpool University*



dad many times to his track days (to Donington and Mallory Park, and also Silverstone on other occasions), and I love it every time. This time, however, the experience was a little more interesting. During lunch break, an old F1 car was on the track. This F1 car has a wonderful history. I met Mr Clive Chapman, the son of the founder (Colin Chapman), and he very kindly spoke to me about the history of Team Lotus. The F1 car that was on track was Ayrton Senna's 1985 Portugal Grand Prix winning car, which was his first career win in F1. The Original Team Lotus stopped in 1994, and the Chapman family established Classic Team Lotus to look after the heritage in terms of the cars themselves and the archives. Mr Chapman continued to tell me that they have restored nearly 70 Team Lotus cars. He was also telling me that Bruno Senna has driven his uncle's car a couple of times. With private owners around the world, Mr Chapman continues to showcase his family's and the team's dedication to Team Lotus. It was a pleasure to meet and chat with Mr Chapman. I even saw Ollie Bearman (F1 driver), who was driving the car, but only from a distance. Nevertheless,

it was a great experience and an amazing day! There is something about the rumbling of motorbikes that really appeals to me - I would never own one or ride one - but there is something about being in the presence of something so cool! I'm sure when my dad reads this, he'll feel very smug about being "cool". I hope all this information makes sense, as it was hard to hear in a busy pit lane.

Holiday Trips

A few weeks ago, I went on holiday to Newquay (Cornwall) with my parents, my boyfriend, and my dog. The weather was surprisingly sunny, despite what the forecast stated, and every day was packed with activities. My boyfriend and I took a trip to Healeys Cornish Cyder Farm, just outside of Newquay, and had a tour of the grounds. I don't like cider, but thankfully, they had soft drinks

and sparkling juices to try as well as spirits and food. I found out a lot of information that day about the sustainability of Rattler's cider - they plant orchards and vineyards and even have their own wind power. These crucial trees also help the bee population, which is what the planet needs to survive and thrive. Their goal is to become even more environmentally friendly by relying on renewable energy only in the future. There was also a small car collection this evidently captured my attention more than the cider.



Back home
I have officially finished my undergraduate degree! Whilst I am happy to have finished with exams and assessments, I am also sad that my experience has ended. I have had many memories in Liverpool, good and bad, and it is crazy that it has all finally come to an end. My graduation is in July, so I have been looking for a dress and other items for the day. I will definitely write an article next month about my graduation day!

A Day at Silverstone
My dad had a motorbike track day at Silverstone a couple of weeks ago, and I tagged along. With the growling and grumbling of the motorbikes, it is definitely an experience to remember. I have gone with my

A Place to Meet

Chloe Pickstock



Moving On

Mid-afternoon at the café, and I get a phone call.

"Hi Chloe, how do you think your interview went?"

"Hi! Oh yeah, good... I think... thank you," I say, shaking with adrenaline because I know who this call is from and because I'm slightly out of breath from running outside the cafe.

"Well, I'm glad you thought it went well, because we'd like to offer you the job." Oh. My. God. Okay, this is real. Back in December, during one of my

regular existential crises, I decided to have a look online at some companies and what they offered. One evening, I stumbled across an apprenticeship opportunity with a media organisation and decided to give it a go. What did I have to lose? Each time I got through to the next stage, I had to convince myself to keep going. I'm not sure why. I think I feared being disappointed the further I got, convinced I would inevitably be rejected. But after I got back from my travels in Asia in March, I received an email saying I was through to the final stage. Now it felt real. I had to be convinced by my family to keep going with the process. I thought there was no point putting myself through the stress of the final stage. Surely they wouldn't give it to me? I didn't have enough experience. I definitely wasn't good enough. Or at least that's what I kept telling myself. But there was a part of me that knew I'd regret it

if I didn't at least try. The final interview was hard. Probably one of the scariest things I have ever done, and Waiting for the result was even harder. These last few years haven't been the easiest. I experienced a loss I never thought I would go through, and with that came a level of grief that was hard for me and my family to navigate. In a strange way, that was one of the reasons I stayed at the cafe for so long. After everything that happened, the cafe became more than just a job. It was routine. Familiar faces. A place where I knew exactly what I was doing and what tomorrow would look like. It felt like a second home. I knew the place, and it knew me. Getting this job meant leaving this safety net. It meant leaving the friends I saw daily and moving on from a chapter that had helped carry me through some difficult years. And if I'm honest, I wasn't sure I was ready. But I think that's the thing about change: I

don't think you can ever feel quite ready. Sometimes an opportunity appears when you least expect it, and something inside you tells you to take the chance. Leaving wasn't easy. Walking out knowing I wouldn't be back to make coffee or see the regulars the next morning felt strange. For years, it had been part of my life and part of who I was. So, what now? Well, after officially leaving the cafe, I am looking forward to spending the summer travelling and being with my friends before I start my new job. I am looking for a flat for myself and getting ready to start this new chapter. And if anyone reading this ever has an opportunity to do something they really want to do but is thinking 'I'm not good enough' or 'I'm not experienced enough', then take it from me: go for it anyway, because you never know. Your life might just change.

Gregory's World!

The Write Way

The University of Birmingham has its own personal train station, an iconic red-brick clock tower, and an on-site Starbucks! What's not to like? But tear yourself away from those Espresso Macchiatos for just five minutes, fellow reader. Today, there's another reason to love this place. Today is the Writing West Midlands' National Writers Conference, a wordy mouthful reaching out to the wordiest people around. Writing West Midlands is an organisation behind a range of initiatives and events designed to support writers across our region. Writing is often a solo affair. A desk, a cuppa, and a Word document can be our closest friends, so as you can imagine, the conversation is pretty one-way. We jot, scribble, append and tap. We go over sentences in our mind the same way you might work a boiled sweet in your mouth, waiting for the moment the words sound right,

the moment you crack into the sugary core. There's a great deal of joy in the process, but I'd be lying if I didn't admit to sometimes feeling isolated. This is what makes the Conference so great, an opportunity to say hi to like-minded creatives of all ages in a lecture theatre that buzzes with dreams. So, come on then! Find your name badge, grab yourself a tote bag, and let's say hi to some people ... Haha, that was fun, right? Okay, you might not be interested in writing at all – you might have a thing for cricket, finance or interpretative dance – but I thought some of the advice from today might be useful. The theme of this year's conference was 'A Writer's Journey'. The talks shared a calm, steady, more reflective approach, focusing on the process of getting to the place we want to be – though multiple speakers pointed out that this 'place' always changes as we journey ever on. Casey Bailey, a Birmingham-based poet and playwright,

Gregory Sidaway

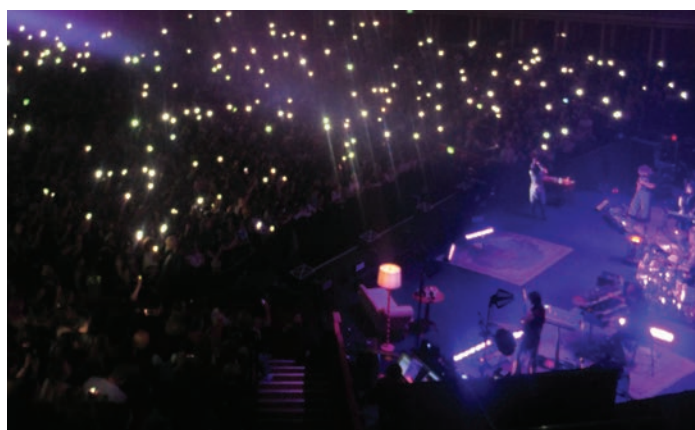
delivered a keynote address: 'On Track or Off Track: Are We Trains?' His talk revolved around the phrase: 'on track'. We use it all the time to refer to our progress. Although this can be useful, it can trick us into thinking we always have to know where we're going, as though we're travelling from point A to B and somehow failing if we don't have everything figured out. There's a danger that some of us become unnecessarily hard on ourselves if we don't stick to 'schedule'. Life throws hurdles at you with one hand and opportunities with the other. We adapt, learn, compromise, and journey on. 'Let's be honest,' he said. 'Even the trains don't run on time.' Feeling like a train? He admitted he sometimes felt like HS2! Working towards something can be very positive, but it shouldn't make us forget that we often have more choice than we think we do. What even is the right way, anyhow? One of Bailey's poems is displayed across the



wall at the University train station. I noticed it as we returned to the station. It made me smile. What I gleaned from today's conference was this: our mindset is the axis on which we turn. It doesn't matter how many times I think I understand this. I understand it more and more as Gregory's World gets bigger and bigger. I might well be passing on advice you're already well familiar with. If that's the case, awesome! I hope to reach your level as I keep learning and experiencing things. We're all moving at different speeds and in different directions. That's part of the great thrill of it all! Saying all that, fellow reader, it would be nice if our train got us home on time.

Evie's Adventures

Evie Aubin Oxford Brookes University



Mitski at the Royal Albert Hall by Daisy Quartermain

With the hot summer sun seeping into my veins, I must admit I've become somewhat delirious, which is the only reason why I'm about to admit this to you, dear reader. Since the last time I wrote to you, I have been to two concerts, and the other two I had planned to tide me through the rest of the year have now turned into five. But be honest ... are you really surprised? The months ahead are filled with concerts that I have been looking forward to for what feels like forever. After seeing Mitski and Maisie Peters last month, the excitement for the rest of my concert lineup has only grown. Live music is one

of my favourite events, and although I can't wait for each show, I'm finding myself caught up in all the planning that comes with them. The adventure begins with Harry Styles at Wembley Stadium. I missed out on the One Direction craze and never got tickets for his last tour. For years, I've watched videos of his concerts online, the atmosphere, the outfits, the connection he has with the crowd all seem so special. I'm currently trying to decide what to wear, knowing that Harry's fans always put so much effort into their outfits, almost rivalling the energy which surrounded The Eras Tour certainly makes it a

troublesome task. Two days later, I'm heading to Finsbury Park to see Wolf Alice. One of the openers is The Last Dinner Party, which you may remember I was meant to see a couple of years ago; unfortunately, the show was cancelled. So seeing them now is certainly a long time coming! However, we have the issue of London transport on a Sunday. The last time I almost got stuck in London, (When I saw Lorde in November we missed the last train by one minute, consequently not getting back to Oxford until 3:00am), I swore (mainly to my mum) that it would never happen again ... Which is why we have made the sensible decision to leave a little early! After the summer excitement comes Noah Kahan at London's O2. I've seen Noah twice before, and he is absolutely incredible. His music means a lot to me, and the album he's touring is one of my favourites ever released. Knowing how good his live performances are only adds to my ever-growing anticipation. By November, the challenge will be balancing a good concert outfit with staying warm while queuing! In December, I'll finally get to see Phoebe Bridgers. Getting tickets for this show was



an unforgettable experience in itself. While waiting in the queue, I became convinced that we weren't going to get them. One of my friends getting tickets with us had gone completely silent for what felt like forever. Then, completely out of nowhere, she suddenly yelled that she'd secured the tickets! The excitement and relief in that moment were unbelievable. I was in utter disbelief for a few hours after, I still get chills when I think about it! The current run of concerts ends with Gracie Abrams next April. Her voice and performance never cease to amaze me. Ending this incredible lineup with one of my favourite artists feels like the perfect conclusion. So rest assured, the outfits are being planned, the train tickets are being booked, and my camera is charging, soon to be filled with unforgettable memories! That's all from me for now! Toodles!

Joe's Teenage Focus

Joe Bowsher (15)



social media isn't safe for kids and many children don't know how to stay safe on social media. Yet, banning platforms such as YouTube doesn't make sense because it is the safest social media platform there is." Oscar Williams (15) said, *"I would say the social media ban is punishing children for the crimes of adults who post disgusting content on social media."*

Overall, I think this ban is unpopular and has a lack of support from those who it will affect. Whilst I recognise the benefit, I think overall the ban is harsh and doesn't represent the full picture.



Minecraft

Reacting to the Under-16 Social Media ban

Recently, there have been further developments in the under-16 social media ban. In my previous article, it had seemed that it had come to a halt and was unlikely to happen. However, as of the 15th of June, Keir Starmer (who has recently resigned) passed the social media ban through parliament, stating that as of Spring 2027, children under the age of sixteen will be prohibited from the use of social media platforms such as X, TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and many others. This was passed by the government for numerous reasons: children being exposed to harmful content online, social media addiction, children's loss of what was deemed 'childhood' to screens. Starmer explained: "Parents want to keep their kids

safe and happy, but the online world has made it harder than ever", which is backed up by this statistic I found on the gov.uk website, with 9 in 10 parents supporting the ban. Personally, I believe that a ban will only lead to an influx in the number of children spending an increased amount of time on video game platforms such as Minecraft, which could also potentially be addictive for young children, which leads me to believe the ban is not well thought out. As a 15-year-old who has experienced social media, I can give my perspective on the matter. Whilst I do recognise that a ban does prevent addiction and harmful content from being shown to children, I think that social media is incredibly good at creating online communities, showing new experiences and environments that may not be

seen without social media, and represents the modern age of technology and many others. Therefore, I believe that a complete ban is ignorant and short-sighted, and as an alternative, Ofcom should improve censorship on social media platforms and measures such as nationwide curfews for under-18s should be in place, as well as mandatory time limits across social media to tackle addiction and harmful content whilst maintaining the benefits caused by social media.

However, don't just take my word for it. Following the ban, I collected some quotes from an audience that will also be affected by the ban (please keep in mind that some chose to remain anonymous). Firstly, one recipient said: "whilst I agree with the ban partially, I also partially disagree with the ban because

Earthworms: The unsung heroes of healthy soil

Karen Rose

As we all start spending more time in our gardens, it's worth pausing to think about what lies beneath our feet. Soil is something we often take for granted—if we think about it at all—but it's the foundation of life. It's not just a mix of minerals and organic matter; soil is a living, breathing ecosystem. Around a quarter of the planet's life forms live in it, and just one gram can contain more than a billion bacteria. This extraordinary underground community stores water, cycles nutrients, locks away carbon and supports the entire food web. Among the most important contributors to soil health is the humble earthworm. Their presence is one of the

clearest signs that your soil is in good condition. As they burrow, earthworms break down organic matter, improve drainage and make channels that let air and water move freely through the soil. There are three main types you might encounter. Litter-dwelling worms live on the surface and are small and dark red. Topsoil worms are paler and medium-sized, working through the upper soil layers. Deep-burrowing worms, about the size of a pencil, live at depth, creating vertical tunnels that help water infiltrate the soil. Together, these 'ecosystem engineers' continually reshape and revitalise the soil beneath us. Encouraging earthworms is surprisingly



simple: minimise digging, add plenty of organic matter, keep soil covered and don't use chemicals. And remember, by creating a worm-friendly garden,

you're investing in healthier soil—and a healthier planet. Karen Rose is a biodiversity officer at Wychavon District Council.

Sitting with feelings

Angela Johns

Sitting with the feelings we have can be really hard. *Who wants to be uncomfortable by choice?*

We all use many deflection techniques to avoid difficult truths:

Making excuses for people?

We don't need to admit to ourselves that they hurt us.

Working all hours and some? we keep loneliness at bay.

Being hyper-critical about someone? – we don't have to face up to our own shortcomings.

Moaning about everything and everyone?

We don't have to take the scary steps to make our own changes. Sometimes, though, it is equally hard to sit with the lighter feelings:

Managed to save some money this month?

cue worry that things will go wrong, and it gets used up. Putting your feet up for a bit? – maybe you should be doing some of those jobs.

Finally getting some help for a problem?

Maybe I shouldn't take it, as there's always someone else who needs it more. You get the picture. Good feelings seem like they come with a price tag at times. We don't allow ourselves the full joy of a good feeling because it's all tied up with guilt, regret or fear. What I invite you to do is to try taking time to sit fully with your favourite pure good feeling and know that you are allowed, that you do deserve to enjoy it. The world won't stop turning without you for five minutes today, five minutes tomorrow and so on. If feelings



of guilt or anger come up too, then that's fine, you can give them their own space another time. But this bit of time is reserved for the kinds of feelings that let your brow relax, and your shoulders drop; the kinds that might be sunshine yellow or bright blue or your favourite rich green; they might feel round and soft and light, and sound like a song or a gentle hum.

Do these beautiful feelings rest in your heart, or your hands or your belly?

So, sitting in a chair by the window with a nice cup of tea and no distractions, you can teach yourself to separate out your feelings five minutes at a time. By allowing yourself to practice the peace of a pure good feeling, you will want to return to it time and again.

Angela is a qualified Emotional Therapeutic Counsellor registered with the FETC and NCPS.

Also a Reflexologist and Reiki Practitioner, she is passionate about her therapies and spends quality time with her clients to facilitate their wellbeing.

You can find her at angelajohns.co.uk

IHT and the family home

Carol Draper

My elderly aunt has recently moved to live with my cousin, and her house has been sold. My cousin asked, "Do we have to invest in another property to still qualify for the residence nil rate band?"

This issue is faced by many families when an elderly relative is no longer able to cope with living in their own property or requires the money to fund care costs, so in these circumstances, how are nil rate bands applied? Every individual is entitled to the standard Inheritance Tax nil rate band of £325,000.

In addition, if there is a property which is passed on to direct descendants, there is a potential additional residence nil rate band (RNRB) of up to £175,000, giving a total nil rate band of £500,000. Jack and Jill are married with a son. Jack dies, leaving everything, including their home, to Jill. Jill also inherits Jack's nil rate band of £500,000. Jill lives in her home until she dies, at which point everything is left to her son. The home is valued at £400,000, and the rest of the estate £600,000. At this point, Jill's IHT nil rate band totals £1 million as Jack's nil rate band of £500,000 has been added to hers. If Jill left her house to someone other than her direct



descendants, the RNRB would be lost. If Jill had sold her house to help fund care costs or enable her to move in with her son, then after her death her estate could apply for a down sizing addition so it could still benefit from the RNRB. To qualify, Jill must have sold her house or down sized to a lower-value home after 8 July 2015. The house she sold would have qualified for the RNRB if it had been kept until she died, and Jill must have left at least part of her estate to her direct descendants.

It is not straightforward, and there are numerous considerations, but the answer to my cousin's question is essentially no; the family does not have to invest in another property to qualify for RNRB. If you want to find out more, speak to your accountant.

*Carol Draper FCCA
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd*

100 years ago ...

National Geographic took its first natural-colour undersea photos.

These groundbreaking images were captured by Charles Martin and Dr. William Longley off the Florida Keys, revealing vibrant marine life beneath the ocean's surface.

Kuiper Leather Bespoke and Repairs

Telephone 07788 257848

email: kuipermedia@me.com



**Clifton-Crick
Sharp**
Accountants

2a-3a Market Gate
Pershore
Worcestershire WR10 1DZ

01386 561100

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



Tad Newton's Jazz Friends

Sad news is the passing at the age of 91 of Abdullah Ibrahim, South African pianist and composer, whose musical progress paralleled the struggle against apartheid in his home country. He eventually domiciled in Europe but never forgot his roots, as was evident in the African influence in his music. He performed at the inauguration of Nelson Mandela became one of the most respected jazz musicians of the age. Rest in peace, Abdullah. The theme for Pershore Carnival on 20th June was 'Country and Western' and, with the current popularity of the music, most people are aware that the home of Country Music is Nashville, Tennessee. But Nashville is a very open city, music-wise, and

the presence of such a variety of musicians has always generated crossover between the different art forms. As long ago as the 1930s, country musicians were influenced by what they heard in jazz venues and adopted a more danceable rhythm and jazzy phrasing, which morphed into what became known as Western Swing. The granddaddy of the style was probably Bob Willis with his Texas Playboys, whose music was once described as 'jazz in a cowboy hat'. It became more and more normal for jazz musicians and country stars to drop into each other's venues to listen and, often, jam together, and so continue to do so today, but perhaps a little less so with the advent of new developments

in country and jazz, but the mutual appreciation between the two genres is still evident. It's interesting to note that jazz giant Charlie Parker was vociferous in praise of Hank Williams and Miles Davis were great admirers of Willie Nelson. This month's club night will present another of Pershore's favourite bands, Tad Newton's Jazz Friends, this time with guest artist Greg Abarte, all the

way from the USA. "Basin Street to Basie and Beyond" is how Tad describes his mission, and the band certainly accomplish it to perfection with music and inspiration from the nineteen-twenties right up to the present; all consummate and experienced musicians, they can take any tune of choice and make it their own. What better band to accompany Greg Abarte on his latest British tour? Greg is one of the most travelled jazz musicians, averaging well over two hundred appearances annually worldwide, and after a lifetime of study, practice and experience with some of the jazz greats, is now considered a jazz great himself. He graduated from the Berklee Institute of Music in 1972 and began a steady journey upwards through the ranks of local and national jazz, including stints with the Ray Charles band and the revamped Arty Shaw Orchestra. He was inducted into the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame in 2016. A chance to see a genuine jazz giant in action!

Tad Newton's Jazz Friends with Greg Abarte
Wednesday 29th July
Doors open at 7pm, music at 8pm

Admission £12.50 to include a raffle ticket.
In the Function Room, Pershore Football Club.
Book in advance and pay on arrival
Visit www.pershorejazz.org.uk Tel: 01527 66692
find us on Facebook.

Music Matters

Steve Ide

If you haven't already heard of the band Angine de Poitrine, you will soon, and even if not it's worth checking them out. The band is a Canadian duo made up of two anonymous members, who perform under pseudonyms wearing polka dot costumes that look like they came from outer space. This sounds like a novelty act, but it is very far from that; they play guitar and drums and perform complex experimental prog rock compositions. They have quickly gained a reputation for their impressive live performances, in full costume, with odd time signatures and complex rhythms. The guitarist (Kh de Poitrine) plays guitar and bass simultaneously on a custom-designed double-necked guitar using live looping to utilise both instruments. The gimmick of their look may lure you in, but the music is so

good and so technical that you quickly get hooked. If you're looking for something slightly off the mainstream, this is well worth checking out

Notable New Releases

The Coral

By 388

Using Ska rhythms and heavily influenced by 1970s dubstep music, this feels relaxed and breezy. The sound is timeless and is another classic album from a band returning to their roots

Standout track - Let the music play

The Boys from Dungeon Lane

By Paul McCartney

A nostalgic album, built on memories from Macca's early years in Liverpool. Showcasing his unquestionably, songwriting and storytelling, the songs cover rocking guitar and intimate acoustic arrangements.

Standout track - Days we left behind

Blue Morpho

By Ed O'Brien

In Radiohead, Ed is known for his atmospheric sound, and this is allowed full rein on this, his second solo release, blending psychedelic, folk, and trip-hop rhythms. Definitely one to take the phone off the hook, put on headphones, and immerse yourself in the sounds

Standout track - Teachers

Add to playlist

There's a guy works down the chip shop swears he's Elvis

By Kirsty MacColl

Largs

By King Creosote

How beautiful life can be

By The Lathums

By The Dandy Warhols

Romeo

by Basement Jaxx



Countryside smells and flavours.

Martyn Cracknell



Strongly smelling privet.

I have just returned from the Royal Three Counties show at Malvern, where the beekeepers from Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire join forces to provide a bee-themed exhibition and display in the Bees and Honey marquee. 2026 was Gloucestershire's year, and their exhibit featured a simulation of a walk-through beehive with

amplified hive sounds. Our stand featured the opportunities we offer for engagement with schools, from talks and visits to apiary experiences. In addition, there was a demonstration of frame making with wax foundation and elsewhere, candle rolling, the invasive yellow-legged hornet, and honey tasting. This is alongside a competitive honey show and

various stands selling cosmetics, mead and beekeeping equipment. The opportunity to 'try before you buy' was withdrawn after Covid but reintroduced this year. There are several distinct elements to the taste experience, and selecting your preferred honey maybe dictated by how you intend to use it. A set honey is often preferred by older purchasers. This may be because it is perceived as less sweet or that it is more likely to be spread on toast. The younger buyers tend to select runny honey for drizzling on cereal or yoghurt. A few honeys have a very distinct flavour, such as heather, ivy and lime trees, but generally the differences are quite subtle, and are a blend of nectars gathered from a variety of flowers, over an extended period of time. There is sometimes disappointment that the honey does not have an expected flavour. This is particularly the case with Lavender honey. People associate lavender with the smell of its oil but the nectar (and the honey) does not have any oil in it. In the same way, orange blossom honey does not

taste of orange peel, and the nectar gathered from Choisya does not have the unpleasant aroma of the crushed foliage. However, there are a couple of strong nectars which I try to avoid. Privet has a heavy scent, which contributes a bitterness to honey. To avoid this, I take any spring harvest of honey before the privet flowers and put fresh foundation on the hives so that they metabolise the privet, converting it into wax rather than storing it. I try to avoid ivy by taking my summer crop before the ivy starts flowering, although some people do like ivy honey. From time to time, artificially flavoured honeys appear on the marketplace. In the UK, the word 'honey' is a reserved description and can only be used if nothing is added to this natural product of the hive.



Are Your Locks Behaving Badly?

- NO CALLOUT CHARGE • FREE ONSITE ESTIMATES
- SAME DAY SERVICE* • NO VAT ON LABOUR

FIX AN ISSUE BEFORE IT BECOMES A PROBLEM..

Family Run Business With Traditional Skills & Workmanship
All Locks Opened, Serviced, Repaired, Supplied & Fitted
UPVC Multi-Point Lock Repair Specialist
Jammed & Dropped Doors Realigned & Adjusted
Security Surveys & Crime Prevention Advice Contact Stewart

.. THE LOCKSMITH ..

01905 570 999 07871 44 20 11

YOUR LOCAL, RELIABLE, INDEPENDENT SERVICE

WWW.WORCESTERSHIRE-LOCKSMITH.CO.UK

Transform Your Garden This Summer

Create a beautiful border in a weekend
no gardening experience needed

Perfect for busy people who want a garden without the faff



Beautiful Borders Made Simple

borderinabox.com



Did You Know?

July is often the warmest month in the Northern Hemisphere, a direct result of the Earth's tilt and its position in orbit.

Additionally, this month is when we typically experience the "Dog Days of Summer," a period named after the Sirius star, the "Dog Star," which rises and sets with the sun during late July.

This celestial event has fascinated astronomers and cultures for centuries.

Monthly Thoughts

The summer looks like being hot this year! Spare a thought for those whose work outside, with little chance of shade and a breather from the heat. At times like this, churches are wonderful places to be. The Abbey and many of the village churches are open. If you have the chance to sit in a church this summer, maybe these words from Psalm 121 will bring comfort:

"The Lord is your keeper, the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day"

God being with us, whatever the weather, is something worth celebrating.

Claire A Lording

Think before you leap



Stay safe around cold water this summer

With temperatures soaring and hot weather making us all desperate to cool off, the temptation to run towards the nearest lake, river, or beauty spot and jump straight in can feel irresistible. But before you do, stop and think.

At WithJules, I spend a lot of time helping people discover the joys of open water safely. Through my Cold-Water Immersion Courses, Breaststroke to Front Crawl Clinics, Develop Your Front Crawl sessions, and

by buddying nervous swimmers to help build confidence, I regularly see people taking their first steps into outdoor swimming and growing from uncertain beginners into confident swimmers. Open water swimming can be uplifting, calming, and hugely rewarding, but warmer weather often brings rushed decisions and dangerous assumptions. Many people believe that because they know a lake, river, or swim spot well, they know exactly what lies beneath the surface. Unfortunately, conditions constantly change.

Juliet Wallace-mason

Water depths vary, temperatures can differ dramatically, currents can catch people out, and debris can drift in without anyone noticing. Before thinking about entering cold water, remember these simple safety points:

- Never dive or jump into cold water. You never know how deep it is, how cold it may be, or what may be beneath the surface.
- Always walk into the water with purpose, gradually entering only up to your neck initially to allow your body to adapt and reduce the risk of cold-water shock and the involuntary gasp response.
- Walk to and check your exit point before you get in. If you miss it, where is your next safe exit point?
- Never swim alone and take a fully charged mobile phone.
- Know your limits and only do what you are capable of doing.
- Don't follow the old "one minute per degree" tale. Stay in only as long as feels comfortable and safe for you.
- Always get out wanting more.
- Don't compete with friends, and don't compete with what



you did last time you went wild swimming.

- Beware of currents and any changing weather conditions
 - Respect the water.
- Education makes a huge difference. I often hear people say they wished they had understood cold water shock, currents, or open water techniques before they started. Knowledge and confidence go hand in hand. Enjoy the water this summer — but remember to respect the water, walk in, don't jump in.

To learn more, visit WithJules.co.uk
Recipient of 'Best Emerging Water-Based Wellbeing Coaching Provider' & 'Community Wellbeing Excellence Award' from Midlands Enterprise Awards 2026

Pershore Flower Club

Members of Pershore Flower Club and their guests gathered at Bishampton Village Hall on Wednesday 17th June to enjoy coffee and tea and home-made cake before we settled down to watch Jackie Page, our demonstrator for the evening. Jackie, from Chipping Norton, called her demonstration 'Connections'.

Her first design was a connection to her childhood and her grandfather, who had lived in Birmingham. At the end of his road, there was a farm where they could get milk. Her container was a small milk churn with a dish of oasis on top, into which she placed stems of laurel, bergenia leaves and ferns and then two large sunflowers and stems of a pale delphinium and yellow solidago (goldenrod). Jackie then produced a similar arrangement, which she placed at the base in front of a metal coal scuttle. Next, as a nod to her life in floristry, she used a frame of two gold hoops with an oasis container at the base, into which she placed hosta, palm and bergenia leaves. To this foliage, she added pale yellow antirrhinums, blooms of a hydrangea called "magic and

tryst", stems of pink and green variegated anthurium, pale pink carnations and finally sprigs of euonymus. Next, a gold coloured urn containing chicken wire to which Jackie added lilies, the same glorious hydrangea, pink peonies, stems of lisianthus and ammi majus (cultivated cow parsley). A design reminding us of Constance Spry and Jackie's connection to 'June is busting out all over'. For her fourth design, Jackie placed a wooden shelf on two stands on which she put various water bottles of differing height together with two white candles, making a 'tablescape'. She inserted stems of a lilac-coloured iris – three stems in each of the three tallest bottles – stems of yellow freesia in the smaller bottles, and stems of scabious. Next, a hand-tie with a difference – bind pieces of beargrass not too tightly and thread stems of carnations in a line together with stems of a gerbera and a pretty grass. Tie all this together, trim the stalks and stand the hand-tie in a shallow bowl of water. Finally, as a connection to celebrations, Jackie used a tall silver container attached to a silver circular tray on which she had



placed varied foliage – eucalyptus, matching silver senecio, garrya elliptica and sprigs of pittosporum to fill in the gaps. Then flowers – antirrhinums, purple campanula, white lisianthus and the white rose "mondial". This design was another connection to metal – gold, silver, tin, etc. All this made a very enjoyable evening,

and we appreciated her humorous chat – successfully using our new microphone for the first time! We meet again on Wednesday 15th July, when Jayne Morris from Stroud will give her demonstration entitled "Bits and Bobs". Everyone is welcome at 7.30pm, Bishampton Village Hall.

Feeling Festive

Brian Johnson-Thomas



Longborough Opera Festivals production of Orlando

This month is indeed a gallimaufry of people, places and events. Let's take it sequentially ...

On 1st July

At Longborough, the Festival Opera's production of Verdi's "Macbeth" opens, running on various dates until the 16th, whilst Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde" plays on the 2nd until the 18th. Wagner himself rejected the idea of calling "Tristan" an opera, saying that he preferred the term "musicdrama". Certainly, compared to the majesty of the Ring Cycle, I tend to think of it perhaps as "Wagner lite". Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" opens on the 30th and runs until 8th August at the conclusion of a season which started at the end of May with Handel's "Orlando", a production made more luminous by the presence of the Academy of Ancient Music as the resident orchestra, producing the authentic musical sound which the composer would surely have recognised. For any remaining tickets, see www.LFO.org.uk

On 5th July

At White Ladies Aston Church at 3pm, the Severn Voices Chamber. The choir will embark on a musical journey through an exciting array of both popular favourites and lesser-known songs to entertain people of all ages. Tickets, including light refreshments, are priced at just £10 (£5 for under 18's) and are available from Margaret Haywood@ gmail.com or phone 01905345371.

On Friday the 10th,

A new production of Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard" opens in Stratford's Swan Theatre, marking a welcome return to the town of Kenneth Branagh plays the part of Lopakhin. The play will run until Saturday, 29 August. Meanwhile, in The Other Place, Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" has opened and will run until 30th August. Specially adapted to be accessible to children aged over seven, this classic comedy features creative cartooning integrated into every performance. I have fond memories of studying it for my GCE 'A' level in English some sixty years ago, not because of any profound appreciation of the Bard's writings but because I got a chance to kiss the then object of my affections...

See www.rsc.org.uk for details.

Also on the 10th,

"Willard Wigan: Tiny World" opens at the Broadway Museum. Described as a "breathtaking journey into the impossible world of microscopic sculpture", it's a collection created by the celebrated Dr Willard Wigan MBE, who has spent a lifetime creating artworks so small that they exist only beyond ordinary human perception, such as masterpieces created within the eye of a needle. Running until 9th August, details from www.broadwaymuseum.org.uk

That same weekend

At Pershore's Number 8, on the Friday, there's a 'Runway' themed party to welcome the local premiere of "The Devil Wears Prada 2", which also runs

on Monday and Tuesday, the 13th and 14th. Twenty years on from the wonderful first film of that name, I'm looking forward to the sequel. Set in the sometimes harsh jungle of magazine journalism, I particularly enjoyed the first film because I had recently been working in London The Television Centre and some of my then-colleagues could have stepped straight into the fictional characters portrayed in the film. Whilst I'm looking forward to the sequel, I can't help but think that it's a hard act to follow!

See www.number8.org.

The last weekend

of this month, by complete contrast, offers the Diesel Gala on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway, if that isn't a contradiction in

terms ... Running for nearly 30 miles from Broadway down to Cheltenham Racecourse, this lovingly preserved piece of history, has lots to see, not just at the main hubs of Toddington and Winchcombe, but also at the smaller stations on the line, including Gotherington Station, are privately owned but with its own station yard, it opened to visitors on that weekend only. The highlight of the weekend is expected to be a Hymek diesel-electric locomotive that often passed through Pershore Station some sixty years ago. D7018 is one of just four of the type, out of the 101 built, to survive to this day. Travelling behind that loco is certain to be a nostalgic journey. See www.gwsr.com. The Summer's finally here – let's enjoy!



Photography competition honourable mentions



Above:
'From Besford, Pershore, looking at Malvern Hills' taken by Roland Tear
(who will shortly be taking part in the
Worcester Open Studios Art Week, 22nd-31st August)

Below:
'Hare' taken by Brendon Dangerfield
(who will shortly be taking part in the Worcester Open Studios Art Week,
22nd-31st August)

Left:
'Telegraph Pole' taken by Roger Baskerville, Childswickham



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
In response to the letter in your June 2026 issue from Mr Bott of Kempsey, whether Reform UK is "far right" or not is a matter of opinion, not fact. I believe Reform UK is far right, while Mr Bott believes it is not. That is his opinion, and the matter is entirely open to debate. In an era of increasing misinformation, it is more important than ever to

differentiate between fact and opinion.
Yours faithfully,
Lee Howard
Pershore



Calling All Writers!

Short Story Competition!

Write about whatever inspires you!

Word Count: Up to 500 words

The winner will be published in the September magazine.

Deadline:

Monday 17th August

Please hand in or email your submissions to:

*news@hughes.company,
(including your name)
by Monday 17th August*

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



Calling All Photographers!

Cover Photo Competition!



*We are looking for six photos for our papers:
Persore, Upton, Kempsey, Powick,
Whittington & Broadway*

*Each photo should be high-resolution and landscape,
capturing what makes your local area special*

Please hand in or email your submissions to:
news@hughes.company

(including your name and which paper you would like your photo to be considered for)

Deadline:
20th of each month



Hughes & Company

8 Church Street, Persore,
Worcestershire WR10 1DT
01386 803803



Dental disease in cats and dogs



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

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

So what can we do?

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

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

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

Best wishes *Eliza*



Across

1. Awry/lopsided

6. Requested

11. A Chinese dynasty

14. Goat-like antelope of Eurasia

15. Food from heaven

16. Prefix indicating "Upon"

17. Religious scepticism

19. Armored Personnel Carrier

20. Make brown and crisp by heating

21. Abraham's wife

23. Prefix indicating "Other" or "Different"

27. Soft and mild

28. In a strong or agile manner

32. Casing

33. Memos

34. To and _____

37. Prefix indicating 1 trillion

38. A tart yellow fruit

39. Bushbuck antelope

40. Before

41. A dangerously seductive woman

42. Move sideways

43. In an unduly complimentary manner

45. Vocation

48. Appraise

49. Not silently

50. Not together

53. Speak lovingly

54. Became worse

60. Donkey

61. Belch

62. Useful

63. A type of cereal grass

64. A one-piece women's garment

65. Repairs or fixes

Down

1. A king of Judah

2. Screen Actors Guild

3. Related by blood

4. Self-importance

5. One who spends indulgently

6. Genus of the bowfin fish

7. Pouches

8. Interlacing yarn in connected loops

9. N N N N

10. Maidens

11. Pumps blood

12. Anagram of "Papal"

13. Shallow recess

18. Honk

22. One, some or all

23. Hurry

24. Anagram of "There"

25. Not here

26. Singer _____ Fitzgerald

27. Singers Campbell or Frey

29. Not active

30. Large ice ball orbiting the sun

31. Make amends

34. A soft creamy candy

35. Streamlets

36. Complies

38. Teller of untruths

39. Liquors flavored with juniper berries

41. Rode on a sledge

42. A rattle or noisemaker

43. French for "Fire"

44. Scarce

45. What chocolate is made from

46. Genus of the alewife or shad

47. Bird shelter

50. Shivering fit

Coffee Break Crossword

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

51. Chest muscles

52. Picnic insects

55. Go astray

56. Anagram of 'Tea'

57. A silvery malleable metal

58. Old age (archaic)

59. A potent estrogen

Sudoku

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

9

1

8

2

3

6

4

6

8

9

1

2

6

1

8

1

4

3

6

2

9

7

9

1

6

3

8

5

2

4

9

8

5

1

3

8

1

5

4

7

2

9

3

9

6

1

5

4

1

3

5

8

4

9

1

2

6

1

3

5

6

2

3

1

6

8

3

4

4

7

2

6

4

9

3

9

1

8

4

8

7

2

9

8

5

5

8

7

2

Summer wordsearch

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

BARBECUE

BASEBALL

BEACH

CAMP

COOKOUT

HEATWAVE

HIKING

HOT

HUMID

KITE

LEMONADE

OCEAN

PICNIC

POOL

SAILING

SAND

SUMMER

TENNIS

TRAVEL

WARM

Brainteasers

1) What is found in Mercury, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus, but never in Neptune or Venus?

2) What do the numbers 11, 69 and 88 have in common?

3) David's father has three sons: Snap, Crackle and ____?

3) David

2) They read the same when flipped upside down

1) Letter 'R'

Poets' Corner

A Shropshire Lad LXII (cont)

Therefore, since the world has still
Much good, but much less good than ill,
And while the sun and moon endure
Luck's a chance, but trouble's sure,
I'd face it as a wise man would,
And train for ill and not for good.
'Tis true, the stuff I bring for sale
Is not so brisk a brew as ale:
Out of a stem that scored the hand
I wrung it in a weary land.
But take it: if the smack is sour,
The better for the embittered hour;
It should do good to heart and head
When your soul is in my soul's stead;
And I will friend you, if I may,
In the dark and cloudy day.

There was a king reigned in the East:
There, when kings will sit to feast,
They get their fill before they think
With poisoned meat and poisoned drink.
He gathered all the springs to birth
From the many-venomed earth;
First a little, thence to more,
He sampled all her killing store;
And easy, smiling, seasoned sound,
Sate the king when healths went round.
They put arsenic in his meat
And stared aghast to watch him eat;
They poured strychnine in his cup
And shook to see him drink it up:
They shook, they stared as white's their shirt:
Them it was their poison hurt.
--I tell the tale that I heard told.
Mithridates, he died old.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

Quiz!

- 1) On what day in July is Canada Day?
- 2) What out-of-this-world day occurs on 2nd July?
- 3) What French holiday occurs on 14th July?
- 4) Who was the month of July named after?
- 5) What mission was launched on July 16, 1969?
- 6) Which King of Macedonia was born on 20th July 356 BC?
- 7) Which famous tennis tournament traditionally concludes in July?
- 8) Which British railway locomotive set the world steam speed record of 126 mph in July 1938, a record it still holds today?
- 9) Usually observed on 5th July, Tynwald Day is the National Day of which part of the UK?
- 10) Which rowing event, held annually on the River Thames, ends on the first weekend in July?
- 11) Which battle took place on 1st July 1690?
- 12) A famous festival is held in Whitstable, Kent, each year for three days in July, celebrating which food?
- 13) On which British ship did Napoleon Bonaparte surrender to Captain Frederick Lewis Maitland on the 15th July 1815?
- 14) The '20th July plot' was the attempted assassination of whom?
- 15) What is July's birthstone?
- 16) What is the flower for the month of July?
- 17) Which famous aviator is recognized on 24th July?
- 18) Which artist had a huge hit with "Summer of '69"?
- 19) Released on 20th June 1975, which film is regarded as the first summer blockbuster?

Answers: 1) 1st July 2) World UFO Day 3) Bastille Day 4) Julius Caesar 5) Apollo 11 6) Alexander the Great 7) Wimbledon 8) The Mallard 9) Isle of Man 10) Henley Royal Regatta 11) Battle of the Boyne 12) Oysters 13) HMS Belleroophon 14) Hitler 15) Ruby 16) Larkspur 17) Amelia Earhart 18) Bryan Adams 19) Jaws

Did You Know?

On 4th July, the United States celebrates its Semiquincentennial anniversary, marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Famous July Birthdays!

Diana, Princess of Wales
(1st July 1961)
Emmeline Pankhurst
(14th July 1858)
George Bernard Shaw
(26th July 1856)
Emily Brontë
(30th July 1818)

Word of the Month 'Kippage'

excitement or confusion
meaning a state of anger,
Scottish dialect term
Definition:

June Answers

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

Hughes & Company

The Pershore Press

8 Church Street Pershore WR10 1DT

Tel: 01386 803803 Email: print@hughes.company

Photographs

*Printed from your mobile phone,
memory stick or email.*

*Old Photographs scan and print service
Photograph repairs available*

Photocopying

Black & White and Colour Copies



Printer Cartridges

Inkjet & Laser

*Available to order delivered to
your door or collect*

Recycling service available

Life is for sharing ...

A Lifetime of Stories

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



*Publishers of
Pershore, Upton, Powick,
Kempsey, Whittington &
Broadway & Tibberton Times*



To receive our monthly newspapers by email

**Email your request to:
news@hughes.company**

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

You will receive the next edition direct to your inbox!

Bring your memories to life!



We transfer to DVD, USB & Audio CD

VHS - Slides - Photos - Cine films

Camcorder tapes - Photos from video

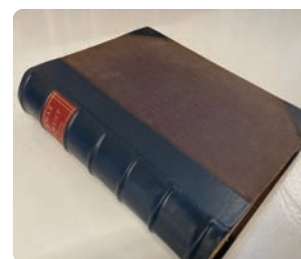
Tape repairs / editing - Foreign tapes converted

Open reel audio, Dictaphone, Cassette &

Vinyl to CD or MP3



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



Bring it to us for a free quotation!

The Complete Package

***Free Monthly Newspapers
plus online versions***

Access to 100,000 residents

Advertisements from £15.00

Pay as you go monthly - No contracts

email edition

To advertise -

email: news@hughes.company

For FREE editorial - (250/300 word article)

email: news@hughes.company

Published by:

Hughes & Company

Telephone 01386 803803

Proprietor / Editor Alan Hughes

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

Copy Deadline for

August Issue - 15th July 2026

Severn Stoke & Croome D'abitot News

Happenings in Severn Stoke and Environs

John Henderson

St. Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

Work on the flood Bund continues, which should have great benefits for the Village as a whole, not just for those who so frequently had to suffer regular flooding. It should mean that the A38 through the village does not become a bottleneck during a serious flood, when only half the carriageway is useable. The Church, pub and houses will be more secure and as far as the Church is concerned, we can begin to think of it as a long term asset for the village as a place of worship and more particularly for

increased community use, making plans for the provision of services and modern facilities a possibility.

Friends of St Denys' Severn Stoke - Raising funds to modernise the church!

Look out for our next fund raiser, a lively entertainment by the Gospel VoxRox Choir, singing Country, Rock, Pop and Soul and everything in between with a Cream Tea included in the £10.00 ticket on the door on Sunday, 23rd August at 2.30 p.m. Make a date in your diaries.



Cornflower Club

Our meetings are held every other Wednesday at 2:30pm in the Parish hall. There is a change to the dates from the last notice. We will be having a musical afternoon on 15th July and a week later on the 22nd we have our trip to Weston. We then have a summer break and meet back

on 9th September. If you are a lady or gentleman over 60 years of age please, come and join us, you would be made most welcome.

Please phone
Sally Linsey 01905 820476
Julia Grant 01905 820138

Spot & Shop June Winners

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1) Robert Armstrong | 2) Joy Salt |
| 3) Sue Wilks | 4) Sue Harte |
| 5) Claire Wainwright | 6) Jane Dipple |
| 7) Sarah Constantinou | |

Last month's answer: Croome Partnerships

Save the Children!

We had a hugely successful Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th June. We raised £592-00 for the Fund. The Kempsey group would like

to thank all who came and supported us, Kempsey are so good at that. Thank you so much once again.

Heather Davies

Teddies for Tragedies

Please, keep your knitted items coming. We need hats, scarves and mittens/gloves in sets if possible. Blankets, cardigans

and of course the teddies. You can drop the items to me Please phone Julia on 01905 820138

Music Society

The Music Society meets fortnightly on Thursday afternoons in a comfortable lounge at The Firs on Old Road North from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. We listen to a variety of music, presented by members, or the occasional visiting presenter. We would welcome anyone new who would like to come and join us. Do come and give us a try. We would like to increase our numbers, so new faces are very welcome. We have a social break in the middle of the afternoon, for tea or coffee and biscuits. We are a friendly group and mostly very local to Kempsey.



Our meetings will take place at The Firs on Old Road North from 2:00pm - 4:00pm on:

Thursday 2nd, 16th
& 30th July

For further details please contact Anne on 07931 636309

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

SPOT
and
SHOP!

Chance
to WIN
£50
CASH

This
month's
anagram
Andy cyTOSTatic
Humbler

This month's prizes!

1st - £50 cash

2nd - £25 cash

Donated by Hughes & Company

3rd £20 Food Voucher
at The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley

4th £10 Voucher
at Revills Farm Shop, Defford

5th £10 Voucher
at Craftypyro, Bakers Arcade, Pershore

6th £10 voucher
at Upper Crust, Pershore

7th Pat's Pantry -
Jar of home-made marmalade/jam

Complete and return this form or email:
news@hughes.company for your chance to win!

Kempsey Times closing date: 24th July 2026

Answer:

Name:

Telephone/email:

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

Bowbrook Gardens

Imaginative High Quality Landscaping

Patio and Garden Walls

Ponds and Water Features

Pond and Patio Cleaning

Fencing and Hedge Cutting

Local, Friendly Service

References Available

Call Glenn on

01905 937852 Mob: 07792 613020

CHIMNEY SWEEP

Andy Johnson

Certificates issued

Weekend sweeps

Stove maintenance

Based in Martley

07798 790913

andysweeps1@gmail.com



www.andysweeps.com



GLASSIER

Windows, Doors

Conservatories

Repairs & Sealed

Units

01905 841900

glassier.co.uk



The Croft,
Green Street,
Kempsey WRS 3QB

01905 820795

07726 766740



Jim'll Fix It

Handyman services

Painting & Decorating, Tiling, Gutter Cleaning, Soffits
& Fascia's, Laminate Flooring, Garden Clearance &
Maintenance, Furniture Assembly, Bath & Shower
Sealing, Pressure Washing, Coving & Door Hanging.

ALL SERVICES 7 DAYS A WEEK - FULLY INSURED -
FAST, FRIENDLY & RELIABLE - REFERENCES ON REQUEST

ALL JOBS CONSIDERED
RING JIM ON : 01905 424945
MOB: 07912 879214

MowerFix Ltd

SERVICING & REPAIR
ON ALL TYPES OF DOMESTIC
GARDEN MACHINERY

New & used machinery sales

mobilemowerfix@gmail.com

01684 311487 | 07855 521138

www.mobile-mower-fix.co.uk

Wild Contracts Tree Surgeons

All aspects of tree work undertaken

Crown work, dismantling,

felling, waste removal,

woodland management and general advice

Fruit Tree Management:

Re-establish of shape, vigour and fruiting

Hedge Management:

Trimming, leylandii control,

restoration and topiary

NTPC Qualified

£5m Public Liability

Based in Kempsey

www.wildcontracts.co.uk

01905 425181

07847 272005

www.ovenmagic.me

OVEN CLEANING!

01905 700500 or 07974 807118

www.ovenmagic.me

We clean:

- Ovens
- Hobs
- Extractors
- Agas
- Rayburns
- Ranges
- Microwaves
- BBQ Racks

OVENmagic

SEE WHAT OTHERS SAY ON OUR WEBSITE

R.S.B. DECORATIONS



Local Kempsey

Professional Decorator

All aspects of Decorating
undertaken

- Interiors & Exteriors
- Kitchen units hand painted
- Wooden flooring renovation
- Granite work top repairs
- Sash windows
- End of Tenancy freshen-up
- Apply Epoxy floor paint for garages, cellars, sheds etc.
- Specialists in Black + White, Historic & Listed Buildings

Est. 34 years

01905 821453 / 0785 1225277

E: roger.bent@btinternet.com

PRESSURETEC

EXTERIOR PROPERTY CLEANING

A Family-run Exterior Property
Cleaning Company based in Powick

...

OFFERING:

- Gutter Cleaning/Clearing.
- Pressure Washing Driveways and Patios.
- Facia and Soffit Cleaning.

Call today for a Free quotation

07724 049177

info@pressuretec.co.uk

www.pressuretec.co.uk



RP JOINERY

The Complete

Property Improvement Package

Free Quotations

- *Carpentry & Painting
- *Bespoke Furniture & Joinery Manufacturing
- *Fitted Bedrooms & Kitchens Installations
- *Garden & Property Maintenance

T:01905 670637

www.rp-joinery.com

www.rpjoineryshop.com



JDS

Electrical

For all your electrical needs

Fully qualified and insured

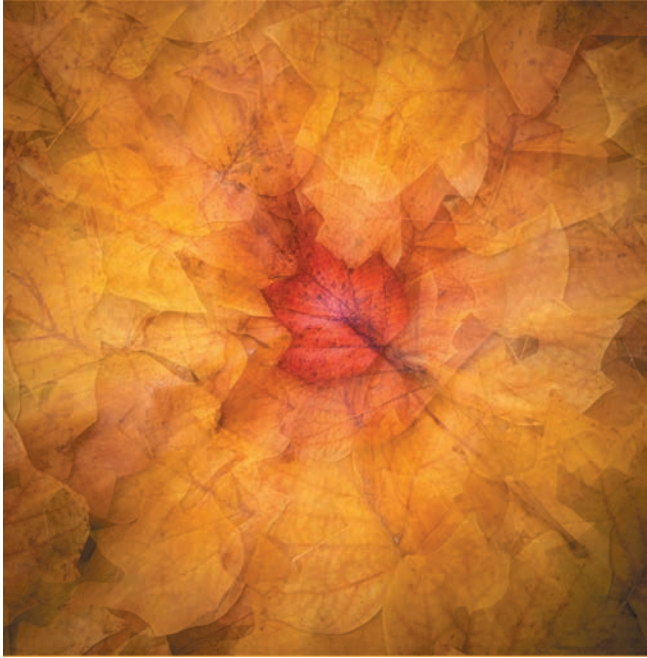
JON HALL

07528 183057

jds.electrical@outlook.com



Camera Club



"A Burst Of Autumn" by Jayne Winter

With summer having now arrived, the Club is running in its alternative, seasonal form, with fewer regular meetings, but (hopefully) enough to keep both members and potential members interested. July is likely to be our quietest month of the year, Club-wise at least, with only one formal, but in-person, meeting on the afternoon of Sunday, 26th July, at which we intend to look at and discuss photographic prints, including recent successful award-winning examples, and all aspects of their production and display. We would be delighted to welcome anybody interested in the event

listed above; please make contact via our website (www.kempseycameraclub.uk), where you will also find further details of our programme for the "summer" season. In the meantime, we hope that you will enjoy the contrast between these two quite different images, "A Burst Of Autumn" by Jayne Winter and "A Prickly Situation" by Ian Wallace, two of the five Highly Commended images in our "In My Garden" projected image competition held in late March.

*Malcolm A Hay
Secretary*



"A Prickly Situation" by Ian Wallace

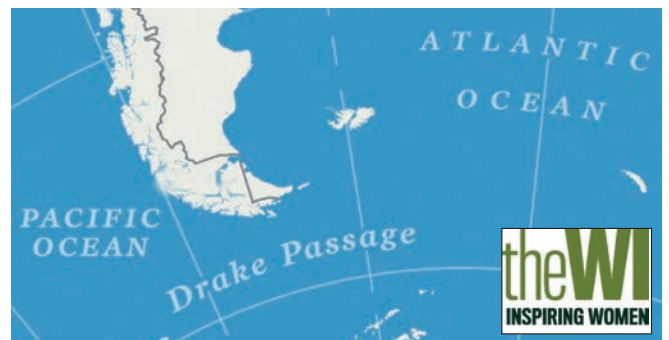
"To photograph truthfully and effectively is to see beneath the surfaces and record the qualities of nature and humanity which live or are latent in all things."

Ansel Adams

Kempsey WI

Temperatures were decidedly chilly at Kempsey WI's May meeting when members were transported to Antarctica. Speaker Ray Sturdy explained how he'd longed to visit the frozen continent since reading about Robert Falcon Scott's expedition to the South Pole, as a child. After taking early retirement, he managed to achieve his aim in 2015, travelling aboard a vessel designed for ice-breaking, converted to a passenger ship. He presented a slide show of the landscapes and wildlife he encountered and told members about the conditions endured on land and sea. These included braving 50-60ft waves, crossing

the hazardous Drake Passage on the way from the tip of South America to the Palmer Peninsula on Antarctica, and wrapping up in many layers for a dog sled journey and overnight stay in tents in temperatures of -26°C degrees. Wildlife he managed to capture on film included whales, seals and four types of penguins, with the Chinstraps being his favourite. Ray recalled that penguins were curious and would come to investigate when the adventurers went out in the Zodiac rubber boats they used to get close to the ice, but that seals did not like to be approached and would react. Visiting a former research station now turned into a museum, the group



were shown food still in its ice hole and nearby tanks that once stored the whale oil and seal oil harvested for industrial use in many countries. Replying to questions, Ray said that a treaty now protects Antarctica from any profit-making ventures and no one owns the land, although various parts have been claimed

by different countries. The research scientists based there mainly work on drug testing, benefitting from the uncontaminated air.

There is no regular meeting in July, but instead an outing has been arranged to the Walled Garden at Croome.

New Business!



Fine Art Dog Photography.
created in studio or location

Uli Sannwald-Reed Photography
www.ulisanwald-reed.com
uli@ulisanwald-reed.com



New Business!



SO YOU CAN FOCUS
ON WHAT MATTERS

ACCURATE. ORGANISED. UNDER CONTROL.
Clarity on your finances.

CLEAR VISIBILITY & CONFIDENCE
Know where you stand. Make better decisions.

A CONSISTENT POINT OF CONTACT
One expert, with proven results.

BUSINESS SUPPORT THAT REDUCES STRESS
Straightforward. No complexity.

Local. Reliable. On your side.

+44 7759 386570
essentials@croomepartnerships.co.uk
www.croomepartnerships.co.uk

New Business!



Travel that feels as good as it should

Meaningful travel, thoughtfully planned

- ✓ Trips shaped around you
- ✓ I handle the details
- ✓ Experiences that stay with you

Everything taken care of, from start to finish

Thinking about your next trip?



scan to connect
linktree/curatedbyclaytonsmith
curatedbyclaytonsmith@gmail.com

Bin Collections

JULY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

■ Green recycling bin ■ Black waste bin

ACS

ACS Painting & Decorating

Interior and Exterior
Excellent Reliable Service
Competitive Rates

For a free quotation call
Andrew Sharp
T: 01905 355804
M: 07763367401

GRAND MASTER
CLIVE HARRISON'S

FAMILY
TAE KWON-DO

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

Kempsey Parish Hall
WR5 3JA

50 Years Of Experience In
Martial Arts

Self Defence
Anti Bullying
Confidence
Fitness
Flexibility
Self-Esteem

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

07976986439
clive01@talktalk.net



Teaching Fitness,
fun, Confidence
and Respect.

龍木

Open to all abilities

- Dragon Tree promotes Health, Fitness and Wellbeing through Martial Arts, Karate etc.
- We believe in good teaching practice and equality for all students.
- Our Martial Arts classes teach much more than kicking and punching. We teach Life Skills; reinforce the lessons your child needs on life.

Training every Thursday
Kempsey Primary School, WR5 3NT

6.15 - 7.00pm Little Dragons (up to 11Yrs.)
7.00 - 8.00pm Martial Arts Intermediate
8.00 - 9.00pm Martial Arts Adult

For details and private lessons contact:
Sensei Dave Webster 07870 948180





www.jogoodwinphysio.co.uk
07792526401
jogoodwinphysio@gmail.com

EXPERIENCED CHARTERED
PHYSIOTHERAPIST
BSC(HONS) MCSP MACCP







Hollybeds Farm
Earls Croome
Worcester
WR8 9DA

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

Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

Flood Bund planning conditions have been discharged and the project contract has been formalised with Griffiths.

Mobilisation of the construction work started in late April 2026 at the old hall site to set up the area for the welfare cabins.

Stone has been imported to raise the cabins up out of flood level. Vegetation clearance started on 5th May. Some imported fill material for the flood bank is already on site and further material will be imported in the coming months. Ham Lane is hoped to be reopened in late June for the anglers, in accordance with their annual fishing calendar. Farm access is via a gate-master system with summer harvest access fully accommodated. The aim is to complete construction around Christmas 2026/early 2027.

Further planting and landscaping work will then follow into spring 2027. Dame H. Baldwin MP attended a site visit on 15th May to view progress. The bottle banks have been moved to St Denys' car park – thanks to the Friends of St Denys', to Savills and to MHDC for permissions. Thank you to residents who have had to accommodate archaeological works at short notice. Thanks also to residents who have reported concerns about mud on the road – this has been addressed by the site manager and a road sweeper is regularly on site. Social media reports about irregular construction site working hours can be addressed if residents contact the parish council or County/District Councillors direct. Parish councillors are now

looking to plan for life once the bund is complete. If residents have any questions or points to make about who/when/how the bund will be managed post-construction, please let us know and we will add these to our meetings with the Environment Agency and County Council. Please keep an eye on our website for up-to-date bund information.

www.severnstokeandcroome-dabitot-pc.gov.uk

Tarmac has contacted the parish council to notify councillors of proposals to vary the permitted scheme to work the area east of the A38. Once we know more about what this entails, information will be placed on the parish council website.

Speeding

The parish council is gradually replacing and repairing the Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs around the parish. Thank you for your patience whilst we source new batteries. The vehicle-activated sharp bend sign on Severn Bank was judged by Highways to have come to the end of its functional life span – the parish council begged to differ. It has now been fully repaired by a parish councillor team and has also been fully adopted by the parish council and so will remain in situ. A brand new sign, along with a new solar panel, would have cost £6,000+ to purchase, so this work represents a significant saving for the parish. Thank you to Martin Allen, John Michael and David Harrison for grants to help towards repairs. Our Lengthsman is spending an

ever-increasing amount of time moving, changing and charging our VAS signs at the request of residents. This focus on speeding means that he is unable to spend as much time as we would like on tackling weeds and vegetation, but, if you see an area that you think could benefit from a visit from the Lengthsman, please get in touch and we will try to prioritise that area. The Parish Clerk and our Volunteer Footpaths Officer are getting their heads together about the outstanding rights of way issues parish wide ... watch this space for volunteer opportunities. We are aware of the poor condition of the noticeboard at High Green and will be getting this sorted as soon as we can, with full regard to the historical village setting.

Planning

The National Trust continues to keep us informed of progress with the new car park at Croome Court. We keep our eye on a number of planning enforcement actions across the parish and feed into district council consultations where required. We also continue to feed into the planning process at Worcestershire Parkway. The new 10,000-home community 'Wychavon Town' will impact on local traffic and visitor attractions and we continue to push for proper assessments of these. We keep enquiring about the progress for parish-wide broadband installation. The Village Hall Committee keeps us updated on the potential to rebuild the village hall at Severn Stoke and has agreed to fund initial investigations to determine

whether a rebuild project is viable now that the flood bund is being built. We have been contacted by a number of charities in relation to the condition and water quality of the River Severn. We are unable to set aside resources to support this topic right now and instead will ask to be kept informed of progress in this matter. The variety of support that we can give to important topics like this, and other topics that are raised, is limited by the size of the parish council. We can only give projects such as these our full attention if we have new volunteers step forward to become parish councillors. We have only six councillors out of a possible twelve. Please see our adverts elsewhere in this magazine and get in touch. Join our friendly team and help us keep the OK in Severn StOke and Croome d'Abitot!

Next Meetings:

15th July, 30th September,
25th November 2026, 7.30pm
SOQ meeting room, Croome
National Trust Visitor Centre.

Parish Clerk, Lisa Stevens

07950 256363

parishclerk@severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk

Your councillors are Richard Hill (Chair), Simon Bott, Ian Daly, Laura McEwan-Hill, Pat Preston and Raymond Williams. We have six vacancies for immediate co-option.





Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot
Parish Council

Could you be a Parish Councillor?

Every community needs people who care enough to step forward. Is that person **you**?

Parish Councillors help make decisions on local issues, support community projects, and work to improve the quality of life for everyone in the parish. If you:

- ✔ Care about your local area
- ✔ Want to make a positive impact
- ✔ Would like to influence decisions about our local area

Then we'd love to hear from you. No previous experience necessary, just enthusiasm, common sense and a desire to help your community thrive.

CONTACT US

Parish Clerk 07950 256363 | www.severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk



Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot
Parish Council

Your Parish Your Village Your Voice Your Turn

Decisions about planning, local spending, and the future of this village are made every month. Right now, there aren't enough people making them.

Be the change.
Become a member of the parish council and help shape the future of where you live.

☎ 07950 256363
✉ parishclerk@severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk

Are you part of a Community Volunteer Programme at work?

Are you looking for a community project locally that will have a lasting impact?



Why not get in touch to find out about Daffodil Planting Day on 16th October throughout Kempsey and Severn Stoke?

Email
infokempseyreveals@gmail.com
to learn more

Hughes and Company

Printers - Publishers

Bookbinders - Stationers

8 Church Street, Pershore WR10 1DT

Tel: 01386 803803

print@hughes.company

www.hughesprinters.co.uk

Four generations of printers

Kempsey Times



Summertime at the Lawns!



We are making the most of the sunshine, with some wonderful walks around Kempsey and spending time in the garden. Thank you to our resident Eva, who likes pottering about, keeping everything spick and span, and always with a beaming smile that lights up every room – she even cleaned the outside furniture and table tops ready for the bank holiday heatwave! It has been wonderful to have the sun awning out, our colourful parasols up, and

everyone outside for refreshments, singing and dancing and some new garden games. The giant Connect Four is quite a hit. And we hosted a Cake Sale in the garden, fundraising for Dementia UK. A big shout-out to another of our residents, Marjorie, who is a very talented knitter. She has been raising money for many years for the Air Ambulance and, in the last few weeks alone, has made seven knitted dolls to sell. They are very characterful,

with hats and outfits, and each one is unique. Do take a look when you are next visiting The Lawns. We have a new therapy dog called Rosie visiting every Friday, spending time with residents on our Nursing and Residential floors. She is a beautiful Labrador with a gentle temperament, and everyone looks forward to her visits. Coming up, there is the Wimbledon fortnight, and we are having tennis games in our fitness classes, strawberries and

Pimms. We also have the Good Day Farm visiting on 16th July in the garden – back by popular demand with all their animals. *We are welcoming new admissions for long stay or respite care. Please give us a call for more information, and see our video on our website. www.heritagemanor.co.uk/our-homes/the-lawns*

*With best wishes from Team Lawns
Main Road, Kempsey, WR5 3NF
01905 821388*

SUNNYSIDE GARAGE

- MOT'S
- Servicing
- Diagnostics
- Repairs
- Tyres

ALL MAKES & MODELS

Air Conditioning Service & Repairs

QUALITY USED CARS

Tel: 01905 828 100
www.sunnyside-garage.co.uk
Old Rd South • Kempsey • Worcester WR5 3NJ

JACKSON FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

- Only local family run Funeral Directors in Pershore.
- 24/7 Support
- Free home consultation, no obligations.

24/7 Support
01386 575006

jacksonfamilyfunerals.com
office@jacksonfamilyfunerals.com
The Garden House, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PZ

GARRY JARVIS LANDSCAPING & FENCING SERVICES

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

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

Call Garry on
01905 821567 | 07988 455899