

Pershore Times

A free monthly newspaper for Pershore and surrounding villages



Issue 89

December 2023

FREE



Redwings and Robin © Peter Hodge, Worcestershire

The year seems to have just flown by! So much has happened! Christmas is wonderful and a time for rejoicing, relaxing, enjoying and reflection. In some ways it has been rather gloomy with the war in the Middle East and Ukraine. This has caused awful suffering and destruction and helped to create a financial crisis due to the high cost of fuel. This is ongoing and there doesn't seem to be an end in sight.

The end of the month sees the closure of Pershore Market. This is very sad indeed. Pershore without a market doesn't seem right. We will have to see what is going to happen with the new development. The Market will be missed after being part of the town for many years. We

have included a special four page supplement in this issue. We celebrated fifty years of our printing business this year. We specialise in book design and have produced more books this year than ever before! They are mainly golf books, we have a 'niche' market and have been involved in this sector for thirty

five years. The books are sold all over the world. We also publish three local newspapers and in the new year we will be launching a new paper for Kempsey, Norton, Severn Stoke and surrounding villages. These are exciting times and we look forward to the new year with great expectations.

We wish all our readers, advertisers and contributors a very happy Christmas and a successful new year

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The market is closing on Saturday 30th December 2023

Thank you for all your support over the last 47 years

We wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Schools Armistice Service

Photo by Pershore Abbey



The annual Pershore Benefice schools wreath laying service took place once again at Pershore Commemorative Garden on

Monday 6th November 2023, beginning a week of Remembrance Services that would take place in the town. Canon Claire Lording led with prayers and the pupils from the schools, laid their poppy wreaths in honour of all those who served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces. Representatives from Pershore and District Royal British Legion took part in the service with a wreath on behalf of the Veterans being laid by RBL Chairman Simon Dudfield. This is the 13th consecutive year that the local schools have held a service and laid wreaths; ever since the Commemorative Garden was opened in May 2011. Speaking after the service, Canon Lording said: "It's always so poignant to see our young community laying

their wreaths in their own act of Remembrance to both the Fallen and to all the Veteran Services. I am deeply moved each year by the level of respect they show, doing their parents, schools and our Town proud by their impeccable behaviour and diligence to this service. The Commemorative Stone and Warhorse memorial are daily focal points set in our beautiful Abbey Park and a place for them to visit throughout the Remembrance period." Other Poppy displays in Pershore include, a beautiful knitted poppy blanket and reins on the Pershore Warhorse Memorial created by talented town crafters, a wreath on Preaching Cross, knitted poppies on the Abbey gates and the weeping window of poppies at St Andrew's.

The Royal British Legion Armistice



On Saturday 11th November, Armistice Day, a service and wreath laying was held at the Cross of Sacrifice memorial in Pershore Cemetery. Representatives of the Royal British Legion Pershore and District Branch and Royal Naval Association were there to honour the Servicemen buried there who came from England, Canada, Australia and South Africa. After the service those assembled adjourned to the Cemetery Chapel where Revd Canon Claire Lording blessed the WW1 Memorial Board which used to

hang in the National School on Defford Road. This board was saved after the Working Men's Club closed, and will be sited on the wall in the Chapel sometime in early 2024. Pershore fell silent on Sunday 12th November to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country. Hundreds gathered at Pershore Abbey to pay their respects during the town's annual remembrance service. A great number of wreaths were laid by representatives on behalf of their respective organisations including the Cadets, public services and councils. The service was led by Revd Canon Claire Lording, who was supported by the Abbey Choir, staff and volunteers. After the service, Sir Nicholas Coleridge CBE DL took the salute at the march-past on Pershore High Street where veterans, standard bearers and cadets from all three services were represented. The Government was represented by Rt Hon Harriet Baldwin MP.



Pershore Times

Collection Points:

- Hughes & Co - CO-OP store - Tesco Express
- Acorns - Fruit Salad - Upper Crust Bakery - Pershore Library
- Riverside Fish Bar - St Richards Hospice Shop
- Drakes Broughton Village Shop - Eckington Village Shop
- Elmley Castle, The Queen Elizabeth - Peopleton Village Shop
- Upton Snodsbury Post Office & Shop - Wick Club



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SJP Approved 18/08/2023



Christmas Message *from Claire Lording*



We invite you all to join us in church and online
PERSHORE BENEFICE for CHRISTMAS

In addition to these special seasonal services and activities, our regular Sunday worship services will continue to take place each week as usual



Sunday 3 December

- 0800 Eucharist (Pershore Abbey)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)*
- 1030 Edible Nativity - Booking Essential (St Andrew's Centre)
Email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or call 01386 552071 by 27 November
- 1030 Patronal Holy Communion (St Nicholas, Pinvin)
- 1500 Advent Carol Service (Pershore Abbey)

Sunday 10 December

- 0800 Eucharist (Pershore Abbey)
- 0945 Café Church (St Andrew's Centre)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)*
- 1030 Morning Praise (St Mary's, Wick)
- 1700 Wholeness & Healing Service—Light in Our Darkness (St Andrew's Centre)

Sunday 17 December

- 0800 Eucharist (Pershore Abbey)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)*
- 1030 Carol Service (St Nicholas, Pinvin)
- 1700 Christmas Carol Service (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)*
- 1800 Carol Service and Christmas Trees (St Mary's, Wick)
- 1800 Carol and Christingle Service (St James, Birlingham)

Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December

- 0800 Eucharist (Pershore Abbey)
- 1030 Morning Praise (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)*
- 1530 Christingle Service (Pershore Abbey)
Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our traditional Christingle!
- 1600 Christingle Service (St Mary's, Wick)
- 1700 Christingle and Crib Service (St Nicholas, Pinvin)
- 2315 Midnight Mass with Choir (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)*

Christmas Day Monday 25 December

- 0800 Eucharist (Pershore Abbey)
- 0900 Parish Communion (St Mary's, Wick)
- 1030 Holy Communion (St James, Birlingham)
- 1030 All Age Eucharist (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)*

New Year's Eve Sunday 31 December

- 0800 Eucharist (Pershore Abbey)
- 1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)*

*Join in with our LIVESTREAM services at the time advertised on the Pershore Abbey Community YouTube Channel or catch up later

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Dear Friends

I wonder what your perfect Christmas gift would be this year. Perhaps you've had your eye on something all year and hope that someone noticed the hints you gave and presents it gift wrapped on Christmas Day! Or perhaps you just haven't got a clue what your perfect gift would be. Every year my family ask me what I would like, and I really struggle to think of something. I'm no help at all! The giving of material gifts is really important and shows our love and care for the recipient. And we will know how much joy we can give to the giver when we show our appreciation when a perfect gift has been received.

At the heart of the celebrations and all the present-giving of Christmas is the gift of Jesus Christ, the baby born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger. The most perfect gift reflecting the profound love that God has for us all. A gift that speaks of God inviting us to share in this love with everyone around us. In the kind of world we live in at the moment, sharing the gift of love with everyone around us, known and unknown, can be a challenge. But the gift of



love is surely what the world needs most? Only love will stop the wars that rage, only love can stop the inequality felt by so many, only love can make this world a place that better reflects God's love for us all. I hope and pray that this Christmas the wonderful gift of love is given and received by everyone. What a difference that would make to us all!

Wishing you a loving and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Claire



Georgian Christmas Fayre

What a fantastic event! Seeing the community unite to make Pershore's First Annual Georgian Christmas Street Fayre a great success is heartwarming. The hardworking volunteers and sponsors deserve a round of applause for their dedication and commitment to making this event memorable. The team's marketing program was hugely successful, bringing over 2,000 residents to Broad Street on Friday night. The entertainment program was a

delight to watch, with a parade down the high street, carols sung around the Christmas tree, a rousing countdown to turning on the festive streetlights by the Mayor, The Vicar and excited children eager for a fireworks display. The festival was made more vibrant by costumed attendees, a stilt-walker, and live performances of popular musical numbers, including hits from The Greatest Showman. It was like stepping into a magical winter wonderland as Broad Street was transformed

with Santa in his Grotto, The Town Crier declaiming from a balcony, and the Deputy Mayor as Master of Ceremonies ensuring the action kept going. A team of dedicated volunteers from the Town Council, Wychavon Council, the Place Board, and civic institutions like the Round Table and Rotary Club, along with numerous individuals whose names cannot be listed, took care of all the big and small details that made the event safe and successful. As a result,

when the town's residents woke up on Sunday morning, there was no trace of rubbish left behind. Seeing such community spirit and dedication to making the festive season unique for everyone is heartening. Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who made this event possible! Let's hope it's the first of many in the years to come.

Michael Pincher



Steve Quinton
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A few words from...

Harriett Baldwin MP



MP Asks: Which Bus Routes Matter Most?

Harriett Baldwin MP has asked local bus users to have their say as the county develops a £3.4 million plan to improve services.

The Government confirmed the funding last month enabling Worcestershire County Council to plan to improve local bus service provision.

Harriett met with Malvern Link County Councillor Karen Hanks to discuss the recent decline of the local bus services and to identify areas where bus services should be enhanced.

The MP called on local people to write in to suggest areas where the county council should be focusing on improving services.

Harriett said: "I welcome this huge boost to our local bus funding and also welcome the 'Get Around for £2' fares, but local people tell me they need

better bus connections to use buses more. North Malvern wants its bus route back and the bus stop I visited in Leigh Sinton only gets four buses a day, with the earliest one to Worcester at 10:26. I met with the managing director of First Bus earlier in the year and he pledged to add extra services to the 44 route but there are still huge swathes of West Worcestershire that are currently left without decent provision. The county council has launched an excellent, innovative bus-on-demand service but the coverage areas need fine-tuning and this is a great opportunity for local people to have their say.

If we are to make progress on our net zero targets, we must make it much easier for people to jump on bikes, buses and trains to make their commuter and leisure journeys.

Worcestershire County Council has a huge pot of cash to support local bus services and I am eager to hear from my constituents about where they think the council should focus its efforts to get more people back onto buses."



Pershore Banking Plan Progress

Harriett Baldwin MP has today offered her support to the team delivering a new banking hub in Pershore when Lloyds closes its branch next year.

A plan is being developed to open a dedicated banking hub to allow customers to access banking services for each of the major high street banks, replacing the final bank which will cease trading in Pershore at the end of May.

Harriett is working closely with Lloyds Bank and Link – which runs the national cashpoint network and now has the responsibility to support communities which have been left without any high street bank.

The MP sought to reassure Pershore's residents that there is a formal commitment to protect the town's banking services and cashpoint

network. Harriett said: "I have had meetings with the senior team at Link who will ensure that local people continue to be able to access banking services in the town. I have offered my support as a venue is identified to host the new hub and I am seeking reassurances that Lloyds will continue to operate as normal until it closes its branch in May. It is now essential that the hub plans are progressed at pace to ensure there is no gap at all in provision for Pershore, and I have asked for an update from the team responsible for delivering the new hub. Having discussed this matter recently with Wychavon District Council, everyone is pulling out all of the stops to get a solution in place as quickly as possible."

Changing Times!



Nick Green handing the keys to Brian Marshall

In 1913 WL Brown Ironmongers was established in High Street, Pershore. The shop then sold farming, shooting, fishing goods and offered a dry cleaning service; an era of paraffin lamps and fire-work crow scarers! The Brown family could never have imagined that this shop would become the cornerstone of Pershore High Street over 110 years later.

During WWII Graham Brown, a flight engineer for Stirling Bombers was medically discharged from the RAF as a result of injury and he took over the running of the shop from his father. There are many people in Pershore who still remember old Mr Brown with fondness. Fast-forwarding on, a 'Saturday boy', Nick Green (aged 13) went to work for at WL Brown, and on finishing school would work there full-time, and ultimately would take ownership of the shop 33 years later in 2007.

Nick Green has successfully run the business for the last 16 years, and the business membership to the Home Hardware group has helped the business to evolve and grow with modern times and to be competitive as Browns Home Hardware.

Naturally the business has evolved from a traditional ironmongers of old, and it has adapted and grown to meet the needs of modern times. Arguably, the one element that has been a constant is the professional and personal service that customers have always enjoyed.

The Browns Home Hardware story will have a new exciting chapter in its long history with the business being under new ownership on 1st November. It will be under the wings of Brian Marshall who also owns another successful business,

Vale Domestic Services Ltd (Pershore) and Brian has some exciting plans to move the business forward.

"We are very excited to be taking on this long standing traditional business. When we heard that Nick was planning to retire it became apparent that the people of Pershore wanted it to remain a hardware store. We decided to take up the challenge and run it alongside our existing business, Vale Domestic Services.

Unfortunately time moves on and change is inevitable but rest assured we will only make changes for the better. As in new lines and ranges for all your decorating and DIY needs, along with new lines for trading customers. I hope that everyone can support us in this new venture, old and new".

Nick has been living in Cornwall for the last three years and can now focus solely on running a holiday cottage complex with his partner and says "It is with a heavy heart to leave the shop, but I am thrilled that the business will continue as a going concern, and that all my staff are enthusiastic to support Brian. I would like to especially thank my store manager Ian Johns, and all the staff that have helped the business especially during some very difficult times, and to pass on thanks to all my customers past and present for their support and loyalty".

As we have all witnessed, the economy has not been good for the traditional High Street, and though times continue to be tough, it's comforting to know that for some shops and businesses, the future is indeed positive.

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Farewell to Joe!



Our New Year concert on Saturday 6th January 2024 marks our farewell to musical director and conductor, Joe Davies. Joe joined the orchestra in 2019 since when he has raised the standard of the WPO to new heights. His meticulous preparation for rehearsals and performances have been greatly appreciated by both members of the orchestra and audiences. During Covid, Joe organised a varied programme of activities for the orchestra and together

with Chair, Susan Kilgour and Secretary Heather Barnes organised an early return to rehearsals, making a great effort to fulfil all the regulations. Joe will be sorely missed and a difficult act to follow. He is moving to London with his partner, where they both have opportunities to develop their careers. We wish them both every success.

The WPO is in the process of selecting a new musical director.



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Pershore Christmas memories in the late 1940's



Both my Dad and Mum were pharmacists. We lived at 29 High Street, (now Persora), then it was the main Pharmacy in Pershore. I was born there towards the end of the war. My brother, Simon, was three years older than me. From the War effort we still had pigs at the bottom of the garden as well as ducks and chickens. They became part of our pets, alongside Benjamin Bunny, a very large Giant Dutch rabbit, two English Bulldogs, Monty and Snuffy, Barney, a blind rescue Dachshund and three cats - Ginnie, a huge ginger tom, a tabby called Tiddles who was the best mouser and Sam, a scraggy, faded ginger tom, but, to me, the best cat of all. I could dress him up in doll's clothes and push him around in my doll's pram. He was just the sweetest cat going. On a Sunday morning the Abbey Carillon bells would ring out all sorts of tunes for the whole of Pershore to hear, but the one that stays strongest in my mind is that of, 'Oranges and Lemons'. It seemed to be played just for the children. As it started to chime I would run to the bay window of our lounge, which was a room above the front of the shop. I would gaze out of the window listening to the chimes and conjuring lots of lovely pictures. The Christmas chimes sent shivers down my spine of anticipation and excitement especially when Christmas was on its way! As Christmas got near we would

sit at the kitchen table making paper chains of strips of paper, licking and sticking them together, all brightly coloured. Then hang them around the living room, from picture to picture. On the tree we put clip-on colourful real little candles whose sides had swirls on, I wondered whether this year one would burn the tree; they never did! As well as the baubles we put chocolates on the tree and lots of tinsel. Finally it was the turn for the Christmas star! Grannie had made one out of sequins, gold and silver, beautifully arranged in patterns. This would be put at the top of the tree with a Christmas light behind it to make it shine. Every week on Thursday it was half day in Pershore and on the last Thursday Daddy had off before Christmas, he would take my brother and me up Broadway hill in search of Christmas greenery. He would stop at the top in a place where there was part of the stone wall crumbling and we would all get out. Simon and I clambered over the low stones of a wall in search of ivy, holly and old man's beard to decorate the house with. This was so special as we knew it was nearly time for Christmas day. The next morning we would spend hours decorating the front room and hall, not forgetting the stair banisters where we would tie the greenery together with red ribbons, which looked so wonderful against the fresh


greenery and white smokeyness of the old man's beard. Now the house was ready for Christmas! Whilst we were busy decorating, Mummy was busy cooking all the Christmas treats, especially the fudge and coconut ice. Finally there were the empty bowls to scrape out making us feel slightly sick! But it was also an important part of the ritual of Christmas. My cousin, Ian, lived with us for a while. He was just over a year older than I was and two years younger than my brother; he was always up to mischief and fun to be with! He got into so many scrapes, I just thought he was great! But sometimes our adventures got us into hot water. One afternoon when I was about four we had been sent upstairs and told not to bother the adults as they were busy. We were bored and decided to explore the cupboards used for storage for the Chemist shop below. In one cupboard we found some small boxes of what looked like snowy icicles. We decided they would make perfect snow decorations so we threaded them together on a ball of my aunt's wool then hung them in the bay front window. They looked great and we were very pleased with the result. Sometime later we were called downstairs in disgrace and told to go to bed without supper! It

seemed daddy had noticed people coming into the shop and some 'tut, tutting', others chuckling and all of them looking up as they entered the shop. He had gone outside to check what was making them react this way, to see in the window our efforts. Unbeknown to us we had decorated his window with tampons which was causing a lot of chatter around Pershore! The same year on Christmas Eve my grandparents came to stay at the Angel Hotel to be with us at Christmas. We always had the best of presents from them. They were sharing presents. Whatever they brought it was always exciting and made Simon and me feel Christmas had, at last arrived. That year after we had had tea at the Angel, Grannie and I were sitting by the fire chatting when she said, "Quickly, can you hear the sleigh bells, we might see Santa on his sleigh?" We ran to the window and looked into the sky between the rooftops. When we looked up out of the window Grannie said, "Oh, we've just missed him," but I was certain I had seen the end of the sleigh disappearing over the roof tops! Happy, magical memories!

Sue Price (nee Elliott)



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Start Christmas with the Town Choir!

The Town Choir is joining with Avonbank Brass Band for their Annual Christmas Celebration this year, in Pershore Abbey on 15th December. The Choir will bring a warming mix of new and old music, under the baton of Musical Director David Barclay. Anyone who has been to an event conducted by David will know he delights audiences with his blend of humour and musical excellence.

Avonbank Brass Band will be performing under their Musical

Director, Colin Herbert. At the time of writing, their programme is still under wraps! But we can expect the spirit of Christmas to shine through every piece. As well as the Concert pieces, the audience will be invited to join in singing traditional Christmas carols.

Tickets are available from Blue, Broad Street, Amber Hair Salon, Church Street and on the door; price £12.50, to include mulled wine & mince pies. Under 16s £5

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Flower Club News



The members and many many guests from Pershore and the local district gathered at Number 8 in Pershore for our annual Open Meeting on Thursday, the 16th November 2023 when Vanessa Wellock came to entertain and inspire us with her demonstration which she had called 'Tis the Season'. And it was! The designs she created were brilliant using bases and containers which she had made. As she had decided to have a 'clear-out' of her many sheds back at her home, she was donating all the containers and 'mechanics' to the winners of the raffled designs which was a real bonus to those lucky people going away with one of her beautiful arrangements. However, for the first one, Vanessa used the insulating board which she had draped with strips of plaster of Paris and painted silver, on to which she had placed silver baubles, glass jars containing tea lights and sprigs of soft blue asparagus fern. To this, she added beautiful avalanche white roses and white lisianthus. For her handtie, using a framework of wire covered

with red wool, she used stems of euphorbia, red carnations and red roses. Vanessa completed five designs using beautiful flowers such as halo roses, various blooms of orchids, carnations, anthuriums, gerberas together with long stems of variegated ivy, red berries of leafless ilex, asparagus fern coloured blue and bronze, skimmia, pittasporum. And for each one, she produced a second version "the one I did earlier" which made the whole effect doubly beautiful – and increased the number of arrangements to be raffled. It was a memorable evening. *We wish all our members and readers a very happy Christmas and look forward to meeting again at Bishampton Village Hall on Wednesday, the 17th January when we shall hold our annual general meeting followed by fish and chips and a quiz. Our next Club meeting will be on Wednesday, the 21st February when we shall welcome Linda Seabrook from Daventry for her demonstration entitled 'Season's Greetings'. All visitors welcome and for further details telephone 01905 936477*



Rotary News

What a month it's been. Our sold-out concert in Pershore Abbey in September, featuring the brilliant Johns' Boys, enabled us to present Adam Evans of the Alzheimer's Society with a cheque for £3,000. The Community Fundraiser said, "This donation really will make a big difference to the Alzheimer's Society and those who rely on our help and support. There are currently 9,117 people in Worcestershire alone who are affected by dementia with a diagnosis rate of 52.2%. This is a real area of focus for the charity to improve this figure as a lot of doors are shut until a formal diagnosis is received." Later this month we presented the Midlands Air Ambulance with a cheque for £1,000 at their Strensham air base with doctors and air crew standing by. These funds were raised at Number 8 in Pershore where the highly entertaining Jack Boskett regaled us with stories and photographs of his experiences around Royalty and steam trains. We are delighted to have been part of Pershore's inaugural Georgian Christmas Fayre and particularly to be able to support

our friends in the TOP Networking group, the Pershore Wellbeing Hub and Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre. Our fundraising for local causes over the two days raised over £1,000 and we expect the fund to grow when we start our Tree of Remembrance collections outside Asda and Co-op. As Christmas approaches, we think about our families - those around us and those we have lost. Pershore Rotary's Tree of Remembrance Appeal each year gives us an opportunity to remember those we have loved and lost and by donating you will help us raise funds for local causes and charities. Donations can be made online at www.pershoretreeofremembrance.com So, whether you support your own community or overseas, Pershore Rotary is here to help. *If you can help us and want to know more, follow us on Facebook or checkout our website at www.pershorerotary.club*



Rotary Club of Pershore

Tree of Remembrance Appeal 2023

'Your Loved Ones Remembered'

The Tree of Remembrance is a special way to remember loved ones and by choosing to support our Appeal you will be helping others.

The names of those remembered will be published in the Pershore Times, Evesham Journal, the Pershore Rotary Club's website and in a Tree of Remembrance Book which will be displayed in the Pershore Town library.

A list of all local causes and charities supported by our Appeal will become available on the club's website.

Please donate online via www.pershoretreeofremembrance.com or by completing the form below to be sent with your donation to the address shown.

Your Name: _____

First line of your address: _____

Postcode: _____

I wish to remember the life/lives of: (BLOCK CAPITALS)

I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to "The Rotary Club of Pershore".

Please send to: Rotarian Lynne Raymer, Woodward's House, Cooks Hill, Wick, Pershore WR10 3PA Ref: PT23

I want to 'Gift Aid' my donation. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in a current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Personal information is only used for this Appeal and for Gift Aid (if applicable). It is never shared with any other party.

Winter Events at community run The Queen Elizabeth Inn

WINNER OF VISIT WORCESTERSHIRE PUB OF THE YEAR 2022/23, and GOOD FOOD AWARD 2023/24 !

Here's a small taste of what is going on over the coming weeks
Who knew that a rural community pub could be so exciting !!



FESTIVE MEALS – terrific festive fare for lunch and dinner from **1st to 24th December**. Boxing Day special menu on 26th and a party to welcome 2024 on 31st

FISH & CHIP QUIZ NIGHTS - join our Quizmasters at 19.30 on **Tuesdays - 12th December & 9th January**. £10 per head entry fee including Fish & Chips. Max 6 per team. Booking essential !

PIE NIGHT – cheer up those January blues with our fabulous selection of pies on **Thursday 25th January**



We're excited to welcome you to **Bessie's Breakfast & Tearoom**
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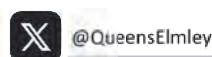
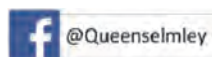
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Awards
2022/23

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All information correct at time of printing, but please check for latest information at www.elmleycastle.com or call us on **01386 710251**



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www.elmleycastle.com

Local Pub wins Good Food Award for 5th Year!



The Queen Elizabeth Inn in Elmley Castle, near Pershore, has been awarded the Good Food Award for the 5th year running. The Good Food Awards are based on customer opinions, feedback and votes and aim to champion and support local, independent eateries with delicious food. Neil Lavender-Jones, Director of the Queen Elizabeth said "We are delighted to again be winners this year and are honoured that our consistent offering of good food continues to be recognised. We are a community pub, so it is a huge kudos to our staff and volunteers for staying on top of their game to receive this accolade".

The Queen Elizabeth is a community pub, managed and maintained by volunteers with twenty full and part time staff working closely with thirty front-of- house and back-office volunteers. Sustainability and freshness are key to our offering, so we source from local producers and suppliers within a 25-mile radius, using a butcher supplying meat raised in the area and locally grown seasonal vegetables. We also feature local beers, ciders and wine. We would like to express special thanks to our customers for their continued support and for sharing their experiences and voting for us.

Age UK opening of new Dementia Café

Age UK Herefordshire and Worcestershire (H&W) are excited to announce that their Wick Dementia Cafe will be moving to the Pershore Civic Centre from Tuesday 21st November. The Pershore Dementia Café is free to attend. Situated in central Pershore, the Civic Centre has a long-stay car park for members to use, shops nearby, as well as the fabulous Avon Meadows Wetlands just a short walk away. Age UK H&W hope that this new location will be more accessible for those who wish to come along and will encourage new members to attend. The relaxed and friendly environment that Age UK H&W's Dementia Cafes promote will mean that any potential new members should

feel instantly at ease and part of the group, while their team helps to create an accommodating and fun atmosphere for all who attend. The Cafe is set to regularly play host to a multitude of engaging and exciting activities and events, while also offering attendees the chance to connect over a cup of tea and cake! Age UK H&W's Cafes are free and have a primary aim to provide support and information for people living with mild to moderate Dementia, their carers, friends and family. It's often understated that the Cafes can also be a great place for carers to let off some steam and have the chance to chat and engage with other carers who may face similar challenges.

Book review

Richard Catford



Handbook Volume 3 'And another Thing' By Reg Moule

Reg Moule has done it again! He has produced another useful, pocket sized handbook entitled 'And Another Thing' on growing fruit and vegetables. This new publication complements handbooks 1 & 2; 'The Garden Diary' - a month by month explanation of gardening tasks and 'This is what I would do' - an explanation of techniques and advice for both novice and experienced gardeners. This new Handbook gives more detail and explanation on many of the topics mentioned in Reg's previous publications, but without fear of repetition. Although it is not intended to be an instruction book on growing all crops it does cover a very wide range of fruit and veg. In this new volume Reg adds his own tips on ensuring bumper crops and avoiding disappointing failures. How to feed, fertilize and care for crops, avoid pests and diseases is explained. He explains when and how to apply potash, phosphates and other nutrients to crops, but the main emphasis is on organic techniques.

These tips can be applied to cultivation on any scale from pots, window boxes, or containers to full sized flower beds and allotments. There is comprehensive coverage of the less commonly mentioned produce such as mushrooms, celeriac, asparagus, chillies and garlic. Guidance on cultivating citrus fruits, grapes and Olive trees, plus other fruiting shrubs and bushes is explained. How to prune and renovate older trees will be appreciated by those just beginning their gardening journey and act as a handy reminder for the more experienced gardener. When will I use Reg's handbooks? Handbook 1- 'The Garden Diary' is used regularly throughout the year. It tells me when to do things in the right way at the right time. It is a diary that prompts me on jobs to do each month. Handbook 2 'This is what I would do' - I will probably use this a little less often, but certainly before I go to the garden centre to buy compost and new plants, or before I plan to reorganise a flower bed or corner of my garden. I will certainly look up how to prune my wisteria and other shrubs each year. Handbook 3 'And another Thing.' Focuses on fruit and vegetables and gives more details on successful cultivation of more exotic, unusual fruit and veg. As my gardening confidence grows I will use the advice in this handbook to ensure better care of the things I have planted.

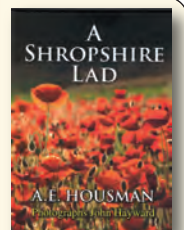
All these Handbooks are published by Hughes and Company, 8 Church Street, Pershore WR101DT. Price £10 per copy

'A Shropshire Lad'

Author: John Hayward

This is the first photographically illustrated edition of 'The Shropshire Lad', timed to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the A E Housman Society, recently launched by the BBC television presenter, Nick Owen. Photographer John Hayward follows the different locations mentioned in the poem with stunning, full-colour plates.

Published by: Merlin Unwin Books, Ludlow, Shropshire Available from:



Hughes & Company

Design House, 8 Church Street Pershore WR10 1DT

Tel: 01386 803803 Email: print@hughes.company

Dr. Ed Garratt OBE

Ed Garratt was awarded the OBE in The King's first Birthday Honours in June and his investiture took place at Buckingham Palace on 2nd November. The medal was presented by Princess Anne. The Honour was awarded to Ed for his work in the NHS where he is Chief Executive of NHS Suffolk and North East Essex. Ed was brought up in Pershore and attended Abbey Park First and Middle Schools and Pershore High School. He lived in Bridge Street with his parents, both teachers who worked in schools in Worcester and Evesham. Ed went on to the universities of Sussex and Cambridge where he gained a PhD in English Literature. He has worked in the NHS for nearly 20 years and has been a Chief Executive in the NHS for almost half of that time. He has worked on national policy, such as developing the first NHS Constitution and the recent government White Paper on Integrated Care, which he delivered locally in East Anglia. Ed now lives near Cambridge with his wife, whom he met at school locally, and three



children. Ed commented, 'I am thrilled to receive the OBE and am very grateful for my upbringing in Pershore, which helped to shape my 'community first' values working in the NHS.'

Barbershop Veteran retiring



Eddie Howell (centre) with the barbershop singers of Vale Harmony The A Cappella Fellas

Eddie Howell, who has just celebrated his 88th birthday, has been made an Honorary Life Member of the Pershore-based chorus, Vale Harmony The A Cappella Fellas. As a past Musical Director and tenor singer, Eddie, from Pinvin, has staged numerous concerts raising thousands of pounds for charities over the 30 years he has sung with the chorus. Receiving his Life Membership certificate, Eddie said: "Barbershop has been my life for a very long time. I wish I could turn the clock back but I can't. I would encourage any young man to sing... and sing

Barbershop. It will give you so much joy" Chris Dobbins, the chorus chairman, said Eddie was a brilliant example of how singing as a hobby can transform your life. "Eddie has been an inspiration to so many over the years and so many charities have benefitted from his devotion", he said. They continue the tradition and offer a warm welcome to any male singer at their rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 7pm at the St Andrew's Centre in Church Street, Pershore.

www.valeharmony.co.uk and www.singbarbershop.com



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Women's Hour! Home and Away Susan Catford



Having a year without holidays abroad has been strange this year but we have managed to have a few days first in Wales, then Devon and, more recently, in Scotland (Ireland will have to wait!). There have been advantages to not travelling so far – no passports, no hire cars, no airport parking or long waits in customs. As long as you are prepared for our temperamental British weather and no guaranteed sunshine, then there are lots of beautiful places within our own country. The Welsh trip went very well with plenty of sunshine, once we had overcome the fact that my husband had left our suitcase full of clothes at home!! A trip to Aberystwyth and Tesco Superstore saw us kitted out with essentials which was cheaper than having to drive all the way home to collect the forgotten suitcase. Sea air and some beautiful scenery provided just

what we needed after some difficult months. Our Devon trip was also successful. More sunshine but accompanied by a biting wind. We watched, whilst shivering, the surfers and cold water swimmers, necessitating a need for a hot drink to revive us! A few excursions (Rosemoor Gardens- very highly recommended) and a trip to Hartland Quay with its terrible rocks (the site of many shipwrecks) followed by some good pub food reminded us of the many attractions in this area. The wonderful countryside and beautiful beaches are available only a few hours from home. We remembered to take the clothes this time! The trip to Scotland would, we knew, be chilly so we went prepared. Warm coats, waterproofs, wellies, walking boots, thermal vests and hats and gloves occupied a lot of space

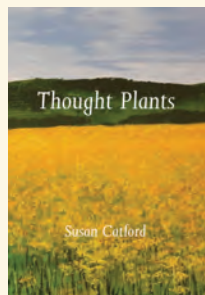
in the car. It was a good job there were no weight limits on our luggage. Our accommodation was excellent and (essentially) nice and warm. We had been warned that a 'burn' ran past our property. Indeed it did. A pretty stream flowed down the hill and wriggled its way towards the loch (not to be pronounced 'lock' as our Scottish friend said, "There are no locks in Scotland!"). However, the first night it rained heavily all night. We woke to a strange, very loud roar. It turned out to be the burn that had transformed into a raging torrent, hurtling down the hillside. Amazing!!! Fortunately we were high enough not to be flooded but it took several days to subside. Since it was Autumn, the colours were wonderful and, of course, the lochs were very impressive – dazzling and sparkling in the sunshine or darkly foreboding on cloudy days. We didn't climb any mountains but were quite happy to admire them from the warmth of the car, some already snow-capped. We also found some cullen skink which we had discovered on a previous visit. This is a tasty dish made with smoked fish, potatoes, leeks and white sauce. During our week we covered quite a few miles enjoying the scenery but our journey back happened to be on the day when storm Ciaran flew in. The motorway was horrendous with blinding spray from surface water and incredible strong cross winds. It was like being in a car wash and we were grateful when we headed south and it eased off. It was an excellent break though



and I think we might be heading north again in Autumn next year. Our travels are over for now and next year we might be boarding aeroplanes again in search of some guaranteed sun. For now it is good to be home with Christmas rapidly approaching. The towns are illuminated with their bright lights, Christmas Fayres are in full swing and there is a feeling of anticipation in the air. There are, of course, those who will not be able to enjoy the season in war zones and, closer to home, those with financial constraints. They will be in our thoughts and we will hope for peace and a resolution to all fighting in the future. It is once more the time when husbands (mainly!) will be searching in the loft for Christmas decorations and climbing ladders to put up lights. I can tell my husband can't wait!!! We wish you all a happy, peaceful Christmas with friends and family. *P.S. Pershore Community Cupboard is grateful for any Christmas donations to provide for those who may not be able to afford these things. Contact Pershore Baptist Church for more information.*

Christmas

Bells ringing,
Carol singing.
Sparkling lights,
Baubles bright.
Turkey roasting,
Chestnuts toasting.
Chocolate treats,
Good to eat.
Family fun,
For everyone.
Wine and beer,
Lots of cheer.
Christmas time is here!



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

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At this time of year when the trees have been stripped of their leaves and there are few plants bearing blossoms, there are still flashes of colour from brightly coloured berries. These play a very important part as food for the birds when other food sources are less available.

Many of us are familiar with the more common berries such as holly, mistletoe, blackthorn and yew. Holly berries are particularly popular with redwings, fieldfares and thrushes.

Yew berries are poisonous to most mammals but not badgers. They can eat the fruit and the seeds pass through them without poisoning them.

Blackthorn berries (also known as sloes) are used in the making of sloe gin. The bushes make good nesting places for birds who then benefit from the berries in Winter. Blackthorn berries have also been used in the treatment of humans for bladder, kidney and stomach disorders. Mistletoe is a parasitic shrub which can often be seen high up in trees. The sticky white berries are popular with birds such as blackcaps. We bring mistletoe into the house at Christmas for decorating and kissing! The story is that the goddess Frigg wept tears when her son was killed. These turned into white berries which fell into his wound and healed him. Frigg blessed the mistletoe plant and promised to kiss all who passed under it. Today mistletoe is often hung near the doorway to greet guests with a kiss.

Other berries are those from the Wild Service tree (also known as the Chequers tree) which are eaten by birds and small mammals. These berries were

used to make alcohol, hence many pubs and inns being named 'The Chequers'.

Cotoneaster was originally a garden shrub but can now be found in natural habitats. Its bright clusters of berries are very popular with birds.

The spindle tree produces clusters of bright pink/orange berries which are poisonous to us but provide food for birds, mice and even foxes.

The Guelder rose is a small tree found in hedgerows and woods as well as scrub and wetlands. Its clusters of red berries are an important food source for birds, particularly waxwings, mistlethrushes and bullfinches. The Guelder tree is one of the national symbols of Ukraine with its large white blooms which flower in the Summer.

The Wayfaring tree bears berries which are red at first but are black when they ripen. They are popular with both birds and small mammals. All these berries are essential food sources for our wildlife but birds still benefit from bird feeders in our gardens to keep them well-fed through the winter. Time for me to shop for seeds, nuts and fat balls then look forward to some fascinating visitors in the cold months ahead. Oh, and not to forget water for the birdbath, making sure it is not frozen over.



Five festive flowers for Christmas gifting

If you love plants (who doesn't!) then festive flowers at Christmas always makes a thoughtful gift regardless of whether we are giving or receiving.

Here's my top five favourite festive flowers for gifting.

Poinsettia:

This is a popular Christmas houseplant that is known for its bright red and green foliage. It is a great gift for anyone who loves plants and is perfect for adding a festive touch to any home. Poinsettias are available in a range of sizes and colours. They are sensitive souls and will drop their leaves after a few days if they're in a cold draughty place, so make sure you place them in a sunny / part sunny, warm, and draught free spot. They like 15-21 degrees preferably. If it's placed on or near a windowsill, remove it from a windowsill overnight and make sure the leaves aren't touching the glass during the day as its likely to be too cold for it.

They don't like over or under watering so check them each day.

Christmas Cactus:

This is another popular Christmas plant as they're easy to look after – so if the recipient is a renowned house plant killer, this is the plant for them!

As you can see from the photo, they have beautiful pink flowers but there are many colours to choose from. Christmas cacti are easy to care for and require bright, indirect light. They should be watered when the soil is dry to the touch, so if you forget to water them, they are likely to survive without any problems.



Amaryllis:

This is a flower with the WOW factor! You can grow them in the autumn (around October) in time for flowering at Christmas. They have large, trumpet-shaped flowers in a range of colours, including red, pink, and white. They can become top heavy and may need some support – one option is to grow them in a large vase so the sides are protected. Simply fill the base of the vase with washed decorative gravel, fill with water half way up the gravel and place the bulb on top. Make sure the base of the bulb isn't sitting in water at any time.



Cyclamen:

This is a beautiful flowering plant that is perfect for Christmas – I especially love the marbled leaves. It produces delicate, butterfly-shaped flowers in a range of jewel colours, including pink, purple and red. However, there are now plenty of pastel colours to choose from such as Cyclamen 'Petit Moulin' and 'Origami' with bi-coloured flowers.

Rosemary:

You might think this is an odd one to have on the list as it's plain greeny-grey foliage at Christmastime. However, it can be trimmed into the shape of a mini Christmas tree which you can decorate with mini baubles



Nikki Hollier
nikki@borderinbox.com
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to turn it into a great gift. This is a fragrant herb that is evergreen which makes it a perfect plant for Christmas decorations – I love to include it in my festive door wreaths. After the festive season you can plant it outside in your borders. Rosemary originates from the Mediterranean which means it prefers a sunny spot.



December gardening tips *Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester*

Early in the Month

Overgrown deciduous hedges can be cut back hard while they are still dormant. Put netting over winter greens to keep pigeons off. Alternatively sitting a realistic model of a large owl on a post adjacent to your crop also deters them. New deciduous hedges can be planted now. Cut the new plants back hard after planting. Avoid getting greenhouse plants too wet; they are much better kept on the dry side over the winter. Feed flowering houseplants weekly using a liquid fertiliser. Avoid walking on frozen lawns, as this damages the grass leaving brown footprints until the spring. Float a rubber ball, or a chunk of polystyrene, in your pool to prevent it from freezing over completely, or buy a pool heater. Put your sawn off Christmas tree in a stand which holds water, as this aids needle retention.

Mid December

Feed garden birds and make sure that water is also readily available. Frost and wind can loosen newly planted shrubs and trees. Check and re-firm them. Alpines and other seeds needing a cool period in order to germinate can be sown now. Whitloof chicory roots can be dug up, potted and brought into the warmth and darkness in order to produce "chicons". Geranium seeds can be sown now- if you have suitable conditions to grow them in. Go through the greenhouse every week and dispose of dead leaves and flowers. Repair fences while climbing plants are still dormant. Plant new trees and shrubs when weather conditions are favourable. Try to hoe off weeds whenever you see them, as this will pay dividends later. Grow some sprouting seeds in jam jars for an easy, nutritious

addition to meals. Cut some berried holly for house decoration and keep it in a bucket in a cold greenhouse to prevent birds from taking the berries. Take root cuttings from herbaceous plants like phlox, oriental poppies, and Japanese anemones. Ventilate the greenhouse on sunny days to reduce the risk of fungal infections. **Later in December** Winter is a good time to plan next year's crops and ornamental displays. Prune free- standing apple and pear trees. Prune greenhouse grapes, when all the leaves have fallen, cutting back the side shoots to one bud along. Christmas pot plants – remember Cyclamen and Azaleas like it cool, Poinsettias need more warmth. Clean pots, seed trays and service tools ready for the new season's work. Cover a sheltered area of veg.



garden with clear polythene to warm it up for early spring sowings. Sow onions suitable for exhibition, like Robinson's Mammoth or Kelsae in a heated greenhouse. Winter wash dormant fruit trees, using Vitax Winter Tree Wash, or Growing Success Winter Tree Wash, for a clean start next spring. Start winter digging on the veg. garden but keep off very wet soil – it ruins the structure. If snow is expected encircle vulnerable conifers with hoops of wire to hold branches in place that could, otherwise, be bent outwards by heavy falls.

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Farewell to our Market!



Pershore Retail Market

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Market Traders in November 2023

Memories of Pershore Retail Market



We came to the Market in May 2009. All the stall-holders were very welcoming, especially Martin (men's clothes) and Sue (flowers). We took some settling-in, but it was much busier than we ever expected. Customers have always been lovely, with a few special ones. One old boy when asked how he was would always reply "Above ground and breathing!" We've had some strange requests over the years. In the Pet Shop, for example, ladies' tights and sherry! Small stalls have changed many times. The butcher, greengrocer, baker and us were constants.

Neville who worked for Masons greengrocers was always around. Alan who sold linen was never on his stall when needed, so there was often a cry of "ALAN!" reverberating round the market! On Boxing Day 2010 we had a very cold spell during which the water pipes burst in the market and knocked out the electricity. Generators were installed and we carried on ... wrapped up with hats and gloves and many layers of warm clothing.

Charles at the bakery always supplied us with seasonal goodies: hot cross buns, or mince pies. During Covid we kept open, serving customers from the back door. Then it was one or two inside at a time 'socially distanced', and all the time taking orders over the phone and delivering.

Over all the years we have had a wonderful time and we will be very sad to leave and see it all change so dramatically.

Anne on the Pets Stall

I started in the Market in 1995 when I bought the Rug Shop. It was only open three days a week then, and the Market was very busy. I remember how cold it was in the old days; no electric doors and the original roof was single-skin. Mason's greengrocers would cover the fruit with duvets! I recently told April in the Café a story about how Granny Paddy used to sell underwear. One day I asked Paddy what sort of a day she'd had. (Paddy was a very old school trader – smartly-dressed and very proper.) She replied "I have had the 3 'P's today: Pick

it up, Pick it over, and P off" I was so shocked! April really laughed when I told her, but sadly she did not know her Granny as she passed away when April was very small.

I have very happy memories of the Market and will miss it very much after 28 years.

*Barbara Balchin
Rugs Stall*

Although I have only been in the Market for a few years, some of them 'shut' due to the Coronavirus, I have come to believe that along with the rest of the stallholders we are like a small family. We all help each other when needed, as well as looking out for each other.

I remember just after I first started I was feeling a little tired as I hadn't been sleeping too well. I was across from the Café then, and must have dozed off as the next thing I knew Debs was in front of me, and I woke up to find out that they thought I had died. We really laughed about that!

I have moved units a couple of times, and there is always someone among the Market people to help me out, even opening or closing the shutters which I find difficult to do myself as I have spinal stenosis. (Thanks to Paul, Cheryl, Barbara and Hayley for all their help.) Also thanks to the management staff, who are always available to help anyone, including loading or unloading my car.

I am really going to miss everyone when we close, as it gets me out of the house and mixing with people especially wonderful customers.

Some of us are moving to No.71 High Street, so we hope to see you there!

*Helen Ashmead
Natural Products &
Christmas Shop*

I've been a trader for a year in Pershore Market. I have loved every minute. The traders are like a family. I will miss them all.

Hayley at Jennie's

I started my stall of Asian fabric and accessories on 1st May 2022. I was hit with the welcome from the traders and very accommodating

management, all of whom were willing to help me set up my stall. Compared to my previous experiences elsewhere, everyone was so kind, even Debbie at the café bringing me complimentary hot drinks as we were setting up.

The short working week, Wed – Sat, suited me well.

There's a lovely atmosphere here, and a very welcoming feel to the place. Customers were excited to see the variety of haberdashery and fabric. I came as a newcomer to Pershore, and now I love the town and the people.

*Jasmine
Fabric and Haberdashery*

During the past five years of trading at the Market it has been a great pleasure to be part of a unique community of customers and fellow-traders.

It is sad to reflect on the loss of this resource for so many people who visit not only for their purchases but for the social interaction which occurs with traders.

The traders pride themselves on their customer service, and have evoked a family atmosphere. With its excellent accessibility for mobility aids the market provided a safe comfortable environment for all to enjoy their visit.

The friendships made with fellow-traders and customers who have supported the Market have been a pleasure to experience.

Things must change, but it is regretful when a facility which has provided such a community service is lost. One of Pershore's gems has gone!

Alan Picture-Framing

During my time in the Market I met so many lovely people: customers, other traders, management and local residents who just liked to come in for a browse and a chat.

It took me a while to get my business established, but by the end of my five years here, ending in 2020, business was booming! I only have the fondest of memories, which will be treasured always.

Wendy Engraving

I have been in Pershore Retail Market for approx. 33 years, with lots of happy memories.



Memories of Pershore Retail Market



Firstly I worked at Ron Dadge's fruit and veg stall. I started there in 1990. In those days it was only open three days a week. There was no Asda and the locals did all their shopping in the Market. We ran a small bus which used to go round all the villages bringing people to the Market. Each stallholder paid £2 a week to run it.

We always had fun and enjoyed our special events. On Bank Holidays the Market would be open and the larger traders would take it in turns to hold entertainment, car boots, bouncy castles, etc. in the car-park. James Mackeness (the owner) used to get involved and fun was to be had!

In 2010 I left Ron Dadge's shop. With James Mackeness's kindness and the help of Mark (the Market manager) I bought the shoe shop and Pershore Footwear was formed.

I have had many happy years here with lots of lovely customers who often just pop in for a chat.

I've seen many different traders come and go. We all chat about various subjects ranging from sport, weather, holidays, kids, and the list goes on and on. We have always been one big happy family, and lots of us will continue to meet up when we close.

Last of all I must mention James Mackeness. He loved Pershore Retail Market. It was his baby, he built it and watched it grow. He would visit every week and was always interested in all our units. He was a fair person – any problems you could always go to him for advice and help. One of his sayings to me was "You definitely need more stock!" even when it was full to the

brim. I for one will certainly miss him and Pershore Market.

*Clare Brixey
Ron Dadge Fruit & Veg
and Pershore Footwear*

My name is Stephen Yardley. I have sold rugs in Pershore Market for approx. eight years. I have had three different units within the Market, and made some fantastic friends. The camaraderie amongst the stallholders was absolutely superb. The humour, the pranks, the hilarious events – too many to list. But perhaps the funniest as I saw it was when one of the regulars drove a battery-operated scooter into the electrically operated entrance doors. Well, I thought it was funny!

Steve Sheepskins and Rugs

When I joined Pershore Market I only expected it to be for a couple of months. But because of the other stallholders treating me to such a warm and friendly welcome I decided I wanted to stay and see if Teddy Bears weren't just for Christmas! We are very lucky to work with such a supportive fun community including both fellow stallholders and customers. The days here have plenty of happy and smiling faces and laughter can be heard every day!

Thursday lunchtimes are a regular treat. Barbara (Pershore Rugs), Helen (Christmas Shop), myself, and whoever wanted to could join us at the Moorings Café for lunch and a giggle. This was a time to catch up on all the gossip, tell amusing stories and moan about the ailments that our getting-older

bodies were letting us feel. In my three years I've made some fantastic friends and I love coming to work in such a wonderful community. We laugh and cry together and it keeps me sane. It's very sad to see it go, but I do feel very lucky to have been part of it and to have gained such a wonderful group of friends.

Andrea Teddy Bears

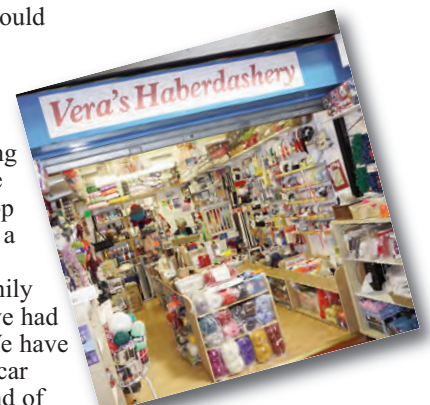
We have been trading in Pershore Retail Market for seven years. During this time we have seen quite a few different stalls come and go, and that is one of the best things about the Market – the wide range of stalls and traders selling a whole variety of things, everything you could think of. Of course the customers are the most important. We have made many friends and met some very interesting people – people who are passing through who stop for five minutes to have a chat.

The Market is like a family (a work family). We have had many laughs and fun. We have had fundraising events, car shows in the car-park and of course the Christmas parties. The Market becomes a magical place at Christmas with all the Christmas decorations and lights. It is transformed into a Wonderland!

I (Cheryl) have many memories of the Market when I was growing up, saving my pocket-money to come with my friends to buy clothes, make-up, sweets, going to the baker's to buy bread for my mum but eating the end off before I got home because it was still warm and smelt so good (and tasted good as well!) It will be a sad day when the Market is finally closed. It's been part of Pershore for so many years and I'm sure holds memories for lots of people. Thankfully many traders have been able to relocate to other premises, ourselves included.

'Pershore Market, thank you for the memories and thank you for the continued support from all the customers over the years.'

*Paul & Cheryl
Bubblicious*



My Story – 1986 – 2021



Needing a change of direction from office work at the age of 40 and luckily having a contact in Pershore Retail Market, I embarked on a new venture purchasing a small business from a tenant selling “outsized ladies clothing”. There had been two previous unsuccessful owners of this business and I don’t think anyone thought a lot to my chances. As one lady on the butcher’s counter said, ‘Never give up the day job Carole’. However, after three months of continuing with my office job I was taking enough money to be able to give it up. Mum had worked the Wednesday and Friday for me, I had worked the Saturday and I travelled to Birmingham on Sundays to buy stock. Everyone was friendly and

Paddy who ran the “Knicker Bar” had helped me a great deal. I had no experience of retail but working in accounts previously was a great help with my bookkeeping. Wendy on the shoe stall was also a great friend who had an amusing incident happen when a customer came in to buy shoes for his wife’s funeral. She found him a black shiny pair and off he went only to return a couple of weeks later for a refund. His wife had made a miraculous recovery and he now didn’t need them! Usually being small traders, refunds were not given unless the goods are very faulty. After two years I moved to a larger unit with a second floor which was easier for spare stock, and opposite, a man we

will call ‘Noddy’, moved in selling second-hand records. He played the most mournful Irish music you could imagine and never took the hint as to how awful it was. One day he decided to put a large sign as a heading to his unit. He carefully cut out the letters and started to stick them on. Unfortunately he hadn’t taken the necessary measurements and just started at the beginning with INT etc. for ‘International’ as he said he had customers aboard. When he reached the other end of his stall he had only got to the ‘o’ and there was no room for the ‘nal’. So all the letters had to be taken down and then he decided he was Multinational but gave up on the idea anyway! After another five years my husband Ken bought the large unit from Sonny selling Children’s, teenage and ladies clothing and later I moved again to be opposite selling my ‘mature’ ladies clothing. He stayed until retirement beckoned in 2008. Every now and then the market owner the late Mr. James Mackaness would call a tenant’s meeting and put on a buffet for us usually in the football club. Various topics (and arguments) would ensue but not much changed much to Mr. Mackaness’s delight as there were always people ‘for’ and ‘against’ any ideas put forward. The one big change

that did occur was opening on Thursdays which did cause a this huge controversy. which was understandable as some of the older tenants did not want to open another day. For many years we opened on Bank Holidays and Mr. Mackaness gave our rent money to charities of our choice. On these days we often had live music, tombola stalls etc. and many customers ‘found’ us this way. After Thursday opening began, we had the option of opening on these days and sadly traders lost interest and eventually we stayed close which I personally thought was short-sighted as I had many new customers who came for the first time on a Bank Holiday. In my 35 years there have been five managers, Robin who smoked a (very smelly) pipe, Tom who insisted on announcing ‘5 o’clock’ over the tannoy when we all had to pack up. Wendy got reprimanded once for selling after time when she still had a customer! There was Bill who got on with everyone, John, sadly no longer with us and Mark who made great changes organising a new roof, new heating, a great display of outside hanging baskets and spectacular Christmas decorations. I always said I never had a proper job and yes, I would happily do it all over again!

Carole Sefton



It has been my privilege to be Workplace Chaplain to the Retail Market for the last five years. I represent ‘Faith At Work in Worcestershire’, an organisation that offers care and concern for people at work, and is active in Pershore through ‘Churches Together’. We are a team of nine volunteers serving Pershore town centre, and I was allocated the Retail Market. A bit daunting at first with over 30 stalls and so many traders to get to know. But what a pleasure it has been to earn their trust and share their lives. Many have had highs and lows – life is like that – but so much easier when it is shared and someone is there to listen and encourage. The Market ‘community’ is mutually supportive, is a strong team, cares for each other, and embraces their customers in

this friendship. I have had opportunity to share the sadness of bereavement, the challenge of poor health, the joy of new birth, and everything in between. Covid presented quite a challenge, but some essential services, such as greengrocery and pet-provisions rose to the challenge and continued offering their trade by telephone and delivery. Obviously one big challenge is the Market closure at the end of the year, but I have been amazed at how resilient these people are, encouraging each other, searching together for alternative premises, planning to continue their friendships through meeting up, and generally remaining optimistic for the future. The traders know that when I’m wearing my badge I am ‘on duty’, and when I shop in the Market I may say ‘just

shopping today’ meaning that my listening is limited! I shall miss my Market rounds, but have many happy memories, including the pranks that some have played on me (!) and winning round some who were sceptical of what I was about. I have felt incorporated into the Market family, and it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as their chaplain.

*Reverend Alma Organ
Workplace Chaplain*



Farming

Mike Page

My farm lies just outside the northern limits of Pinvin bounded by the B4082 (running from Upton Snodsbury, through Pinvin and then on to Pershore) on the West and Piddle Brook on the East; at one time the road diverted through Naunton Beauchamp and Wyre to reach Pershore as the marshy Pinvin area could be difficult to travel through. The name Pinvin derives from the words Penda's Fen: Penda was a prominent Saxon King in the first half of the 7th Century, and the word Fen is a clear demonstration of what the land around here was like. Now nearly all fields around Pinvin are well drained and highly productive; until recently they were widely used for intensive horticulture or fruit-cropping, and were considered to be part of the (nationally known) Vale of Evesham area in the heyday of market gardening.

This has been a peculiar autumn, with three named storms (so far) hitting the UK in October-November. As I have said before, Government policy towards farming, arising from the importance of home-based food production in WWI and WWII, has in times past been directed at maximising food production. Part of that policy has been

drainage of large areas of agricultural/ horticultural land to boost annual crop production, with that endeavour supported by Government grants. At the same time there has been much house building in rural villages and small towns, with much of the rain falling on new roads, driveways, roofs and hard surfaced areas. The result has been that heavy rainfall across large rural areas has now been directed into local streams and rivers more or less immediately, rather than percolating slowly through the natural soil profile and following natural drainage routes, to reach brooks like Piddle and Bow, over a period of weeks and months rather than days or even hours.

I have farmed all my life with Piddle Brook along one boundary of that land, and the way in which it floods in all that time has changed. As a child, I remember how heavy rain would lead to the Brook level rising over several days and eventually overflowing to flood out across adjoining brook meadows. Recently one heavy storm (Babet) in October resulted in the Piddle Brook rising from near normal levels, flooding out across entire bankside meadows, and then retreating back to more or less



normal flow levels, all in a period of less than 48 hours. It has been argued that drainage of riverside meadows (and perhaps other land) should be impeded in various ways, and that would bring forward several very useful results: the passage of water would be slowed considerably, with obvious benefits to those communities living further downstream;

restoring wetlands, with their advantages for so many species, both animal and plant, would benefit the environment, that benefit extending way beyond the areas of restored wetlands. But it would obviously result in a downturn in the food production potential of the now slow-draining land subject to occasional flooding.



VETERINARY ADVICE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!



Fireworks and Your Pets

For many pets the fireworks celebrations around Bonfire Night, Christmas and New Year can be scary events. Those with noise aversions can spend the night cowering and trembling or show erratic excitable behaviour. And even those previously unaffected can be triggered into anxiety by a firework blast too close to home.

There are numerous things that you can do to help make your home a comfortable and reassuring space for them, but if your pet is severely affected please seek help from your vet who may be able to prescribe anti-anxiety medication and offer further support.

Here are some tips to help your pet around fireworks nights:

- Place a **pheromone diffuser** in your house or use a pheromone spray, these help your pet to feel calm and reassured in their space, there are also some helpful 'off the shelf' anxiety medications that can work well. These products need to be started several weeks before the fireworks commence.
- Create a **calm and comforting environment** by using comfy beds, cardboard boxes for cats and providing treats, toys, food and water within easy access in a quiet part of the house. This provides somewhere they can retreat to if wanted but make sure they are also still able to access their usual areas of the house as well.
- **Walk dogs earlier** than usual to avoid the early start of some celebrations and try and **keep cats indoors** if they are happy to do so.
- **Close windows, curtains and blinds** to muffle sounds as much as possible and turn up the tv or radio a little bit to cover noises. Classic FM provide a calming playlist for fireworks specifically designed for dogs that you may find useful.
- **Stay at home** with your pet, your presence is likely to be the most reassuring thing for them. Remain calm and relaxed yourself and provide comfort if your pet seeks reassurance from you.
- Bring hutches for rabbits and other small furies indoors if possible and provide **extra bedding** for them to hide in.
- Make sure your pets are **microchipped** and the details are up to date, if they did happen to run away from home you want to be able to be reunited with them.

For future years sound therapy is something that can be used to accustom dogs to noises, this is ideally useful for young puppies but can be employed to help adult dogs, it should be started many months ahead of the fireworks season. Dog's Trust provide resources called 'Sounds Scary' that are free to access and download.

Above all keep your pets safe and enjoy the celebrations!

Best wishes *Eliza*

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Cooking for fun! *Ailsa Craddock*

How can it be December already? Haven't we just had Summer and Autumn? The end of the year in sight and Christmas a-calling. It's my favourite part of the year – not for the presents and parties (though I do like them, too) but for family and being together with the ones you love. I know it isn't the same for everyone – some of you will be facing a time on your own; some will be worrying how to get through it both financially and emotionally. Pick yourself a little treat – a good book (go to the library), your favourite food – be it chocolate, curry or a good cheese – meet up with a friend for a walk, telephone the one you've always meant to but not got round to. And give – of yourself as a friend, of time as a volunteer to a charity or cause - or in actual little gifts like the ones below that you have made yourself. Let the recipients know that in the time of making, you were thinking of them. And you will find a whole lot of love back.

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Jam

350g cranberries
350g bramley apples, peeled and chopped
1 orange
1 tbsp freshly grated ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp ground cloves
500g granulated sugar
15g butter

Put the cranberries and apple pieces in a large, heavy-based pan. Add the orange zest and juice along with the ginger, cinnamon and cloves. Cover the pan with a well-fitting lid and set over a low heat. Cook for 10 mins, swirling the pan from time to time, but not stirring. Remove the lid and add the sugar, stirring with a wooden spoon until the sugar has fully dissolved. Bring to a rolling boil and cook for about 10 mins. If you have a jam thermometer, the mixture should

reach 104C. Alternatively, remove the pan from the heat and spoon a little of the jam onto one of the chilled plates. Leave for 1-2 mins, then push the jam gently with a fingertip to see if it has set enough to wrinkle. If it doesn't, continue to boil for a few more minutes then test again. Remove from the heat and stir in the butter. Let stand for 10 mins before pouring it into the sterilised jars. Seal and label.

White chocolate Rocky Road

600g white chocolate, chopped
250g mixed marshmallows, chopped
2/3 cup (100g) dried cranberries
2/3 cup (100g) pistachios, chopped
80g macadamias, lightly toasted, chopped
1/2 cup (45g) desiccated coconut
250g pink Turkish delight, chopped



Grease a 20cm square cake pan and line the base and sides with baking paper, leaving some overhanging. Place chocolate in a bowl set over a saucepan of simmering water (don't let the bowl touch the water) and stir until melted. Cool slightly, then fold in all remaining ingredients. Spread into the prepared pan and chill for two hours or until set. Use the baking paper to lift the rocky road out of the pan, then slice into squares to serve.

Spiced Apple Tea Mix

2 tablespoon loose green tea
2 tablespoon snipped crystallized ginger
1 teaspoon whole allspice
1 teaspoon whole cloves
6 crisp dried apple chips* or dried apple slices
6 3-inch cinnamon sticks

In a small bowl combine tea, crystallized ginger, allspice, and cloves. Divide tea mixture and dried apple chips among six paper tea filters. Tie tops of filters with kitchen string, tying a cinnamon stick at the top of each. Place filled tea filters inside six decorative heat-proof cups. Attach directions for serving.

To make Spiced Apple Tea:

Add 6 to 8 ounces hot water to filled tea filter in each cup. Let tea steep for 3 to 5 minutes. Remove and discard tea filter.



Thoughts from the Snug . . .

Are men insensitive?

I don't think so! . . . well, possibly!!

A couple out Christmas shopping strayed into a busy shopping centre. It was crammed with shoppers and somehow the couple became separated, her husband was nowhere to be seen. Irritated, because they had a lot to do she called him on his mobile phone. "Where are you?" she demanded; she was, after all, a little worried and there was certainly an edge to the tone of her enquiry. In a quiet, gentle voice he replied, "Do you remember that jewellers we went to a

few years back, the one where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we could not afford, and I said I would get it for you some day? The wife's irritation immediately evaporated and, overcome by emotion, her tone also softened. "Oh, Yes! I do remember it." she swooned. He replied, "Well, I'm in the pub next door."

Buddy Bach

u3a
Persore & District

December 2023 Meeting

Christmas Entertainment
Tuesday 19th December at 2pm
Join musician Alan Benjamin for festive tunes and songs

January 2024 Meeting

Following the AGM on 16th January 2024 at 2pm

Daniel Callicott

The heritage Manager of Bournville Village Trust
talking about two historical buildings in Bournville village :
Selly Manor and Minworth Greaves

All welcome , no need to book

All monthly meetings held at Number 8, High Street, Pershore.

For more details, contact Sally Whyte, Speaker Coordinator on u3apershoresally@gmail.com www.u3asites.org.uk/pershore/home

The local Home Guard in WW2 Tim Hickson



Pershore Bridge WW2 Anti-tank gun emplacement, Pershore's hidden gem

When, in September 1939, Britain declared war on Germany, as we said we would do if Germany invaded Poland, the British Army regulars and territorial, went to France. However, by the end of May, 1940, the Germans had driven our Army to the French coast where, with good luck and good planning, most escaped at Dunkirk. The Worcestershire Regiment defended that retreat. The Earl of Coventry, whose home was Croome Court, was among those killed. All vehicles, guns and ammunition, and equipment had to be left behind. To achieve this success the Germans had used unconventional tactics involving speed, aircraft attacks and troops dropped from the air. They had swept through Holland and Belgium and were moving rapidly into France. It now looked as if they would cross the Channel and invade this Country. However, Winston Churchill, our new Prime Minister, had learnt the lessons from these events and set out to ensure that if the RAF failed to stop the enemy aircraft and the Royal Navy their ships, the remains of our Army, reinforced by fresh conscripts and new Local Defence Volunteers would provide a stiff defence of these islands. The Local Defence Volunteers were set up in May 1940. These 1.5 million men were drawn from those too young or too old to join the regular Military (i.e. not 18 to

41). Also exempt were the Police, Fire Brigade and those in Reserved Occupations such as coal miners, farmers, doctors and lighthouse keepers although these too could volunteer if they wished. It was not long before Local Defence Volunteers acquired the simpler name, Home Guard. They were not paid but would be given uniforms and arms - eventually. Today, the image of the Home Guard has been coloured by the successful TV programme, *Dad's Army*. However, the reality was much, much more serious. Whilst most were trained to defend river crossings, such as that over the Avon at Pershore, and other key routes the enemy might use, as well as power stations, railway junctions and telephone exchanges, a small elite had a different, probably lethal job. These picked countrymen who had an extensive knowledge of their locality (gamekeepers, for example) were provided with hidden underground bases from which, they were to attack and sabotage invading forces. So secret were these places that even today it is believed not all have been discovered. The aim of the ordinary Home Guard was to defend the places mentioned giving time for the regular Army's Mobile Strategic Reserve to arrive and counter attack the enemy. Initially a large quota of the volunteers were retired servicemen whose experience and training were

very useful. However as the cold of winter combined with the long hours of training took their toll, it was these elderly volunteers who tended to find the commitment too much. As well as their normal day job they were required for two or three nights a week as well as evening and Sunday training.

For Pershore the men formed C Company which was part of the Evesham Battalion whilst, in Upton, U Company was part of the Malvern Battalion, as was P Company which covered Powick. C Company had five platoons of (normally) 25 to 30 men. Nos. 9 and 22 Platoons garrisoned the Pershore bridge area, Nos. 10 and 12 were at Eckington bridge and were to be mobile to counter attack if Defford Aerodrome was in trouble. No. 11 was on Bredon Hill, the tower of which was a prime look out position.

Apart from personal arms, rifles, shot guns, fighting knives and clubs, those guarding such places as river crossings were trained to use anti-tank guns and spigot mortars. At Pershore Bridge, on the west side, there is a picnic site with what is now a pump house but in WW2 was an anti-tank gun emplacement. This is shown in the interpretation board alongside which also shows a spigot mortar being manned. The base on which that was mounted is not far away. There were also pill boxes and concrete cylinders which, across the road, would be a barrier to tanks.

On one side of Eckington Bridge there is the remains of a pillbox; on the other side there is the base for a spigot mortar which could fire a shell at an enemy vehicle crossing the bridge or approaching from the village. In Upton, Fish Meadow, to the north-east of the bridge, the Home Guard had a gun emplacement across the river from what is now Warner's Supermarket. There was a pillbox alongside

the road just before the bridge with its base in Fish Meadow. At the western end of the bridge were anti-tank cylinders. Further down river, at Saxon's Lode where the railway used to cross, there was also a pillbox.

The Powick Home Guard looked after the bridges crossing the Teme at Bransford and Powick. There were road blocks, machine gun posts and spigot mortars to man. At Powick Church there was a machine gun post and the tower was used as an Observation Post. No sign of any of these activities remain, nor of the garden shed erected on the top of the tower to give shelter to those on duty. Although the threatened invasion did not take place, it was not until 1944 that the Home Guard stopped training and only on December the 31st in 1945 that it was disbanded. The real expert on the Worcestershire Home Guard is local author, Mick Wilks. If you wish to learn more, then start with his *The Mercian Maquis, then The Defence of Worcestershire and finally Chronicles of the Worcestershire Home Guard*.



Pershore Bridge, Mortar Spigot base as it can be seen today



Mortar Spigot site, Eckington Bridge



Pershore Bridge



Pillbox, Eckington Bridge

Business entertainment

Carol Draper

Christmas is just around the corner and at this time of year many businesses may send out hampers, chocolates, wine, and other goodies or hold a party or reception as a thank you to their customers or suppliers. Sending gifts or providing entertainment is purely a commercial decision and there is no restriction on the type, amount or value of entertainment that can be given. If the money spent on entertaining customers or suppliers leads to better deals or more sales, the entertainment provided could be viewed as money well spent. However, whether any of those items are allowable against tax or whether VAT can be recovered on the costs is a different matter. HMRC has very strict rules on the provision of business entertainment and will only allow the costs against tax or VAT to be recovered where the expenditure is necessary for strict business purposes, for example the provision of sandwiches and soft drinks to enable a business meeting to progress without interruption. The same rules apply whether the business involved is a Limited Company, Partnership or Sole Trader. HMRC defines business entertainment as "the provision of free or subsidised hospitality or entertainment." Such hospitality can include food and drink, accommodation,

theatre and concert tickets, entry to sporting events and facilities, entry to clubs and nightclubs or the use of capital assets such as yachts or aircraft for the purpose of entertaining. There is no allowable minimum limit and there is no distinction between entertainment provided in the UK or abroad. If those being entertained are customers, potential customers or suppliers neither the costs of the entertainment nor the ancillary costs such as the cost of sending out invitations to a reception or travel costs to get there are allowable. Gifts for customers and suppliers are viewed in the same way as business entertainment and again the costs are not allowed against tax or for VAT. If you have any queries about what can be claimed against tax or what VAT can be recovered speak to your accountant.

In the meantime have a Merry Christmas!

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

"I am as light as a feather; I am as happy as an angel,
I am as merry as a schoolboy. I am as giddy as a
drunken man. A merry Christmas to everybody!
A happy New Year to all the world!"

Ebenezer Scrooge

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It's cold outside!

Angela Johns

When it's windy and dark and wet outside it's so good to be inside, warm and dry. To draw the curtains, light the fire and eat hot food gives a comforting feeling of safety and protection. Therapy can feel a lot like that. You've been metaphorically out in the wind and rain and you may not have had your big coat on. Instead of fighting the elements it's time to come in and dry off. This month I will be welcoming the arrival of the Winter Solstice. It may not feel like it just yet, but the days will get incrementally longer and we can set our sights on the coming of Spring. No rush though. When we can accept the cold and dark, the wet and muddy days, we can cultivate our appreciation of the warm sunny days of t-shirts and sandals. Neither of them last forever. How I wish that it was the Solstice that gave us a Bank Holiday to feast and celebrate the momentous turning point in the natural year. It seems a more balanced review/goal setting event of the calendar New Year - so much pressure! Better to create your beautiful life whenever the

inspiration takes you and moves you. The now is always good. Not everyone enjoys this time of year. If that's you, please remember, it will come and it will go. However you are spending the coming weeks, I hope they are filled with love and acceptance. Thank you for reading again and again. I especially appreciate it when you stop to tell me that you have, as I love to hear what you think. Waes Hael! (Good Health!).

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

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readers, advertisers
and contributors
a very happy Christmas and a
successful new year*



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Think more long term for pain relief

Karen Harris

In our modern society in which we strive to work efficiently and effectively, and be performance driven, we are always looking for ways to get rid of pain and discomfort quickly and easily.

The need for a 'quick fix' has led to a massive range of products such as specially developed chairs with upwards of 32 positions for the optimal working position and posture. Massage pillows with infrared functions to loosen muscles after a full days work behind a computer. Braces, supportive straps, posture aids to keep the upper back and shoulders in the 'correct' position, supports for feet, weak ankles and wrists; the list is endless.

The promise with all of these products is that they relieve pain and discomfort. The approach taken is that supporting anything that hurts, or is weak, will give you some relief - at least in the short term Don't get me wrong, this approach is very valuable for people suffering from unresolved serious conditions where movement is limited. For example, if you are in a wheelchair with MS or similar, certain supportive methods can be very welcome to improve quality of life.

But what I see is a lot of healthy people between 30 and 70 years old (sometimes younger) that think they need these kinds of tools, and they aren't cheap! The market sector for all kinds of 'medical aids' has ballooned in recent years, with whole catalogues given over to them.

'Support' to the body means that it can switch off, why

bother working if it doesn't need to?

'I have a weak back, it runs in my family, I wear a belt to support my lower back.'

'I work a lot from home so I need to have an office chair that supports me.'

'I have weak ankles, so I wear a brace just to be safe.'

There's a problem with these statements, they are from people who are looking for 'a fix' not a solution. A support will continue to feed the problem and the disassociation of the area/s of the body to the control centre - the brain.

Succumb to these and you are limiting yourself, your movement and mobility. Joints don't have enough freedom of movement as it is, we certainly don't want them strapped and braced to limit what little movement is left! A braced knee for example, means less movement from both the ankle and the hip - amongst other things - that will tighten the muscles to the knee, and the stabilising muscles of the hip will have less work to do and will become weak. That could potentially affect the lumber spine because you will have also compromised your gait.....and more.

So, think more long term in any decisions you are making about your body, you want to be as pain free as possible to enjoy the things that give you pleasure. Short term 'fixes' do not work! Yes, a holistic approach requires a little more effort but your body will thank you in the long run.

A happy and healthy Christmas to everyone!

Finding Peace and Joy:

Emily Papirnik

Navigating the Festive Season with Ease

The festive season is often hailed as a time of peace and joy, a time to come together with family and friends. However, the reality for many can be far from idyllic, as the pressures associated with holiday expectations loom large. In the midst of the chaos, it's crucial to pause and reflect on what truly matters, embracing simplicity and allowing ourselves to experience genuine peace and joy.

For many, the prospect of family time during the holidays is a double-edged sword. Instead of eagerly anticipating reunions with seldom-seen relatives, the stress of coordinating schedules and managing multiple commitments can overshadow the joy of these gatherings. The pressure to create a perfect holiday experience, complete with festive activities and traditions, can leave us feeling overwhelmed and exhausted.

It's essential to shift our perspective and recognise that simplicity can be the key to the best holiday experiences. By communicating openly with family members and setting realistic expectations, we can alleviate the pressure to conform to an idealised version on the holiday season. Embracing the concept that it's not all about one specific day but rather the moments shared with loved ones throughout the season can help foster a more relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

The cycle of giving during the holidays, while undoubtedly heart-warming, can also become a source of stress. Financial strain, exhaustion and even resentment can arise when the



act of giving becomes a burden. It is important to give ourselves permission to step back, reassess our priorities, and find a balance that aligns with our values and well-being.

This festive season, consider redefining the way you approach the holidays. Give yourself the gift of ease by simplifying your plans, acknowledging that feeling good is the ultimate goal. When we prioritise our well-being, everything else tends to fall into place more smoothly. This shift in mindset not only benefits us individually but also extends a positive ripple effect to our family and friends.

As we navigate the holiday season, let's remember that life is for living. Find moments of peace and joy in the simple pleasures, whether it's taking a leisurely walk, sharing genuine smiles with those you encounter, or slowing down to savour the beauty of the season. By avoiding the temptation to stretch ourselves, we can create a truly meaningful and harmonious festive experience.

This year, make a conscious effort to embrace peace and joy, fostering a spirit of authenticity and connection that will endure long after the festive decorations are put away.

YES or NO?

Do you want to take control of your aches and pains?

Do you want to stop having to take pain killers?

Do you want the knowledge to be able to help yourself?

Do you want to feel how empowering that feels?

Do you want to feel that weight lifted from your shoulders?

YES, of course!

Even just the FEELING of the weight being lifted off your shoulders from knowing there IS an alternative to pain, pills & injections is a step in the right direction!

Karen Harris, Posture Alignment Specialist, Fitness Trainer
07954 544595

Romy's Uni Life



Romy Kemp *Liverpool University*

Spending the holidays in a city is extremely different to the countryside which I am used to. This is due to the amount of Christmas decorations which have managed to spread out pretty much everywhere! The weather is getting rather cold here with the wind at hand feeling brutally bitter. People have always acknowledged that the North is colder than the South, and I can now fully agree with this idea because I am freezing all of the time. Scarves are a must in this weather, as well as fluffy socks! I can honestly say that I've never known a place to rain as much as it has here, since I've moved. University has been rather exhausting for the past month and I cannot wait for a Christmas break, despite the fact that I do have to prepare for exams and still write a couple of essays. I have had a few assignments due in over the past few months which were extremely exciting to write (at university level), yet rather stressful. Nevertheless, I am exultant at university at the minute! Being able to explore the city, and go shopping, has been absolutely wonderful with all the holiday cheer beginning to flow throughout and spread to the people encompassing the city of Liverpool. My birthday was a few weeks ago and I went home for a weekend to celebrate and catch up face-to-face with my family and friends which was definitely what I needed after two whole months. Although it was a quick visit, it felt so lovely to be home



with my family. That is why I cannot wait to go home for the holidays.

My entire month has been filled with university work and assignments which have been interesting, yet challenging. As well as being able to chat with so many different people and meet up with people from your course, or society, or even accommodation mates. Having a drink with a friend and just chatting is one of my favourite parts of social life around university.

Emotions for many at university have been all over the place. Despite growing friendships, it is likely that feelings of glumness and loneliness will occur over the duration of time at university. Especially in the first few months, many of the people I know have felt rather down whether that's due to the university work itself or through the social life aspects. Everyone experiences these feelings at some point, and even I have struggled at certain points with doubts. Nevertheless, the majority of my university experience has been wonderful!

Evie's Teenage Focus



Evie Aubin

My morning walks to school are getting colder; I'm even taking my Mum's advice and taking my coat with me. I've already seen some Christmas lights up around Pershore and to my Dads dismay so have our house's decorations! I don't know how my Mum did it but somehow the Christmas decorations were up at the end of November compared to my dad's preferred time of two or three weeks before Christmas. I feel I can now finally start settling down and relaxing for the festive season. I finished all of my exams for this year and, whilst I have some early into the next year, I think I deserve to forget about them for a bit! One of my favourite things to do around the holidays is to go to the Christmas light switch on. I remember the first time I went, and all my family were gathered round this big red button. We all counted down and then in typical fashion the button didn't work. But this year was so different to the others I had been to, I felt like I just had to write about it. There was a Christmas market! I love Christmas markets. I think they are so cool, you can just go and wander round them for ages and this one was no different. We went down saw the lights turn on, saw the fireworks go off; that was another thing... what was going on with the fireworks? I swear every half hour there would be this one stray, random firework that would go off and scare me and all my friends. Anyway back on track now, the fireworks went off,



then my friends and I were there for around three hours just trying the food and checking out the stalls. I personally loved how they put food stalls at intermittent places so everywhere you walked there would be this new amazing smell! When you walked in there was the cotton candy, and the pizza, oh, my gosh, that smelt so good. But it wasn't just the food there that was good; I found so many stalls with small brands that I hadn't seen before. I remember walking past a booth with, I think it was different kinds of sweet potato gin; back then I hadn't realised what the brand was but when I was driving to the Co-op the next day I saw the warehouse next to the entrance is actually that company. Whilst this may seem like a small thing, I personally love seeing local brands getting involved with the community! Anyhow with my merry little Christmas market rant over, I do believe it is time for me to tell you all to have the most wonderful holidays in every way you celebrate, and I'll write to you all in the New Year.

Happy Holidays everyone!



Outreach

It has been a busy month at the Pershore Riverside Centre. Brad and the youth work team have been getting out in the community as much as possible. We attended Democracy day hosted by Wychavon district council which gave students from five local high schools the opportunity to have their voices heard by local councillors. We heard about some of the topics that they were really passionate about including public transport, feeling safe in their community, and vapes.



Democracy Day

This month we have also been into Abbey Park Middle school to do an assembly to further promote our clubs and holiday sessions.

The Wychavon District Council and The Police Crime commissioner PCC John Champion have funded Pershore Riverside Centre to start a Youth Engagement Project in collaboration with Pershore High School. This will fund a Youth worker within School supporting young people with mentoring, and supporting youth

clubs and services at the Riverside Centre. There is also a budget for focusing on outreach work, extra support for young people (around youth clubs) and supporting workshops.

We would like to say a special thank you to Alan at Hughes printing for supporting our outreach work by continuing to sponsor our flyers.

Youth clubs

With Mental health awareness month being in November, we focused our Tuesday and Wednesday Youth clubs around what we can do to help our own mental health. The sessions have helped the youth work team to understand what impacts our young people and how we can best support them. These conversations help us to develop



more targeted relationships with the young people, getting to know them better and creating an environment that encourages openness on sensitive topics.

Community

In addition to the fantastic youth work going on at Pershore Riverside Centre, we are also home to a range of different community groups. If you want to find out more about what's going on at the centre, or want to hire a room for your club please get in touch with Abi on 01386 554713

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



Performance: Impossible

It was a show that lost half of its cast, a show that was cancelled twice during the rehearsal process, a show even we thought was doomed. This is the story of how we pulled it off. Let me sail our narrative ferry back to September, to a wooded nook on the Welsh coastline, where I was holidaying with family in the tiny ... 'village' is probably too generous a term ... of Sandy Haven. It was indeed a haven – sandy too – without noises, disturbances or pavements. It was here that it all began. My phone buzzed and reminded me again of the university I'd left behind in the balmy Summer heat after exams, the university I knew would soon be aflame with autumn as Michaelmas Term began. A friend of mine texted me, saying she would be co-directing a student production of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* and wondering whether I'd be interested in auditioning. Consider me interested! Hadn't I'd spent my first year keen to wriggle into the theatrical circles I'd heard so much about? Unlike sport or cooking or combing my hair, acting has always been a close chum of mine. I enjoy being onstage and making a fool of myself, particularly if there's a hat and cane involved. You always hear

so many stories about great partnerships made in Oxbridge drama societies and I loved the idea of immersing myself in an environment of talent and fun. So, last year, I fired off some audition tapes ... only to hear I wasn't what they were after but they wished me the best of luck for the future. However, I now felt the winds of change as all of that balled-up luck finally paid off; I auditioned for the main role of Thomas Stockmann and got the next best thing – the main role's brother, Peter. Our show was very much a modern re-imagining of the original play. When I think of Ibsen, I imagine quite a serious man. His portraits show him in a broad, double-breasted coat, with fierce whiskers buttressing his chin and shaping his face into a frowning square. I'm no expert but I'm fairly certain he never wrote the lines: 'Father, chill' or 'the water is poisoned, you stone-hearted gremlin' or 'What in the crap-tastic universe is that!'. Then again, Ibsen's work is all translated from Norwegian, giving us some interpretative wiggle room. We infused this one hundred and forty-one year old play with a zinging zest of energy and a dash of undergraduate tomfoolery for a whole new audience to enjoy. It shouldn't surprise me – yet it inevitably does – just how

much time it takes to transform a handful of actors pacing with scripts in a hired-out conference room, into a staged and lavishly-lit performance at the Keble O'Reilly Theatre. (Keble College is one of uni's most distinct colleges, sometimes referred to as the 'lasagna college' because of its layered orange and red bricks – but what a stunning, gothic lasagna it is!) Oxford also exists in its own time zone, there are never enough hours in a day, and this meant we naturally had some hurdles to leap over. About half of the cast quit due to other commitments, including our lead actor, and – perhaps symbolically – I never saw our welfare representative again after our first rehearsal. It got to the point where our co-director would screenshot every text of 'resignation' to show us and her thumb would receive a solid workout by the time she'd finished flicking through them all. I later discovered the show had been cancelled, once, for copyright reasons, and the second time, because of an undisclosed problem during a performance of *Hamlet* the week before, prompting Keble to cancel all future shows at the O'Reilly. Thankfully, this verdict was overturned. Those who remained banded together to overcome a dollop of problems and I can confidently



say we produced something brilliant. I'd spent two weeks reciting my lines on the pilgrimage back and forth from lectures and because – like all sensible nineteen-year-olds – I already owned a top hat and cane for my character to use, so I felt in my element when at last I heard my cue and strode onstage. After five shows, crescendos of laughter, and one broken finger (our poor lead actor) I was officially baptised into the world of Oxford drama. Suffice to say, I won't be leaving anytime soon. Wishing you a happy festive season, fellow reader, on behalf of myself and Fry – my air fryer, who I'm sure will accompany us on future adventures.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

A Helping Hand

Could you be entitled to Attendance Allowance?

"I hope to live independently for a long time. It's just sometimes I'd like a helping hand." These are the words of Jacqueline, a retired teacher in her 70s, as we talk about whether she should apply for the Attendance Allowance. Jacqueline used to teach languages and loved theatre and travelling. She takes a lively interest in politics and enjoys quizzing her visitors for their views on whatever is in the headlines. She used to enjoy walks along the river but now restricts herself to the park. "I'm losing confidence in going out alone," she says. "I'm less steady on my feet than before." Jacqueline is not disabled but describes herself as "less able" than she used to be. She gets about the house by holding onto things

and has recently had a couple of handrails fitted. She still prepares her own meals, "but mostly simple things now like microwave meals". She no longer trusts herself to get in and out of the bath. Jacqueline is like many who don't realise they may be entitled to financial help to continue leading an independent life. The Attendance Allowance is a non-means tested benefit for people of pensionable age. If you have a disability, you may already be on it – but it is also intended for those who are "less able". Are you finding it harder to get in and out of chairs? Or to use the stairs? Or the shower? Or to prepare food? Compare yourself now with what you could do a few years ago. The rate people receive is typically about £70 a week but can vary depending on circumstances.

What you spend it on is up to you: anything that will make life easier. Some people use it to pay for a cleaner or a gardener. Others to hire a carer to sit with a partner, allowing them to get out for a couple of hours. Jackie is paying for someone to accompany her on walks. How can you find out if you are entitled to the Attendance Allowance? The best way is to ring the Department for Work and Pensions on 0800 731 0122 and ask for an application form. If successful, the payment will be back-dated to the day you made the phone call – and this back-dated lump sum can be significant. Phoning for a form is much more advisable than downloading one from your computer, as this method means you miss out on the back-payment. The form is quite detailed, so you may appreciate help filling it in. There are organisations

who will assist you with this, including Pershore Wellbeing Hub. Ring us on 01386 555018 as soon as you receive it and give us your name, phone number and the date the form needs to be returned by. We will contact you to make an appointment to help you fill it in. So please come into the Hub for a chat with us if you would like to find out more or feel unsure. We are here to offer that helping hand.

Pershore Wellbeing Hub is at 4 High Street – or visit us at www.pershorewellbeinghub.co.uk





Willow Close, Pershore

Well presented three bedroom detached bungalow in a cul-de-sac location with views to Pershore Abbey and Bredon Hill
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 Epc: D Council Tax Band: D
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 Asking Price: £360,000



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Three Bedroom Terrace Barn-Style New Build Superb kitchen/dining room with French doors to the garden.
 Tenure: Freehold EPC: TBA Council Tax Band: TBA
 Asking Price: £325,000

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Three Bedroom Semi-Detached House Refurbished to a high standard by the current owners.
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Diamond Jubilee Court, Pershore

An opportunity to purchase a detached, shared Equity House
The price represents a 50% share (with rent payable on the remaining 50% share) It is possible to purchase additional shares up to 100% (with the option to then buy the freehold).
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The turn of the Year

Even though the rain is still intermittent, the view from our bedroom window is quite spectacular. Nearby the thickset trees are bursting with Autumn colours whilst further on, the silver sea stretches out to the far horizon.

We're staying at Grange over Sands, on the southern edge of the Lake District and about three and a half hours drive from Pershore.

Our hotel is, in fact, called the Grange and we're staying here courtesy of a deal found on the Travelzoo website for a bargain £148 which includes a couple of glasses of prosecco and a cream tea on arrival, a five course dinner, a comfortable bed and a lavish breakfast. As well as being on the coast we're a fifteen minute drive from Lake Windermere, so close to all the famous Lakeland sites. For this hotel

see www.grange-hotel.co.uk and for a whole lot more bargain breaks, see www.travelzoo.com.

Nearer home we're looking forward to experiencing Croome Court's tradition of hosting local choirs in the church of St. Mary Magdalene on the estate over the first three Saturdays of this month with two opportunities daily, at 11am and 2pm. This coming Saturday sees the Roses Theatre Choir, Saturday the 9th features the Pershore Community Choir, with Voices Unlimited singing on the 16th. If you're planning on being there, remember to wrap up warm!

Whilst on that topic I suggest that a commendation is due to Stratford's Royal Shakespeare Theatre who are reopening their Warm Hub every Tuesday from 2 till 5pm until March 26th

Brian Johnson-Thomas

Visitors will be able to access a range of services including free hot drinks and snacks, arts and crafts workshops for adults, after school activities for children and also books, puzzles, games and free wi-fi. They say that everyone is welcome and it certainly seems a splendid idea. If you should fancy staying on to see a show, then the current production in the smaller Swan Theatre is The Fair Maid of the West, which runs until Sunday 14th January and tells the story of an Elizabethan landlady who is about to face the ultimate test of her character....

Indeed they have created the atmosphere of a 1590's Tavern inside the theatre by reusing some of the furnishings from the nearby Dirty Duck pub which has just been refurbished. Since eight years have now passed since first writing this



column it seemed to be a good idea to get rid of some of the miscellaneous paperwork I seem to have accumulated in the process. So here's a souvenir from Albania, the label from a bottle of mineral water that they say was "suffled how it gush" direct from the spring....

*Happy Suffleing!
See you next year....*

Jazz News

How many jazzers spotted the error in last month's Jazz News? The original Dixieland Jazz Band came to Britain in 1919 not 2019. Expect some ribald comments at this month's club session!

December club night sees the last of our three "Jazz Age" presentations, this time by Dave Browning's Jazz Cats, a band of star musicians especially chosen by Dave for their consummate interpretation of the idiom. The band take much of their inspiration from the music of William Edward "Wild Bill" Davison, cornetist, the epitome of the Chicago musicians in the 1920s who found employment in the gangster run nightclubs. Davison who earned the nickname of "wild" due to his degenerate lifestyle of excessive drinking, womanising and general unruly behaviour was, nevertheless, known also to be kind, compassionate and sensitive; contrasting qualities manifesting themselves in his music which could set the night on fire with red hot jazz but express a quiet gentleness in ballads and slower numbers. Hear some of his musical legacy at the December club night (but played by gentlemen of a more temperate disposition).

Duke Ellington said, when talking about jazz and classical

Peter Farrall

music, that there are only two kinds of music – good and bad; quite a profound statement when we think about it.

Ellington took inspiration from the classical repertoire several times; no need to guess where his "Nutcracker Suite" came from and another Ellington recording was "Afternoon of an Elf," a piece by Errol Garner with a nod to Leo Delibes' "Après Midi D'un Faune." Some of the old time New Orleans jazz musicians were appreciative of the classics and Louis Armstrong was, it is said, used to hang around the New Orleans Opera House, when he was a boy just to try and catch a few notes of the performances. One of Jelly Roll Morton's favourite pieces was the Miserere from Verdi's Il Trovatore, and he recorded a scintillating transcription of it in 1938 – still available on YouTube. Nearer home, Alexis Korner's Blues Incorporated recorded "Finkle's Café," so obviously taken from "Fingle's Fingle's Cave" by Felix Mendelsohn, and then there were the iconic series of Hamlet cigar adverts accompanied by Bach's "Air on the G String", one of many classics arranged by the Jaques Loussier Trio. There are so many jazz performances respectfully borrowed from the classical repertoire and as the



Duke said, good or bad. Some of the good ones, from the Rich Hughes Trio, will be heard in Fugue and Groove at January's club session.

*Merry Christmas and
a Happy and Positive
New Year from
All at Pershore Jazz!*

Dave Browning's Jazz Cats Fugue & Groove by the Rich Hughes Trio
Wednesday 13th December & Wednesday 31st January
 Function Room, Pershore Football Club.
 Doors open at 7pm, music at 8
 Admission £10 to include a raffle ticket.
 Book in advance and pay on arrival
club@pershorejazz.org.uk tel: 01527 66692 find us on Facebook



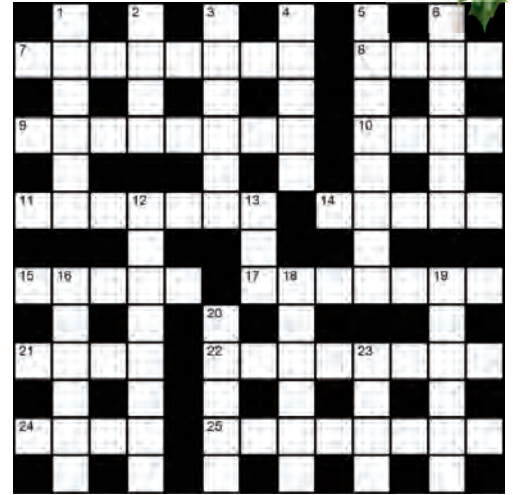
Christmas Crossword

Across

- 7 Person who stays up late (5,3)
- 8 Nervously irritable (4)
- 9 Kernel protector (8)
- 10 Disfigure (4)
- 11 Coming (7)
- 14 Gem (5)
- 15 Rigid (5)
- 17 Follower of Christ (7)
- 21 Harmonize (4)
- 22 On an upper floor (8)
- 24 Ponder (4)
- 25 Flatten out (8)

Down

- 1 Strong drink (6)
- 2 Resistance units (4)
- 3 Capital of Kansas (6)
- 4 Cunningly (5)
- 5 Without a join (8)
- 6 Set on fire (6)
- 12 Septic (8)
- 13 Meadow (3)
- 16 Trial (3-3)
- 18 Priest (6)
- 19 Bigger (6)
- 20 Explode (5)
- 23 Performs (4)

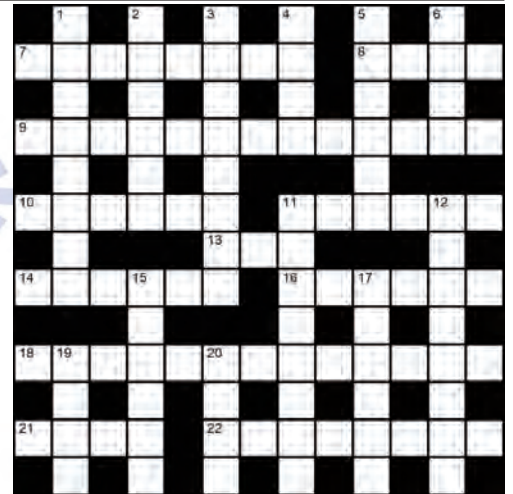


Across

- 7 Plum type (8)
- 8 Poisonous Javanese tree (4)
- 9 Trim the dry fly out in Wales (7,6)
- 10 "The Old Man and ---" (Hemingway) (3,3)
- 11 Craziest (6)
- 13 Diamonds (3)
- 14 Road-going type of family? (3-3)
- 16 Boat basin (6)
- 18 Chances (13)
- 21 She sang to Sidney Poitier in "To Sir, with Love" (4)
- 22 Recommended (8)

Down

- 1 Not the main event (8)
- 2 Place in the pecking order (6)
- 3 Sign of maturity (4,4)
- 4 Truth (4)
- 5 Abrupt (6)
- 6 Cab (4)
- 11 Drink for conjurer named Leo (8)
- 12 Brings together (8)
- 15 Come along (4,2)
- 17 Impede progress (6)
- 19 Twelve Popes have had this name (4)
- 20 Level (4)

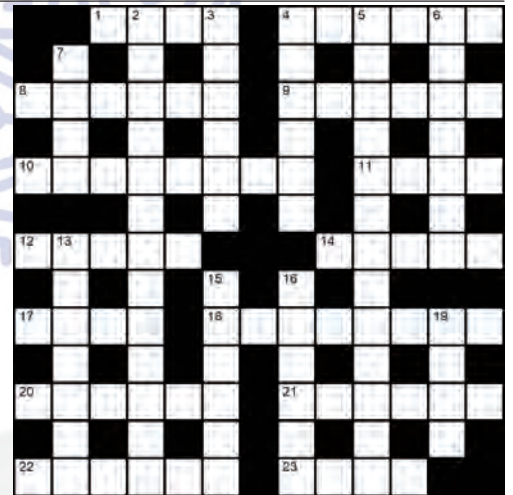


Across

- 1 Some TV screens (1,1,2)
- 4 Corkscrew shape (6)
- 8 Two-bottle bottle (6)
- 9 Circle round parsonage personage (6)
- 10 Make anew (8)
- 11 Former Yugoslav chief (4)
- 12 Official stickers (5)
- 14 Disdain (5)
- 17 One-name actress (4)
- 18 Discourteous (8)
- 20 Teem (6)
- 21 Rodeo rider (6)
- 22 Lack of activity (6)
- 23 Opposite over hypotenuse (4)

Down

- 2 Experimental standards (7,6)
- 3 Ape-like (6)
- 4 The beautiful game (6)
- 5 Look-alike nitwit goes berserk in Iceland (9,4)
- 6 One who's often high (7)
- 7 Long narrow strip of fabric (4)
- 13 Display (7)
- 15 Rectifiers (6)
- 16 Historical periods (6)
- 19 Confiscated (4)



Christmas Magic Squares - Fill in grids, so that each column, row and diagonal add up to the same

	7	
9		1
	3	

	1	
3		
4		2

		8
		3
2	9	



Poets' Corner

XXI Bredon Hill

In summertime on Bredon
The bells they sound so clear;
Round both the shires they ring them
In steeples far and near,
A happy noise to hear.

Here of a Sunday morning
My love and I would lie
And see the coloured counties,
And hear the larks so high
About us in the sky.

The bells would ring to call her
In valleys miles away:
"Come all to church, good people;
Good people, come and pray."
But here my love would stay.

And I would turn and answer
Among the springing thyme,
"Oh, peal upon our wedding,
And we will hear the chime,
And come to church in time."

But when the snows at Christmas
On Bredon top were strown,
My love rose up so early
And stole out unbeknown
And went to church alone.

They tolled the one bell only,
Groom there was none to see,
The mourners followed after,
And so to church went she,
And would not wait for me.

The bells they sound on Bredon,
And still the steeples hum.
"Come all to church, good people,"-
Oh, noisy bells, be dumb;
I hear you, I will come.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

Spot & Shop - November Winners

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Henrietta Pritchard | 2) Alan Dufty |
| 3) Jane Machin | 4) Stewart Donnelly |
| 5) Kim Brown | 6) Chris Cook |
| 7) Rhian Brain | 8) Julie Roome |

Last month's answer:
Sustain Heating and Renewables



Christmas Quiz!

- On which day of the week was Christmas Day 2019?
- What colour are the berries found on the European mistletoe plant?
- Which journalist, writer and poet wrote the first ever King's Christmas message - it was for George V in 1932?
- What did Tom Smith of London invent in 1847 after getting the idea on a trip to Paris?
- What is the name of Bob Cratchit's youngest child in the book, A Christmas Carol?
- The modern Santa Claus was based on traditions surrounding which fourth-century Greek bishop?
- If you were born on Christmas Day, what is your star sign?
- Which song plays out the end credits of the film Die Hard?
- What, with parts called 'lametta', was invented in Nuremberg, Germany in 1610?
- Who played Kris Kringle in the 1994 film Miracle on 34th Street?
- Who were the English Protestants in the 16th and 17th centuries that objected to celebrating Christmas?
- Lloyd Christmas is roommates with best friend Harry Dunne in which 1994 film?
- What do American's call reindeer?
- At what time on Christmas Day each year does the King broadcast to the nation?
- In 1989, a record TV audience of 22 million watched the UK premiere of which film on Christmas Day?
- On the fifth day of Christmas what new items did my true love give to me?
- What cake is offered typically during Christmas throughout Italy?
- Which item of clothing brought Frosty the Snowman back to life?
- Which Christmas carol is noted for the Latin line "Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!"?
- What did Henry Cole give us in 1843?

Answers: 1. Wednesday 2. White 3. Rudyard Kipling 4. Christmas crackers 5. Tiny Tim 6. Saint Nicholas 7. Carpenters 8. Let It Snow! (also known as Let It Snow! Let It Snow!) 9. Tinsel 10. Richard Attenborough 11. The Puritans 12. Dunn and Dunbar 13. Caribou 14. 3pm 15. Crocodile Dundee 16. Gold rings (5 gold rings) 17. Panettone 18. A hat 19. Ding Dong Merrily on High 20. First commercial Christmas cards

SPOT & SHOP!

COMPETITION TIME!

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

This month's prizes!
1st - £25 cash
donated by Pershore Times
2nd Sunday Lunch for Two
at The Jockey Inn, Baughton
(Three course set menu, excluding drinks)
3rd £20 Food Voucher
at Benvenuti Belle House, Pershore
4th £20 Food Voucher
at The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley
5th £10 Voucher
at Revills Farm Shop, Defford
6th £10 Voucher
at Craftypyro, Bakers Arcade, Pershore
7th Reg Moule Gardening Book
8th Pat's Pantry-
Jar of home-made marmalade/jam

This month's anagram
EVIN NOT QUEST

Complete and return this form or email:
news@hughes.company for your chance to win!
Pershore Times closing date: 31st December 2023

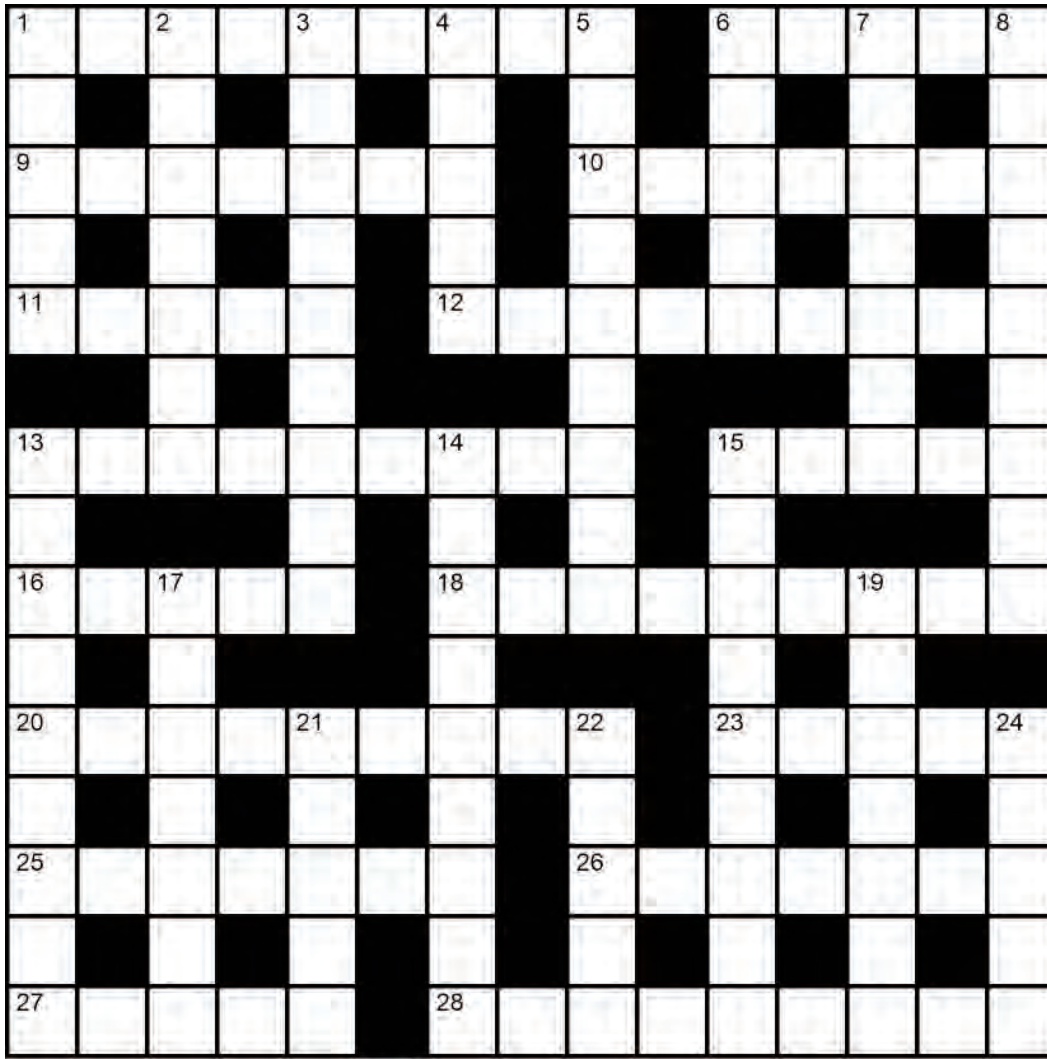
Answer: _____

Name: _____

Telephone/email: _____

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

Christmas Crossword



Across

- 1 E.g. a ketch (3-6)
- 6 Copper and zinc alloy (5)
- 9 Item (7)
- 10 Not friendly (7)
- 11 Nail-like fastener (5)
- 12 Carry (9)
- 13 Bony structures (9)
- 15 Burning gas (5)
- 16 Forbidding (5)
- 18 Environmental fouling agent (9)
- 20 Deadlock (9)
- 23 Lukewarm (5)
- 25 Arabian Nights hero (3,4)
- 26 Mythical creature (7)
- 27 Expel (5)
- 28 Northern Canadian island (9)

Down

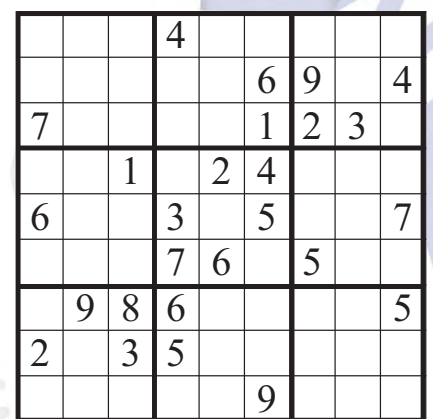
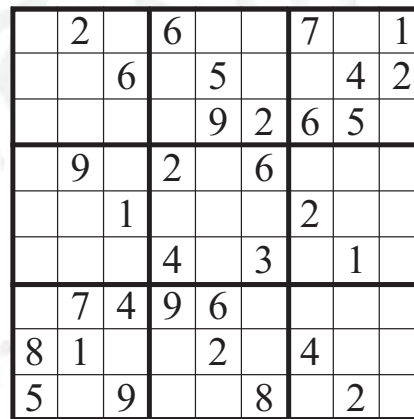
- 1 Melts (5)
- 2 Exterior (7)
- 3 Satan (9)
- 4 Larceny (5)
- 5 Practice session (9)
- 6 Defeats (5)
- 7 Grand Canyon state (7)
- 8 Confection (9)
- 13 In good order (9)
- 14 Home for abandoned children (9)
- 15 Ornamental water jets (9)
- 17 Conceive (7)
- 19 Sanction (7)
- 21 Make law (5)
- 22 Peer (5)
- 24 Move rhythmically (5)

Wordsearch

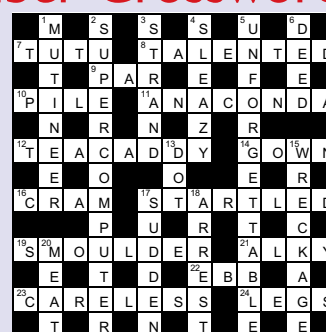


- | | | | |
|--------|-------------|------|--------|
| Baby | Gold | Joy | Port |
| Cedar | Gravy | Lord | Red |
| Child | Ham | Magi | Sales |
| Dolls | Holy | Mary | Sled |
| Elves | Icicle | Mass | Star |
| Family | Incarnation | Noel | Tinsel |
| Fir | Inn | Pie | Toast |
| Gift | Ivy | Pine | Turkey |

Sudoku



November Crossword Answers



Pershore Times

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and the online daily today! (10,500 followers)

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The Publishers of the Pershore Times hold no responsibility for the accuracy of any details contained within the advertisements.

Copy Deadline

February Issue - 15th January 2024



What's On?



Events Listings

The Royal Ballet:

The Nutcracker

Tuesday 12 December - 7.15pm;
Encore: Sunday 17 December -
2.00pm 2hrs 50 mins (inc.
interval) Tickets: £17, Seniors
£16, 16 & under £10

Festive Folk

Thursday 14 December - 7.30pm
2hrs (inc. interval) Tickets: £12

**Christmas with The Flowers
Band**

Saturday 16 December - 2.00pm
2hrs (inc. interval)

Tickets: £18, Seniors £16,
Students £10, 16 & under £5

André Rieu's White

Christmas

Tuesday 19 December - 7.00pm;
Friday 22 December - 3.00pm
3hrs (inc. interval)
Tickets: £18

Green Matthews presents

A Christmas Carol:

In Concert

Saturday 23 December -
7.30pm
Tickets: £15, 16 & under
£10 (Friends £1 discount)
2hrs 15mins (inc. interval)

Berliner Philharmoniker

LIVE: New Year's Eve

Concert

Sunday 31 December - 4.00pm
Tickets: £17.50 (includes a glass
of fizz)

National Theatre Live:

Skylight

Saturday 6 January - 2.00pm
2hrs 43mins (inc. interval),
cert 15 Tickets: £16, Seniors
£15, Students £10

An Evening with Jonas

Kaufmann

Friday 12 January - 7.00pm
2 hrs Tickets: £15

Foyer Folk:

Dandelion Charm

Saturday 20 January - 8.00pm
Tickets: £10

The Royal Opera: Rusalka

Wednesday 24 January - 6.45pm
3 hrs 45 mins (inc. interval)
Tickets: £17, Seniors £16

**National Theatre Live: Dear
England**

Thursday 25 January - 7.00pm
2hrs 40mins (inc. interval), cert
15 tbc Tickets: £16, Seniors
£15, Students, 16 & under £10

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was really saddened to see the freshly painted 'no cycling' sign on the ground between the exit from St Andrews Garden and Pershore town hall. Would the town councillors rather I use a car? Cycling on the roads in Pershore - with no cycle paths anywhere - is pretty treacherous. I have a friend who would like to cycle from Ashdale Avenue through town down to Pershore College, where she works, but has been put off by the hairiness of cycling through town. I live on the Defford Road side of town, and regularly use my bike for short trips into town. By far the safest way into town

from our side of town is via the park and then St Andrews Garden, avoiding the scariness that is Broad Street and the High Street by bike (much worse when trying to navigate small children on bikes through town!)

It's genuinely sad that the Town Council aren't encouraging more of us to get on our bikes - for our health, and for the planet, and I'm saddened to see this new anti-cycling sign on what is a safe, green path, and could be sensibly shared between those of us who don't want to use our cars. All best,

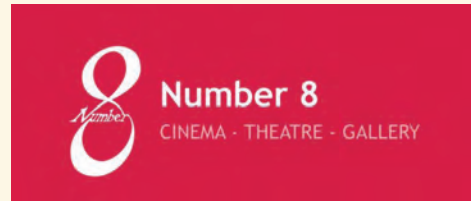
Nicola Mathias

Dear Editor,

I have just returned from Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry after heart surgery. I was brought back to Worcestershire Royal by ambulance on Saturday night and when I woke up on Sunday morning was told that they were discharging me that day as they needed the bed. The lead nurse in charge of coronary care came in and apologised for kicking me out saying that they were under

such extreme pressure for beds so that they could deal with more patients because they were building so many houses. Houses, houses, houses she said almost crying. When are we going to stop changing the beautiful and fruitful Vale of Evesham into a Vale of concrete and clay?
Yours sincerely

John Alexander



Box Office Opening Hours

In Person Bookings:

Mon - Sat 10am - 4pm & from 6pm on performance evenings

Telephone Bookings:

Mon - Sat 4pm - 6pm

High Street Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1BG

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www.number8.org



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In memoriam

Bouchard. Kenneth Anthony "Ken"

Passed away on 23rd October 2023 aged 85. Much loved husband of Rachel, dear father to Adrian, David, Edward and Christopher, and a loving grandfather to eight grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends. A service took place at The Vale Crematorium on 16th November. Family flowers only. Donations in Ken's memory are invited for Guide Dogs.

Banbury. Annie Evelyn Betty "Betty"

Passed away peacefully on 8th November 2023 aged 101 at home. Much loved wife of the late Maurice, dear father to Elizabeth and Richard, a loving grandmother to Alexandra and Victoria and great grandmother to Samuel, Isaac, Penny and Joseph. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. The Funeral will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Eckington on Thursday 14th December at 2pm, with burial at the Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations in Betty's memory are invited for PCC Eckington and Friends of Pershore Hospital.

Butts. John Edward

Passed away peacefully on 9th November 2023, aged 87 years. A much loved father, grandfather and partner, John will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service took place at The Vale Crematorium, on Thursday 30th November. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired for the British Heart Foundation.

Davies. Gillian Margaret 'Gill'

Passed away peacefully on 11th November 2023, aged 74 years. Beloved wife to Richard, much loved mum to Trish and Andy and a devoted grandmother Gill will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral service at The Vale Crematorium Fladbury on Tuesday 5th December at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired for Parkinson's UK or QEHB Charity.

Quigley. Peter Joseph

Born 2nd April 1931 in Dublin passed away in Worcestershire Royal on 13th November 2023. Peter was dearly loved, and will be sadly missed by wife Lois, children Ann, Paul and Clare, grandchildren Naomi, Phillip, Iona, Kiya-Jane, Aoife and Aine, and great grandchildren Wren, Charlie, Tawny and Albie. Funeral service at the Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Thursday 7th December at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations in Peter's memory to RNLI (<https://rnli.org/support-us/give-money/donate>)

Perkins. Marjorie Nee Benning "Marj"

Passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on 13th November 2023, aged 89 years. Wife of the late Tony, a much loved mum, grandmother and gran nan Marj will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service took place on 30th November. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired for Campden Home Nursing CIO.

Pugh. Peter Stanley (Pete)

formerly of Varnicoat Printers, Pershore Passed away on 15th November 2023, aged 80 years. Peter will be sadly missed by his wife Barbara and all his family and friends. 'And the Lord opened His arms and took Peter to a place of peace and rest'. Funeral service at Pershore Abbey on Wednesday 20th December at 2pm followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for Four Paws UK.

Evans. Gwendoline Gladys (Gwen)

Passed away peacefully at Worcester Royal Hospital on 21st November 2023, aged 92 years. Beloved wife of the late Bill Evans, much loved mother to Darryl and the late Christine, a devoted grandmother and great grandmother. Gwen will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Friday 15th December at 1pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity

Edwards. Leslie Hubert (Grumpy)

Passed away peacefully on 22nd November 2023, aged 84 years. Devoted husband of the late Flora, a much loved dad, grandad and great grandad. Les will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service at Pershore Abbey on Tuesday December 5th at 2pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the British Heart Foundation.

Widdus. Pauline Ann

Passed away peacefully on 27th November 2023, aged 86 years. Much loved wife of the late Leslie, a loving mum and nanny. Pauline will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Thursday 21st December at 3pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for Save the Children.

Donations may be sent to:

E Hill & Son Funeral Directors, Pershore WR10 1HZ
Tel: 01386 552141



Are you on the Organ Donation Register?

Do your Family and Friends know your wishes?

For further information telephone **0300 123 23 23**
For enrolment information go to www.organdonation.nhs.uk
or email: michaelamies36@gmail.com 07807 070249

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Winter Opening Hours

from Sunday 3rd December 2023

Monday 2:30pm - 3:30pm
Tuesday 9:30am - 11:00am
Wednesday 5:00pm - 6:00pm
Thursday 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Friday 9:30am - 11:00am
Saturday 9:30am - 11:00am
Sunday 1:00pm - 2:00pm

We are based in **Pershore Baptist Church, Broad Street, WR10 1AY.**

We aim to reduce food waste and provide for those in need in our local community. Pershore Community Cupboard is open to all and donations and visitors are always welcome during our opening times.

Contact us on the Pershore Community Cupboard
Facebook page or email
communitycupboard2@gmail.com.



FESTIVE FOLK

Live Music
Folk, Rock & Blues



"It's Christmas Time, Mistletoe and Wine"
Thursday 14th December 7:30pm

Join us for our Christmas show - an evening of carols, wassails, winter folk songs and songs from the shows - heartwarming music bringing the festive season to life. Hosted by Julie July with special guests.

NUMBER 8, High St, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1BG
Tickets: £12 available from BOX OFFICE 01386 555488 number8.org



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Could you become an On-call Firefighter at Pershore Fire Station?

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Would you like to earn an extra £5,000-£8,000 per year*?

For more information visit www.hwfire.org.uk/on-call or email oncalldutysupport@hwfire.org.uk

* Earnings vary depending on the hours of cover you provide and how busy the station is. £5,000 is the average earnings over the past 12 months, which is paid monthly. (This is based on a month of 120 hours cover per week).

Vale Golf Club Seniors - Chris Filus Elected Vale Golf Club Seniors Captain



Retiring Captain Will Reading (left) congratulates Chris Filus on becoming Seniors New Captain

The Vale Golf and Country Club Seniors Section held their annual AGM where Chris Filus was unanimously voted Captain for 2024 with his vice Captain being Bryn Keast. The new Captain will officially start his year on the 4th of December at his drive in.

The AGM was processed by a Tex - AM competition attracting 46 players in teams of three and four. The winning team of three with a score of 90 points was Steve Peacock Mark Haywood and Alan Watson. The winning team of four was Brian Bunn, David Bradford,

David Hamilton and Paul Chadwick with a score of 94 points

The Tony Perryman Bowl

The competition is played in a stableford format for seniors over the age of 75. But due to the exceptional wet weather we have been experiencing there were no trolleys allowed, which meant the competition only attracted 14 players, the winner being Carlo Martinelli with a score of 33 points. Second was Geoff Browne with 32 points, third with a score of 30 points was Peter Morris. There was also a stableford competition held for the senior members under 75 contested by 27 players, first being Steve Addison with 39 points, second was Will Reading with 36 points, third was Keith Taylor with 35 points.

There were two other competitions held during the

month which again, due to the very wet weather, the numbers were low because of carry only. First being a stableford competition contested by 50 players results were:

Division One

1s	Ian Geden	38 points
2nd	Steve Hampton	35 points
3rd	Keith Taylor	34 points

Division Two

1st	Carlo Martinelli	37 points
2nd	David Bradford	35 points
3rd	Mark Haywood	35 points on countback

The other competition was a team AM/AM, with three scores to count contested by 45 players. The winning team was David Hudson, Keith Nicholls, Peter Richards and Ian Phillips with a score of 133 points. Second was the team of Mark Harris Rob Taylor and Keith Round who scored 124 points. Nearest the pin on the 5th was Andy Struthers.

Vale Golf Club raised £18,533 for Alzheimer's Society



Left to right: Pearl Winchester Ladies Captain, Jez Mills Men's Captain; Emma Butler; Alzheimer's Society Regional Community Fundraiser and Will Reading Seniors Captain

The three retiring Captains; Will Reading, Seniors Captain; Jez Mill, Men's Captain and Pearl Winchester, Ladies Captain are delighted to announce that they raised £18,533 for their chosen charity Alzheimer's Society over the past year. The reason the three Captains chose Alzheimer's Society was because dementia has affected many of their families and friends. Any help that we can give to a charity is worthwhile. On Thursday 16th November 2023 at the Vale Golf Club General Management Committee Annual General Meeting, Emma Butler Alzheimer's Society Regional Fundraiser

was presented the cheque. Alzheimer's Society provides information and support for people with all forms of dementia and those who care for them. They run quality care services, fund research and run campaigns for improved health and social care and greater public understanding and awareness of dementia.



Fishing in the floods

Kingfishers need to catch fish whatever the level of the river! On her favourite perch, this lovely bird surveys the flooded landscape of the River Avon and on a more tranquil day, the Avon forms a beautiful backdrop for the Abbey, rising above the river meadows. These two lovely photos were taken by wildlife photographer Mark Everett, who has been appointed as "Photographer in Residence" to the Pershore River Festival. The River Festival Committee is now preparing for next year's

event, which will be held on Saturday 20th July 2024. The Festival theme and other details will be announced in the coming weeks. There will be something for everyone! Pershore is often said to turn its back on the river, so over the next eight months we're planning to show just what people are missing! Mark Everett will be taking photos of river life every month, and we'll post them on our Facebook page and the Festival website and in the Pershore Times.



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Pershore Times



Double Silver for Ladies in 2023 Touch Championships



Back row L-R – Jess Sargent, Becky Milborrow, Kate Saint, Emilie Germaney, Emilie Fanthorpe, Sarah Tobin. Front Row L-R – Connie Rowe, Emmie Bewley, Emma Field, Mel Germaney and Fizz Bewley.

Pershore Ladies Touch team have won silver in both the Midlands and the Southwest competitions of the 2023 (MLTL) Midlands Ladies Touch League. Over the 2023 MLTL Touch season, which started in March

and finished at the end of October, Pershore competed in three Midlands Championship Super Sundays against 19 other ladies' teams and went into the final tournament at Fiveways with everything to play for.

Pershore were in top spot, on equal points with Bredon, but Malvern, Camp Hill and Stratford were in close contention. The final outcome was Bredon were the Midlands winners, Pershore and Malvern were joint runners up, Camp Hill were fourth and Stratford fifth. Pershore also took silver in the 2023 MLTL Southwest competition, having competed in the six SW regional tournaments, against six other ladies' teams. Bredon were first, Pershore second, Ledbury third and Malvern fourth, Ross fifth, Luctonians sixth and Berry Hill seventh.

Fizz Bewley, Chair of Pershore Touch said: "Pershore Ladies are delighted to have won silver in both 2023 MLTL competitions. Our goal, whenever we play, though, is to be inclusive and have fun and support each other in doing the best we can, and if we do well in competitions that

is a happy by-product. It is interesting that the less we worry about and try to win, but simply enjoy playing together, the better we do. We have had all ages of players in our team this season, from 13 to 60, and we have all certainly had a lot of fun together, which is our most notable achievement.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported us, including our coach, Jamie Wyllie and two referees, Calum Andrews and Brian Watson."

Pershore Ladies Touch team trains every Wednesday at Pershore Rugby, Mill Lane Wyre Piddle, from 7.30pm – 9.00pm and anyone – beginners, or experienced players – are very welcome to join in. The first three tasters are free, after which there is a monthly fee of between £3 and £10 depending on whether players are U18, at Uni, adults or have family membership.

Heathlands Residential Care Home in Pershore are delighted to launch

the Allard Respite Suite



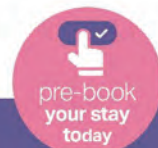
Our newly refurbished, eight bed suite provides dedicated pre-bookable respite breaks.

This unique offer ensures peace of mind for those looking to pre-book a short term care break.

Call our dedicated Enquiry Support Team on free-phone **01386 571 067**
sanctuary-care.co.uk

“Dad is very well cared for 24 hours a day, his room is lovely, food is lovely too and staff are super caring, professional and friendly. Thank you.”

Daughter of resident
- February 2023



9.7

carehome.co.uk Review Score for Heathlands Residential Care Home 46 reviews

Based on independent review scores in the last 24 months at the time of going to print.

