

Fascinating farming lives in C17th ripple

St Mary's Church, Ripple, will hold its annual Heritage Open Weekend on 12th and 13th September during the National Heritage Open Days 2026

The national theme for this year's event is "Everyday Histories". As an ancient agricultural parish, the Ripple heritage team will focus on the everyday histories of its farming community. With more than 1,000 years behind them, they will narrow the window to the first half of the 17th century, when many of the old houses in Ripple were built, when the English Civil War over ran the Parish, and when their celebrated farm worker, The Ripple Giant gave his life in a daring wager. Over the weekend, there will be History and Heritage displays and Bell Tower tours, many important Heritage features to

see, activities for children, 17th and 21st century refreshments, a self-guided Village History Walk, toilets and parking. Everyone is invited; children are encouraged; dogs are welcome. There is no cost, although donations are always very welcome. St Mary's famous 15th Century Misericords - hinged seats for monks and clergy - tell the stories of rural life through their intricate carvings, illustrating the tasks of each month of the year; sowing, reaping, killing the pig for winter. One such seat celebrates Lammas Day and is the only Misericord of its kind in existence. St Mary's will bring each of these carvings to life in text and images. Visitors will be able to explore the social history of the Parish, how people lived, how they worked and played, what they

ate and drank, wore and earned. They will learn about daily life through the farming hierarchy, from the landed gentry at The Rectory and Ripple Hall, Yeoman Farmers at Manor Farm, to hard-pressed farm workers, day-labourers and itinerants, female and child labour, farriers, wheelwrights, thatchers and ferrymen. Eyewitness accounts will tell of the anarchy and suffering inflicted on farming life by the English Civil War at the time of the Battle of Ripple Field in 1643. Members of the UK's oldest battle re-enactment society The Sealed Knot, will tell, in costume, the stories of soldiers and camp followers, many of them also farm workers. St Mary's is the home church of The Sealed Knot Society and its founder, Brigadier Peter Young, are memorialised there.

The Parish Church of St Mary's, Ripple is said to be one of the largest medieval rural parish churches in the county, with a rich history dating back to 680AD when a charter granted land for the building of a minster. The present church, which is Grade I Listed, was built in 1190 and remains much the same. Ripple itself is a historic community dating back to the 7th century with origins in the Iron Age and a mention in the Domesday Book of 1086.

St Mary's Church, The Cross, Ripple, Tewkesbury GL20 6HA
What Three Words – vitals.refrained.occupiers
Heritage Open Weekend
10am – 4pm Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September 2026
For more details, search Heritage Open Days – St Mary's Ripple.



Music Matters

August is a big month for rock star birthdays:

Robert Plant, - 20 August 1948

The Edge, - 8 August 1961

Phil Lynott, - 20 August 1949

Joe Strummer, - 21 August 1952

Jack Black, - 28, August 1969

were all born this month. But perhaps one of the biggest names that would have celebrated is The Who drummer, Keith Moon. Keith was a larger than life personality that would have been 80 this year if he hadn't died, aged just 32 in 1978. He lived a life on the edge, and the stories of his antics are legendary. From Rolls-Royce's driven into pools, exploding drum kits and trashed hotel rooms. But his drumming was the thing that he should be best remembered for. He was famous for a style that elevated the drum from time keeping to a lead instrument. Arguably not

the best technical drummer, he played by instinct and feel. As part of one of the best rhythm sections in rock history, he drove the songs, improvising at will, with an energy that was part of his act. He had his demons and struggled with life many times, but there is little doubt he was one of the best rock drummers in history and is sadly missed.

Notable New Releases

Frozen Charlotte

by Jack White

Jack doesn't stray far from his modus, 70's blues rock, but this is one of his most fun albums for a while. Sounds like it was made to be performed live, play it loud!

Standout track - Derecho Deonico Castle park

by Graham Coxon

Originally recorded in 2011 this lost gem is probably Graham's

best solo release for years.

Highly listenable, totally enjoyable with catchy guitar hooks, a delight to listen to Stand out track - Billy says Confessions 2

by Madonna

An unashamed dance album (the lyrics use the word dance 22 times as a noun and verb) this is Madonna back on her home turf. And so much better for it

Stand out track - Bring your love

Add to playlist

It's a heartache

by Bonnie Tyler

Really saying something

by Bananarama

Wouldn't it be nice

by The Beach Boys

Life at a top people's health farm

by The Style Council

Ex's and Oh's

by Ellie King

Steve Ide



Time to give up smoking?

Martyn Cracknell



Using a smoker....and not a bee in sight.

The use of smoke to 'subdue' bees dates back to prehistoric times, when bees were driven from wild combs to enable the honey to be robbed more easily. A sheaf of smouldering sticks was held close to the combs

and the smoke blown into the nest. Some bees move away whilst others gorge themselves on honey, but the net result is a much reduced defensive response. When I started beekeeping, many of the old

men used to smoke a pipe while opening hives and gently puff the smoke in as they worked, but pipe smoking is a rarity nowadays. In modern beekeeping, the smoke is directed one-handedly using a bellows attached to a fire box filled with smouldering fuel. The objective is to produce a dense but cool smoke which is not acrid or offensive to either the bees or the beekeeper. In addition, it should be easy to light and long-lasting. My preferred choice is shredded cardboard, but hessian sacking, wood chips or shavings work well. There are no special additives to calm the bees. This system is relatively straightforward, effective, and inexpensive, but there can be disadvantages. The smoker tends to become clogged up with tarry residues from the smoke, so the lid won't fit. This cleans off in a bucket of soapy water and with a brush. Then there can be difficulty lighting damp fuel, and when the job is done, putting it out safely, especially if one is tending bee hives on a field edge or other remote location. Various innovations have come and gone over the years, including

battery-operated fans to overcome the need to squeeze the bellows, and more recently a cover cloth soaked with a repellent, an aerosol can giving a mist of essential oil, or fan-driven oil diffusers, doing away with fire generated smoke altogether. When I was doing an inspection the other day with an outdoor temperature of 34C and tinder dry vegetation all around, I decided to try another old-fashioned strategy. Namely, a very fine water spray, and the result was dramatic. The immediate rise in volume of the sound of the hive as I prised off the roof and inner cover soon gave way to a contented gentle hum, and I was able to complete the inspections with a minimum of disturbance. It seemed as if they really appreciated the cooling shower, but in our normal weather conditions this would just have resulted in a mass of soggy bedraggled bees. The ability to direct the smoke with a modern smoker, and to be able to see the smoke and use it sensitively to gently move the bees away from handholds or edges, so as not to crush bees, all make the smoker one of the beekeeper's most useful tools.

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Did You Know?

In many cultures, August is known as the month of the Honey Moon. This is because it is the time of year when honey is harvested from beehives. If you are the superstitious type, plan your honeymoon to fall on this month!

Additionally, in a regular year, no other month starts on the same day of the week as August.

However, in a leap year, our other quirky month, February, will start on the same day of the week as August.

Monthly Thoughts

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25



Well, it seems impossible to start with anything other than the truly amazing weather we've had during May, June and July, with repeated heatwaves that have not only broken temperature records, but have also lasted for unprecedented lengths of time. Of course, we Brits love to talk about the weather, but on this occasion it seems we're fully justified. Maybe a great excuse for not tackling the many essential summer jobs outside – but not so good for those who have to carry on working, especially those who need to wear protective clothing that's often not designed to cope with high temperatures. Thank you from all of us! My greatest personal contribution to gardening is to make sure the grass is maintained, but in the interests of helping us all avoid water shortages, I've kept the sprinkler firmly locked away. Result – the lawns are parched and concrete-hard, waiting for a bit of respite from the first rainfall. Now, that's very

British – we'll be complaining about too much rain before long – let's just hope it doesn't arrive as downpours that will run off and threaten flooding. We must of course also spare a thought for our farming community and the challenges this sustained dry and hot weather is causing them. Puts my concerns about the lawns into perspective! One more thing - before I move on from this amazing summer heat - we can't escape the issue of melting tarmac and roads losing their dressing as they bake for hours every day. Surfaces that were re-dressed only a few months ago are looking really distressed, especially around junctions. Maybe we can all help by driving slowly over these sections of road, and we should also be mindful of the impact on stopping distances. Which brings me to our current concerns about the likely impact on our roads and lanes from the Wychavon Town development. We had a little taste of things to (possibly)



come recently when an M5 closure meant large quantities of traffic being diverted through our village by GPS and ever-helpful traffic avoidance systems. In no time, we had queues at normally quiet junctions stretching way back. Lorries and buses were similarly diverted onto totally unsuitable lanes, which soon became blocked. We're accustomed to extremely large farm vehicles sharing our narrow by ways and gladly accept this as a part of rural life. However, there is growing concern that heavy construction traffic will soon be added to the mix, and we have yet to see firm proposals to control this invasion. Add 5,000 then 10,000 households to the traffic load, and we dread to imagine the impact on our roads. Surely the contention that Wychavon Town will be an active travel zone, where residents will rarely need to use their vehicles, must be exposed as a fantasy, and the impact on roads infrastructure tackled

seriously before we all have to get used to living in grid-lock. Meanwhile, life in our quiet little village goes on. We had a brilliant response to a report on WhatsApp that one of our community was out walking in the intense heat well away from home and off their normal route. Family members were alerted, and tabs were kept on them until their safe return to home. WhatsApp to the rescue again, proving even faster than the former jungle drums and reaching a far bigger audience. On a slightly less positive note, I mentioned our wonky telephone box needing a coat of paint in the last edition. It still does, but that's understandable given the recent heat – and I suspect any new shiny red paint would just run off into a pool around the box if we tried to tackle it at present. Still on the 'to-do' list! So, enjoy the rest of this record-breaking summer; let's hope for the right sort of rain before too long, and that our roads remain passable and intact. Happy hols, everyone.

View from the boundary

England test Cricket dismissal failure against New Zealand was a shambles, and the captain and coach have gone. Worcestershire fall into the same bracket. England rugby will have to do something to improve. The football is over, and I believe that after England had scored against Argentina, if they had stayed in attack mode they might have won and been in the final, then who knows? The heroes for me were Cape Verde, well done. A Sad day with the death of Kevin Keegan, great genuine player. Wimbledon was dismal for the Brits, save for one, Arthur Fery, Well done and let's see you strive for the

top. The death of Ann Widdecombe, a 78 small, frail in body with huge strength of mind, was seemingly killed by a 28-year-old man apparently. Ann, whom I had the pleasure to meet on several occasions which included a breakfast the two of us had at the RAF Club, we had both been to the same function next door. She was forth right and held her ground on the things she believed in. That leads me to the political debacle that this country is in now. The New King Burnham, who was anointed by about 350 MP's, now runs the Country. But there is no mandate from the Country. His first act was to say he is stopping

rough sleeping, admirable. However, no mention of how? He wants to take back water into public ownership, Admirable, but how in principle? It is right that the profit goes back into the public purse. Labour governments in the past have said the same, then chaos, strikes and mismanagement. Let's take West Midlands Trains; it ran reasonably well. It is now in public ownership, and what is happening is cancelled trains and strikes. The action is potentially right, but the management is chaos and then costly. Here we go, the old British Rail and Coal miners. Now I turn to the County Council and roads. When they do repairs,

they put up traffic lights, then nothing is done for two days except delay frustrated traffic. Is there no sense of process control at all? It seems that Worcestershire is going to be split into two unitary authorities, why two? Double the cost, half the purchasing power. By the time I write, the night again will be truly drawing in, and we are in for a long depressing winter of discontent. One last thing about the council. I have filmed road workmen, especially on the A38 Bromsgrove. There were five men and one shovel, but five of them were just talking. Who is paying? We are paying in taxes. Here endeth the August missive

Peter Jewell



Counter-intuitive

Brian Johnson-Thomas

For some reason, those of us who live around here tend to travel South and West when it comes to holidays – perhaps it's as simple as the fact that the nearest seaside lies that way at Weston-super-Mare. So, I thought, how about looking North and East?

Where upon my Atlas gaze fell on two contrasting destinations, one is an exciting city break, perhaps suitable for couples whilst t'other is a more traditional seaside town. Less than two hours' drive from the city of Leicester has quite a lot to commend it as a short break destination. Not only do we have some interesting history (you will remember the excitement when the body of King Richard III was found under a car park...) but we also found that the shopping opportunities are excellent. I should also mention the open-air market with some really interesting and unusual fruit and vegetables...King Richard started life as Duke of Gloucester and ended it as King of England, Lord of Ireland, and what have you. On the way, he disposed of a lot of "obstacles", like the Princes in the Tower before getting his come up pance at the hands of Henry VII in the nearby Battle of Bosworth. That was back in 1485, but his body was lost after an undignified journey back to Leicester and being buried quietly by some presumably sympathetic monks. The actual site of the grave was lost until the aforementioned car park discovery some years ago – you might remember the media furore and the subsequent film. Now we have the new-ish and fascinating King Richard III

Visitor Centre which claims to be "The most incredible archaeological detective story ever told" see

www.kriii.com

That's maybe a hype too far, but it's certainly worth a visit. The Centre is near the Cathedral, where the King is buried and that in turn is near all the shops, such as the High cross Shopping Mall, and next door to that, we found the Holiday Inn Leicester City Centre, where we enjoyed a first-rate stay aided by attentive staff and an excellently appointed bedroom followed by a lavish breakfast buffet. There's car parking outside for those with a Blue Badge and hotel guests also enjoy heavily discounted Parking at the nearby Highcross Mall.

For more details see

www.ihg.com

I paid around £80 for B&B on a Sunday night, which incidentally is always a good bargain night in most hotels. After a morning's retail therapy, we moved on, still heading North and East, towards the Lincolnshire coast, with a late lunch stop at the National Trust property of Belton House (nice cafe in the old stables, super second hand bookshop) before finally arriving at our destination of Mablethorpe. (If you look at the map it's about halfway between Skegness and Cleethorpes, but it's a much smaller, and thus friendlier place). Prices for most things seemed to be a little cheaper there as compared to us here, for example, our caravan, which could have accommodated a family of six, cost just £140, bedding included, at the end of June. Of course, like everywhere,

it's a lot more during the main school holidays but still less than staying in a resort in Devon or Cornwall for example. We chose the Tower vans Holiday Park because it was quieter than some (their main 'claim to fame' is that they have a very large fishing lake available for guests to enjoy) and is just a few minutes' from both the town and the beach.

For more details see

www.blueanchorleisure.co.uk.

Mablethorpe has most things that go to make a seaside holiday, including Beach Huts for hire, a lively weekly market and a plethora of diversions for children. It's also got the unexpected, such as the excellent (and good value) Italian restaurant in the town centre and the near by seal sanctuary – that's a must if you're travelling with kids or grandkids. I also like the fact that they hold their Carnival in September, which I suppose is a clever way of extending their 'season'. It would have been nice to stay longer, but we'd promised to help out at a local village fete that coming weekend and also we had seats booked for the Opera at Longborough. Their performance of Verdi's "Macbeth" was simply superb; it's hard to see how it could possibly be bettered anywhere at any time by anyone. The performance was considerably enhanced by having a large Chorus which, in addition to the talented professionals, was augmented by the Longborough Youth Chorus and the Longborough Community Chorus. It's wrong, although strictly accurate, to call them

'amateurs' because their standard is so high. Since I suspect that they're unlikely to receive much of a review in the 'posher' press, I'd like to mention them here:

The Longborough Youth Chorus: Tilly Bonner, Jessica Bradford, Archie Campbell, Leo Harrison, Jayden Kaye, Freddy Minett, Oliver Norris, and Cosima Summersgill.

The Longborough Community Chorus:

David Artingstall, Gillian Bell, Natashcha Cavers, Hazel Cook, Simon Cook, Neil Fyfe, Linda Gerrard, Mike Harvey, Molly Hughes, Polly Mortimer, Londa Ntotila, Tim Raistrick, John Robertson, Kenneth Roles, Robert Stanley and Beth Wyn Williams.

Thank you all very much. We're looking forward to seeing you again in Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" which runs until next Saturday 8th August.

For any remaining tickets, see www.lfo.org.uk.

This Summer is certainly passing quickly. I've just had a reminder that next month sees the Malvern Autumn Show running from the 25th to the 27th of September, with the usual heady combination of world-class gardening and giant vegetables, augmented by a celebrity list including Monty Don and several Great British Bake Off favourites are now starring in The Great Malvern Cake Off (Oh, crumbs, how exciting...). For tickets and full details See www.malvernautumn.co.uk.

That's about it, hope that you're enjoying the hot weather – just think how much we're saving on our heating bills....



Worcestershire open studios art week

Worcestershire Open Studios Art Week returns from Saturday 22 to Monday 31 August,

bringing together more than 180 artists and makers across 100 venues for the county's largest free visual arts event. Now in its 11th year, Art Week invites visitors to step inside working studios, galleries, workshops and other inspiring venues, meeting the people behind the work, discovering how it is made and buying directly from the artist or maker. This year, visitors can explore more than 20 different

art forms, with several disciplines appearing at Worcestershire Open Studios Art Week for the first time, including willow weaving, digital art and illustrated poetry. Alongside these newcomers, visitors will discover painters, sculptors, ceramicists, jewellers, textile and glass artists, printmakers, woodcraft, blacksmithing and much more, reflecting the remarkable breadth of artistic talent across the county. Whether exploring a favourite artist's latest work or discovering someone new, visitors can enjoy everything

from rural studios and converted barns to town centre galleries and shared exhibition spaces, often seeing works in progress, demonstrations and sketchbooks alongside finished pieces.

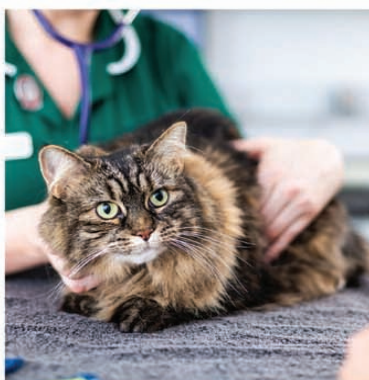
It offers a rare opportunity to experience art in the places where it is created.

New for 2026 is Young Membership, supporting artists and makers aged 16 to 25 and helping encourage the next generation of talent.

Worcestershire Open Studios is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation

that supports artists and makers across the county while encouraging people to discover, enjoy and buy original work. Art Week is free to visit, and many venues offer demonstrations, refreshments and the chance to talk directly with exhibitors.

*To plan your visits,
explore the interactive map
and download the free digital
guide;
for more information visit
worcestershiresopenstudios.org.*



Preventative Health Care



Preventative health care is an important part of veterinary practice. It is a medical approach focused on maintaining good health and stopping diseases before they occur. The main way of doing this is through regular health checks for your pet with vets and nurses and keeping up to date with vaccinations. It can also include regular parasite control for both external parasites (fleas, ticks and mites) and internal parasites (gastrointestinal round- and tapeworms).

What happens at a health check?

At a routine health check the vet will perform a physical exam looking for anything out of the ordinary. Areas that are looked at include:

- Mouth – checking for dental disease or other disorders
- Eyes – looking for signs of aging of the lens and conditions like 'dry eye'
- Ears and skin – checking for signs of irritation or growths that can occur over time
- Chest – listening for indications of heart or lung disease
- Abdomen – feeling for any abnormalities like fluid or growths
- Mobility – are they moving around as freely as they should be

If anything of concern is found, then discussions can be had as to what the next steps could be. This might be further investigations, treatments or just monitoring.

As cats and dogs age much quicker than humans we recommend 6 monthly health checks, often an annual vaccination and health check with the vet and a visit at 6 months with the nurse.

Older animals also benefit from routine blood and urine testing and blood pressure checks. These can often detect conditions much earlier than when looking for clinical changes in your pet's health.

If your pets' vaccination has lapsed this can be quickly got back up to speed with a second 'top up' vaccine to ensure full immunity. We regularly run a Vaccination Amnesty where you can get the vaccination course for the cost of a booster vaccination if your pets' vaccines are overdue.

Best wishes *Eliza*

Letter to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I always like reading Brian Johnson-Thomas' articles, especially when he mentions the Gloucester Warwickshire Steam Railway (where I volunteer). However, I would like to correct a couple of minor mistakes in the July edition where he kindly mentions our diesel gala. Firstly, he states that we run "for nearly 30 miles from Broadway down to Cheltenham Racecourse". This is incorrect - the actual distance is just over 14 miles (so a round trip Broadway to Cheltenham Racecourse is just under 30 miles). Secondly, the "Hymek" diesel locomotive (on loan from the Severn Valley Railway, I believe) is a diesel-hydraulic locomotive (it was used on the Western Region, which had two other classes of diesel-hydraulic locomotives, following on from the GWR's policy of being different!).

Regards

Peter Carling

Dear Editor,

We are regular readers of the Powick Times. Generally, we grab a copy at the Swan at Newland and read whilst enjoying a couple of pints. Has anyone else written to commend your excellent Poet's Corner exploration of Housman's "*A Shropshire Lad*"? If not, then please take our words as being on behalf of the many other readers who surely enjoy reading Housman's wonderful poems. Spreading poem LXII over June and July was a great idea, and today we enjoyed reading aloud the conclusion. What a great poem! No wonder Housman is second only to Shakespeare in quantity of song settings of his pithy poems. Poem LXII might be a bit of a challenge, mind. Keep up the good work! PS many thanks for putting details about Severn Voices at White Ladies Aston on July 5th. We had a very good turnout

Best wishes,

Es Hoyle and
William Coleman

Thoughts from the Snug Graffiti

Some folk (of a certain age) are terrified of modern technology, but some of us are able to keep up, or think we are keeping up.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) helps doing mundane things like proof reading and being a wonderful source of facts, images and ideas.

However, as one slightly pessimistic member of the Snug points out, it all comes at a cost. A cost not directly met so much by the consumer but by the environments.

The wonderful wizardry that performs fantastic tricks uses huge amounts of electricity to generate embryonic ideas into essays, articles, and even conspiracies; plus even more energy pumping water to cool down overheating hubs where the intelligence hides.

Do we acknowledge this? Probably not. Will it come up to bite us? Probably, yes.

But let's not get too pessimistic about this and celebrate the advantages it brings.

Let's hope that some despot or mad politician does not achieve rule over us by exploiting it to humanity's disadvantage. 'Fake news' has been in our vocabulary for some time now; perhaps we're already drifting there.

A recent AI story in the Telegraph reported Mr Dermot Short's 23 year old daughter who received a notification, through her NHS app, concerning her over 75 health check in September 2077.

Mr Short, taking a calm, indeed restrained view, chose to admire the AI that created this far distant appointment.

He acknowledged she would probably make the appointment because the plumber isn't coming until later.

Open at Whittington Parish Church

Sat. 22nd Aug.	10am - 4pm	Fri. 28th Aug.	12 - 4pm
Sun. 23rd Aug.	10am - 4pm	Sat. 29th Aug.	10am - 4pm
Mon 24th Aug.	12 - 4pm	Sun. 30th Aug	10am - 4pm
		Mon. 31st Aug.	10am - 4pm

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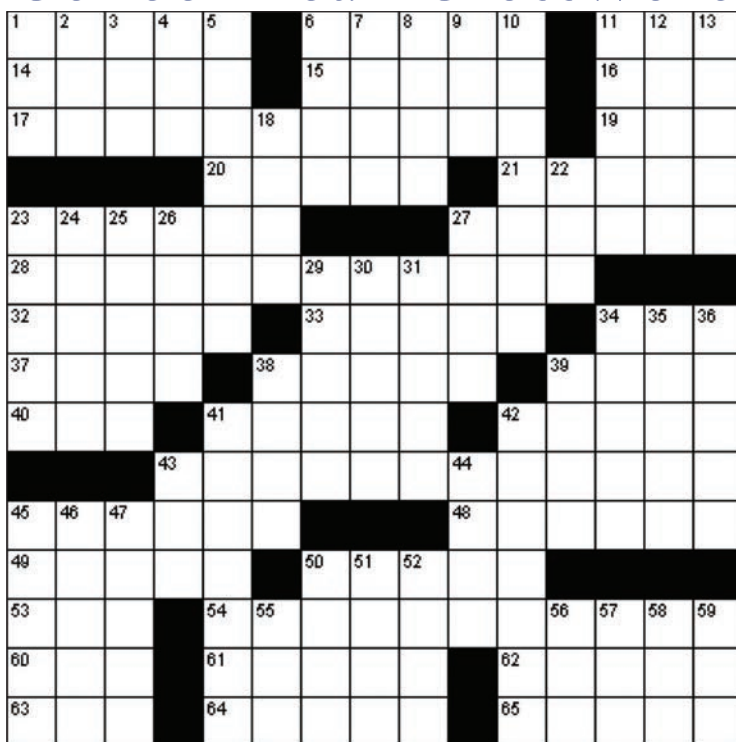
Across

1. Swallowed by a whale (Bible)
 6. Arm joint
 11. Second (abbrev.)
 14. Love intensely
 15. A tribe of Plains Indian
 16. In the past
 17. Remorselessly 19. 10
 20. Corrosions
 21. Nonchalantly unconcerned
 23. Anagram of "Bagels"
 27. Goliaths
 28. By way of sound or hearing
 32. Changes in direction
 33. Slander 34. Bag
 37. Sicilian volcano
 38. A long backless sofa
 39. Ethiopian monetary unit
 40. D
 41. Apples or pears, for example
 42. Sound
 43. The quality of being seamless
 45. Not danger
 48. Snake sounds
 49. Of the lower body
 50. Stonecutter
 53. Zero 54. Arrogance
 60. Supplement with difficulty
 61. Result
 62. Pertaining to Scandinavia
 63. Get married 64. Horse
 65. A type of heron

Down

1. Preserve of crushed fruit
 2. A lyric poem 3. "Neither ____"
 4. Circle fragment
 5. A female inheritor
 6. Anagram of "Seek"
 7. Enumerate 8. Chief
 9. "Wise" bird
 10. Bill of lading 11. The devil
 12. Eliminate from the body
 13. Ice cream
 18. Strong sexual desire
 22. Place down 23. Confined
 24. Intense 25. Enduring
 26. Moon
 27. Singers Campbell or Frey
 29. An ancient city of Asia Minor
 30. Sufficient politeness
 31. Lessen
 34. The borders of an object
 35. Get up 36. Intersect
 38. A low heavy horsecart
 39. Backside (slang)
 41. Retrieves
 42. Mindless
 43. Ocean
 44. Fired a weapon
 45. Muscle
 46. Similar
 47. Anagram of "Field"
 50. Ponder
 51. Shivering fit

Coffee Break Crossword



52. Small storage building
 55. Picnic insect
 56. A wooden peg

57. Go astray
 58. South southeast
 59. Collection or series

Sudoku

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

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

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Literary genre wordsearch

W H R E A L I S T I C F I C T I O N J M S
 H R O Y A W R E L L I R H T R F X X L A I
 I W U R N B I L D U N G S R O M A N Q G B
 N O H B R L G V W V E G O E W K X E Y I J
 Q Q B D P O E T R Y I S W Z N W V O Z C U
 B R I L Y Y R S Y R E T S Y M O F C T A C
 Z K X T I M P U Q N A R R A T I V E P L C
 D E T E C T I V E U T C B F Y B F E D R Z
 Y H P A R G O I B U G H E P I C G A L E A
 L B A N O I T C I F E C N E I C S X B A D
 D Y S T O P I A N A Q P F P F P Y L V L V
 Y G O L O H T Y M I E M O P V T I M I E
 U F O L K L O R E R E C N A M O R P N S N
 D N N N Y D L A U Y T P E Z C Y A Q J M T
 U V K R W D E N C T J M T A L L T A L E U
 C Z Y J J K G W P A K W J H K T D I D K R
 P I W E S T E R N L A C I R O T S I H W E
 K G H Q K K N J K E O C Y S A T N A F T A
 T N B T R Q D V C P F X I A U R L I H O E
 B W T A O C H U M O R N O I T C I F N O N
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- ADVENTURE
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 BILDUNGSROMAN
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 NARRATIVE
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 NOVEL
 POETRY
 REALISTIC FICTION
 ROMANCE
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 SHORT TALE
 TALL TALE
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Brainteasers

- 1) What makes the number 8,549,176,320 unique?
 2) The more you take the more you leave behind, what am I?
 3) What kind of band doesn't play music?
 4) Where does today come before yesterday
 4) The dictionary
 3) A rubber band
 2) Footsteps
 1) It has each number, zero - nine, listed in alphabetical order.

Poets' Corner

A Shropshire Lad

LXIII

I Hoed and trenched and weeded,
And took the flowers to fair:
I brought them home unheeded;
The hue was not the wear.

So up and down I sow them
For lads like me to find,
When I shall lie below them,
A dead man out of mind.

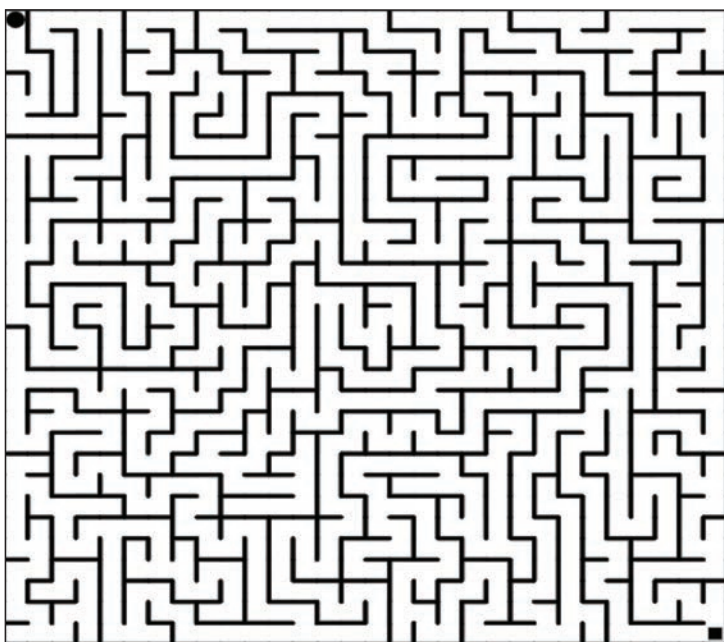
Some seed the birds devour,
And some the season mars,
But here and there will flower
The solitary stars,

And fields will yearly bear them
As light-leaved spring comes on,
And luckless lads will wear them
When I am dead and gone.

The End

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

The maze Make it from start to finish, staying inside the lines



Quiz!

- 1) Which month ends on the same day of the week as August every year?
- 2) German engineer August Horch, was the founder of which automobile manufacturer?
- 3) Which astrological star sign covers July 23 - August 22?
- 4) 'Awst' is the word for August in which language?
- 5) French chef, Auguste Escoffier, codified the recipes for how many mother sauces?
- 6) 'August' is the tenth solo studio album by which musician?
- 7) The Kappa Cygnids take place from August third to August twenty-fifth each year, what are they?
- 8) Which naval battle was fought in 31 BC between the fleet of Octavian and the combined forces of Mark Antony and Queen Cleopatra of Egypt?
- 9) Auguste Dupin is a fictional character in which Edgar Allan Poe short story?
- 10) The eruption of which volcano on August 27, 1883, is thought to be the loudest sound ever heard?
- 11) Princess Diana died in the early hours of 31 August in which year?
- 12) Frederic Auguste Bartholdi was a French sculptor who is universally best known for designing what?
- 13) 'August 7, 4:15' is a song from whose 1997 album, Destination Anywhere?
- 14) Augusta is the second largest city in which American state?
- 15) What Roman emperor is the month of August named after?
- 16) Which asteroid or comet is named after the month of August

Answers: 1) November 2) Audi 3) Leo 4) Welsh 5) Five mother sauces 6) Eric Clapton 7) A meteor shower 8) Battle of Actium 9) The Murders in the Rue Morgue 10) Krakatoa 11) 1997 12) The Statue of Liberty 13) Jon Bon Jovi 14) Georgia 15) Augustus Caesar 16) 3061 Augustinus

Did You Know?

The Perseid Meteor Shower peaks around August 11th to 13th and can be visible from most parts of the world, it draws many stargazers and astronomy enthusiasts.

Famous August Birthdays!

Barack Hussein Obama II
(4th August 1961)
Michael Jackson
(29th August 1958)
Whitney Houston
(9th August 1963)
Neil Armstrong
(5th August 1930)

Word of the Month 'Vellichor'

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July Answers

A	S	K	E	W	A	S	K	E	D	H	A	N
S	A	I	G	A	M	A	N	N	A	E	P	I
A	G	N	O	S	T	I	C	I	S	M	A	P
					T	O	A	S	T	S	A	R
H	E	T	E	R	O				G	E	N	T
A	T	H	L	E	T	I	C	A	L	L		
S	H	E	L	L		N	O	T	E	S	F	R
T	E	R	A		L	E	M	O	N		G	U
E	R	E		S	I	R	E	N		S	I	D
				F	L	A	T	T	E	R	I	N
C	A	R	E	E	R				A	S	S	E
A	L	O	U	D		A	P	A	R	T		
C	O	O		D	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T
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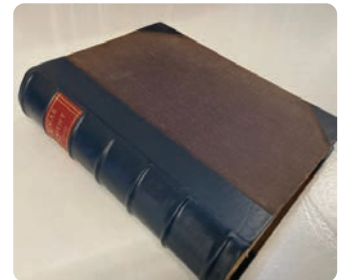
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Severn Stoke & Croome D'abitot News

Happenings in Severn Stoke and Environs

John Henderson

St. DENYS' CHURCH, SEVERN STOKE
Writing this during the third heat wave of the year, if you are hot and bothered in the month of August, remember that our Ancient Church has thick walls and is a cool place to visit, with its air of peace and tranquillity. There is a bonus this month too, for in addition to the first Sunday Holy Communion Service and Morning Worship on the third, there will be a United Benefice Service here on the fifth Sunday 30th August, all starting at 10.30a.m.

FRIENDS OF ST. DENYS, SEVERN STOKE
Raising funds to maintain and modernise the Church.
We look forward to seeing 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, 23 rd August at 2.30 p.m.

Make a date in your diaries.



Cornflower Club
The club now has a break during August. We are back in the Parish hall on Wednesday, 9th September at 2-30pm. We have a varied programme and would like to see new people come and join us. If you are a lady or gentleman over the age of 60 please, come and see what we do, you would be most welcome.

Please phone
Sally Linsey 01905 820476
Julia Grant 01905 820138

New Bushcraft courses

launch near Malvern



Raven Bushcraft has launched new hands-on courses near Malvern, designed for beginners, families, and corporate teams eager to master outdoor survival. Founded by experienced instructors Simon Warr and Chris Morris, the courses are set within 43 acres of private ancient woodland. They offer a unique opportunity to digitally detox while learning ancestral skills. Participants will receive expert training in essential techniques, including:
- Fire lighting and shelter building
- Knife safety and campcraft
- Tracking, knotwork, and wilderness survival.

"Chris and I are excited to welcome people to our woodland camp," says Co-Founder Simon Warr. "Whether you are completely new to bushcraft or looking to build confidence, our courses provide a friendly way to connect with nature and discover the satisfaction of self-reliance."
Raven Bushcraft specialises in empowering individuals with the skills and knowledge to thrive in the natural world safely and responsibly.

For dates and availability:
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• Email: info@ravenbushcraft.uk
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Spot & Shop
July Winners

1) Sue Wenn

2) Sheila Sheppard

3) Margaux Ronquillo

4) E. Mitchell

5) Dave Pritchard

6) Jean Dickinson

7) Gail Coventry

Last month's answer: Curated by Clayton Smith

SPOT and SHOP!

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This month's anagram
CARD GRACED JEN

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

This month's prizes!
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2nd - £25 cash
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3rd £20 Food Voucher at The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley
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5th £10 Voucher at Craftypyro, Bakers Arcade, Pershore
6th £10 voucher at Upper Crust, Pershore
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Kempsey Times closing date: 24th August 2026

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Camera Club



Dreams of Summer

With summer having now more than arrived (and with most of us scrabbling for the shade), the Club is continuing to run in its alternative, seasonal, form, hopefully still with enough going on to keep both members and potential members interested. August appears to be in contention with July as our quietest month of the year, Club-wise at least, with (again) only one formal meeting. This will be on the evening of Wednesday 5th, and will take the form of the second part of "All Squared Off", our review (with Leigh Preston FRPS) of some of the images created during our photographic project based on the theme of Squares. Leigh will also show us a range of his images on the same theme, before leading a discussion

about his suggested theme for our next project. We would be delighted to welcome anybody interested in the event listed above; please make contact via our website (<https://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, "Dreams Of Summer" by Shelagh Allen and "Light Shadow" by David Winter, one of the five Highly Commended images and one of the five Commended images in our most recent "Open" projected image competition held in late February.

Malcolm A Hay
Secretary



Light Shadow

Kempsey WI

The Annual Meeting of Kempsey WI embraced the national WI's "Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers" campaign by inviting representatives from Kempsey Heartstart to give an emergency response demonstration. The campaign aims to help tackle the UK's 30,000 plus out-of-hospital cardiac arrests annually by boosting CPR confidence and mapping local defibrillators. James and Rosalie from Heartstart spoke about the DR ABC first aid cascade – explaining how to check for surrounding Danger, the Response of the patient, the Airway, Breathing and finally how to carry out chest Compressions. They also demonstrated applying the pads

from a defibrillator and told how the survival rate for cardiac arrest soars from 5% to 80% if CPR is used early on. There was discussion about people's reluctance to apply CPR to a woman's chest, and the need for more female shaped and different skin colour training mannequins. During the business part of the meeting, Julie Smith was elected new President and Sharon Baker-Joyce thanked for her three years in the role. Julie also won the Mary Pugh Cup, presented each year for the best flower arrangement at the annual meeting. This year's theme was Wimbledon, and the entries captured the tennis tournament in many ways, with the winning

display including knitted strawberries. The report of Kempsey WI's activities over the past year highlighted the many ways members had been involved in the local community, including having stalls at the village fete and dog show and organising a huge crafting effort, helped by other groups, which resulted in more than 1,500 knitted and crocheted daffodils adorning the parish church during a Daffodil weekend. Two committee members also took part in scientific testing of the River Severn water. The next meeting will hear about the work of SARA Rescue.

*Monday 17th August at 2pm,
Kempsey, Youth Centre.*



Image shows Julie Smith with her winning floral arrangement

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Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

The Section 73 planning application to vary conditions of the existing permission for Clifton Quarry is now live on the Tarmac website. You can view the consultation materials and provide feedback to them: <https://clifton-quarry.tarmac.com/> The consultation ends on Sunday 16th August. The Parish Council attended the public exhibition on Tuesday 14th July at the quarry. All queries that the parish council had already received from

residents were taken along and responses were received from representatives of Tarmac. We will incorporate these matters into the formal parish council response in due course. Our Lengthsman continues to work hard and respond to requests around the parish. Please contact the parish clerk if there are any areas within the lengthsman remit that you wish attended to. The lengthsman has his own page on our website with lots of guidance on what he can get up to.

<https://severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk/lengthsman>
Over the summer holidays we will continue to work in the background - even though there is no meeting in August. Contact the parish clerk with any issues and if we can't help, we will signpost to those that can. Join our friendly team and help us keep the OK in Severn StOke and Croome d'Abitot!!
Next Meetings: 30th September, 25th November, 7.30pm at the SOQ meeting

room, Croome National Trust Visitor Centre. Parish Clerk, Lisa Stevens, T: 07950256363, E: 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 6 vacancies for immediate co-option.



One Indian Summer

When Queen Victoria was a young princess, she loved being told stories about India, its people and its wild animals. Many of these stories were told to her by an Indian servant, who wore oriental dress and flashed his fierce eyes at her. Victoria called him her Munshi and as a boy growing up in India, he had particularly enjoyed riding on his elephant named Ali. As a young princess, Victoria often felt lonely and wished that her aging parents would stop treating her royally and let her play with the other children in Windsor Castle. It was on her ninth birthday that the Munshi gave her a carved ivory elephant and Victoria named it halti ka bachah, which in Urdu meant baby elephant. One day Victoria decided to tell her ivory elephant the story that the Munshi had told her concerning a young Indian boy named Ali and his Indian baby elephant. In

very hot weather Ali's parents would take their young son down to the banks of River Gangesto playing its cooling water. Ali loved to watch his young elephant squirt water over itself, over his parents and even over himself. Mind you Ali's parents were not always amused by these elephantine antics. Early on the morning of Ali's ninth birthday, Ali's parents decided to take him down to the Ganges, as it had been an exceptionally hot night. As he was playing in its cooling waters, he felt that he was being watched, not only by his parents but by a pair of evil red eyes. At that very moment his young elephant trumpeted so loud that Ali felt an enormous trunk wrap itself around his body and lift him gently back onto the banks of the Ganges. Now it so happened that a young English couple, who were visiting India for the first time, had observed what had happened. Fortunately



they decided that it should be immediately reported in "The Calcutta Times" newspaper. Now the proprietor of the newspaper was a wealthy Indian, who was also called Ali, who decided that this courageous act should never

be forgotten. So it was that a large bronze plaque commemorating this event was put upon the bank of the River Ganges at the very place where it had happened in the time of the British Raj and its Indian Empire.

Words by Allan Ledger
Drawing by Alison Jennings



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RSPCA NEWS



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Please contact your local RSPCA branch Rescue & Rehoming Centre at The Holdings in Holdings Lane, Kempsey, WR5 3FP, where cats, kittens, rabbits and dogs are looking for their forever homes.

We are an independently run and funded branch of the RSPCA. Our policy is to rehome animals, not destroy them and they stay in our care however long it takes to find their forever homes. All animals are vet checked, neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, defleaed and

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If you are interested in adopting from us, please visit our branch website: www.rspca-worcester.org to see more about animals seeking adoption. Alternatively you can contact our centre by emailing: animalcentrestaff@rspcaworcester.org.uk or call 01905 821272 option 2



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