

# Pershore Times

A free monthly newspaper for Pershore and surrounding villages



Issue 78

December 2022/January 2023

**FREE**



Waiting for Christmas, Kersoe near Pershore © Jayne Winter FRPS, www.jaynewinterphotography.co.uk

The end of the year is coming fast. The whole year seems to have gone by quickly! Last year we were tentatively getting over Covid and the awful close down. Very different this December, although we still have Covid and maybe we always will, it is under control. Day to day life may have returned to almost normal but we have many Covid related challenges. We have big debts to repay in line with many other countries and on top of this, we have Brexit and a war in Europe. This has brought all sorts of new challenges, but in particular this dreadful war has caused energy prices to rise substantially, causing difficulties for many people throughout Europe. We are also facing strike action from almost every service and industry in the country and so an uncertain start to the new year. These matters have to be resolved, none of them are easy or short term but they will. We always

get through times like these. High inflation and bank interest is not the end of the world. We have been at nearly twice the current rates in the past. This is a great country, one of the best in the world which has set standards of living and civilisation envied by many for centuries. We have immense opportunities in industry and professions, sometimes either

overlooked or taken for granted. The younger generation seems to be more independent. It is very encouraging to see so many young people starting their own businesses, dog grooming, computing, painting and decorating, farming and so it goes on. We will have a great new year, meet these challenges and move forward to better days. We have to be positive and believe in ourselves. Hughes and Co. have had a successful year and we look forward to the new year with great excitement.

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



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**See Page 7 for December opening times!**

# Foodbank - *thank you to our donors*



The Pershore Foodbank and its team of stalwart volunteers are working hard these days to respond to some extremely challenging times. However, despite the cost of living crisis and its various attendant horsemen, we frequently find ourselves buoyed-up by the amazing generosity of our local

donors. Churches and schools in Pershore and the surrounding villages have simply excelled themselves with record breaking Harvest Festival donations this year and work is now underway to provide every client who attends the Foodbank in the run up to

Christmas with an additional hamper of the type of festive goodies that they can ill-afford for themselves.

Betty Haines, of Cherry Orchard House designed this lovely poster when I mentioned how we were often overloaded with sweet things and could really do with more savoury treats (other types of cheesy snacks are also available). Of course we are always pleased to receive any types of non-perishable foodstuffs for our emergency parcels. At the more expensive end of the range, tinned salmon and ham are especially welcome but everything donated is carefully curated before being re-distributed to those in need. May I just add a word of caution here about mince pies though. They are very short-dated and, while we do our best to make sure the contents of the "mince pie mountain" are shared amongst the best of homes, those unfortunate leftovers sometimes leave us with the seasonal "waste or waist" dilemma.

For those of you who have made such generous financial donations throughout the year, I thought you might like to hear about some of the community-based initiatives we have been undertaking to alleviate hardship. We work closely with

Citizen's Advice, the Wellbeing Hub, the Riverside Centre and various local charitable and statutory agencies to try to assist people out of crisis and we offer some other sources of immediate aid alongside our parcels of staple foodstuffs. With the helpful co-operation of local businesses, we have put your funds towards: fresh fruit and vegetables supplied by the Fruit Salad greengrocers, winter-weight bedding supplied by the Original Factory Shop and (especially for Christmas) meat and/or cheese supplied by LDA meats.

The volunteers are looking forward to their first proper get-together since before the pandemic and will be having a well-earned Christmas function at the St Andrew's Centre this year. We will be looking to strengthen our numbers in the New Year so please contact us via the Website or through the Pershore Volunteer Centre if you think you might be interested. All the same, do bear in mind that we have a lot of lifting and carrying to do as part of the role.

Nicola Ainsworth  
[info@persshore.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@persshore.foodbank.org.uk)  
 01386-555347 (message)  
 Post: The Abbey Office,  
 Broad St, Pershore, WR10 1BB

## Carnival 2023

Pershore Carnival Committee has announced that Pershore Carnival 2023 will take place on Spring Bank Holiday **Monday 29th May 2023**. The theme for the procession will be '*Summer Holidays*'. The event promises to be better than ever, with some exciting surprises being planned. Entry forms for the procession will soon be available. [www.pershorecarnival.co.uk](http://www.pershorecarnival.co.uk) or

by email: [persshoreprocession.mgr@gmail.com](mailto:persshoreprocession.mgr@gmail.com)  
 Anyone wishing to book a stall at the event should email [persshorecarnival.sitemgr@gmail.com](mailto:persshorecarnival.sitemgr@gmail.com).

For more information about the event, or to offer help or sponsorship, please contact [persshorecarnival.sec@gmail.com](mailto:persshorecarnival.sec@gmail.com)



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# A Christmas message from Claire Lording



Dear Friends

The past few Christmases have certainly brought their own challenges. The Christmases that were so badly affected by the Covid pandemic were hard for so many people. Being away from those we care about the most and not being able to keep up with the traditions that have deep meaning was challenging. Not being able to have those social gatherings and celebratory times, that we all took for granted, left many people feeling at a loss. As individuals, families and as communities, our Christmases were not quite what we were hoping for. It's another Christmas and although Covid seems to be

less disruptive for the majority of us, we are still facing a Christmas that will be a challenge for many. The reality of the cost of living crisis is really being felt. Everything about Christmas and the expectations around it feel like they are one more thing to be afforded when household budgets are already tight. It can be so easy to be overwhelmed by it all. But it's into all of this that may be the hope of Christmas can shine a little brighter. It's so appropriate that this year's Church of England campaign about Christmas is called, Follow the Star - The Great Invitation. It's a reminder that however dark things might feel, however challenging or

difficult life is, the star of Bethlehem, which led the first visitors to see the Christ child, still burns brightly for you and me. There is no darkness that can overcome God's love for each and every one of us, shown most perfectly in the birth of Jesus.

I truly hope that your Christmas can be filled with light and hope this year. And don't forget that you are very warmly invited to join any of the church services that are taking place.

You will be very welcome.

*Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year*

Claire



## Pershore Promises raise £5000 funds for local tennis club



Pershore Tennis Centre's recent Auction of Promises was a smashing success - raising over £5500 for the local club. The inspiring tennis team worked together to raise vital funds which will help refurbish the existing courts. The Club has 5 all-weather outdoor courts: 3 with new artificial clay surfaces, plus 3 indoor courts with state of the art LED lighting, meaning tennis at Pershore truly is an all-weather, all-year round sport. They also have a large custom-built Clubhouse offering refreshments as well as toilet and shower facilities. Organiser and member, Chris Woodcock, says: "The Auction of Promises held on November 18th at Elmley Castle Village Hall was a huge

success. We had a wonderful array of 54 lots and raised over £5000 on the night. The bidding, quiz and games were very entertaining, and we enjoyed a delicious two course meal provided by a group of members. All proceeds go to the court refurbishment. My thanks go to all who worked so hard and gave generously to making the night such a success." The club have now raised just over £5500 in total and extend a special mention for their wonderful auctioneer Tony Wadley. Thank you.

*More about joining in with tennis at Pershore Tennis Centre can be found here: [www.pershoretennis.co.uk](http://www.pershoretennis.co.uk)*

**Follow The Star THE GREAT INVITATION**

We invite you all to join us in church and online  
**PERSHORE BENEFICE for CHRISTMAS 2022**

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

**Sunday 27 November**  
 1400 Advent Iona Drop-In Event with music & crafts 1400-1645 (St Andrew's Centre)  
 1500 Advent Carol Service (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)\*

**Sunday 4 December**  
 1030 Edible Nativity - Booking Essential (St Andrew's Centre)  
 Email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or call 01386 552071 by 27 November

**Sunday 18 December**  
 0800 Eucharist (Pershore Abbey) ★  
 1030 Tinsel-Free Morning Praise (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)\*  
 1030 Holy Communion and Carols (St Nicholas; Pinvin)  
 1700 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)\*  
 1800 Carol Service (St Mary's, Wick - followed by party and panto at Wick club)  
 1800 Carol and Christingle Service (St James', Birlingham)

**Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December**  
 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 Sunday 25 December** ★  
 0800 Eucharist (Pershore Abbey)  
 0900 Parish Communion (St Mary's, Wick)  
 1030 Holy Communion (St James', Birlingham)  
 1030 All Age Eucharist with choir (Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM)\*

**New Year's Day Sunday 1 January**  
 0800 BCP 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

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# A few words from...

## Harriett Baldwin MP



### Harriett Seeks Fifth Term

Harriett Baldwin MP plans to re-apply for her job as she announced her intention to stand in the next General Election as the Conservative candidate. Harriett was selected to stand for the seat by local Conservatives and will defend a majority of over 24,000 votes at the next poll which is currently expected to take place late in 2024. She was first elected to the West Worcestershire seat in 2010 and increased her majority at every poll since. Harriett commented: "I have been a strong voice for all of the people of West Worcestershire, and I am continually humbled by the sheer volume of people who have turned out to support me. National politics has been extremely fluid over the last decade but I have worked hard

to press for the things that matter most for my constituents. I'm immensely proud that in my term as local MP we have built a new community hospital in Malvern, the new Worcestershire Parkway train station, the doubling of the Carrington Road bridge and six impressive flood protection schemes. There is however, still much more to do. We all want to see more investment and extra capacity at the main Worcestershire Royal Hospital, much better broadband, more reliable mobile phone signals and I'd like to see the flood defences completed for Tenbury Wells and Severn Stoke. As we face up to some of the longer-term challenges as we address climate change, I will keep pressing for less reliance on the combustion engine and make it much easier for us to use greener forms of transport and better active travel corridors."

West Worcestershire Conservative Association Chairman Ian Daly added: "Harriett has represented the people of West Worcestershire since 2010 and worked tirelessly to solve local issues and improve our community. "I am delighted to announce that we have re-adopted her again as our Conservative parliamentary candidate at the next General Election and look forward to campaigning with her to win the continued approval of our constituency."

### Police review after crime spike

Harriett Baldwin MP has called for urgent action to review police cover after a reported spike in anti-social behaviour in Pershore. Harriett met with the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion, together with the Chief Constable Pippa Mills, to discuss reports of increasing criminality in the town and also met the local policing team. The MP called for extra police patrols and to ensure that the team has the right resources to deal with the sudden spike of crime in the town. Harriett said: "I was troubled by reports of rising low-level crime as well as more serious

incidents and having investigated this in detail it is clear to me that the Pershore policing team needs a boost. People need to see visible policing and I have asked John Campion to give this matter his urgent consideration. I have been briefed on some of the issues but the message is clear that people want to see police on the streets and want confidence that local police will be able to attend when there are incidents. I know our Police and Crime Commissioner wants to ensure that the right resources are allocated to our area to make our streets safer for everyone."



## Youth Competitions



For many years Rotary has supported a variety of youth competitions and we are to revitalise our Young Writer and Young Photographer competitions in Pershore. The Young Writer competition aims to encourage young people to use their writing skills to write with imagination and creativity.

The three age groups are:

*Junior - up to and including 10 years old*

*Intermediate -*

*11 to 13 years old*

*Senior - 14 to 17 years old*

If you have read articles in this paper by Gregory Sidaway and Romy Kemp, then you will know how talented they are, and our competition gives others a chance to show off their creative writing skills.

The Young Photographer competition similarly aims to encourage young people to experiment with photography, use digital and/or traditional methods of photography, demonstrate interpretation of the topic and express ideas through the medium of photography.

The 3 age groups are the same as for the Young Writer competition.

Details of these competitions are being circulated to local schools and other young peoples' community organisations.

*For more information on these and other Rotary youth competitions, email Lucy Thornton at [lucythornton2004@gmail.com](mailto:lucythornton2004@gmail.com)*

## The Artsbox

The Arts Box, a group of people sharing creativity in a safe and relaxed atmosphere has grown over the last year, due mainly to positive feedback as well as word of mouth.

Meeting monthly, in a converted studio/garage in Wadborough, the encouragement, inclusivity and enthusiasm is shared

whether working with acrylic paints, sheet music decorations to ceramics, wire jewellery or using print processes.

All members are given the chance to try new media and techniques by professional artists. Supplies and media are included in the price of sessions along with home made cakes and drinks.

A belief in the beneficial processes of being with others, working with our hands in a safe and non-judgemental atmosphere is proving beneficial to both members as well as instructors. There are new courses planned for 2023, hoping to appeal to more people wishing to spend some time working in a mindfully therapeutic environment.



*Please contact us on [theartsboxgroup@gmail.com](mailto:theartsboxgroup@gmail.com) for further information.*

Members of Artsbox had the opportunity to exhibit examples of their work at a recent pre-Christmas shopping afternoon held at the Masons Arms. Beautiful handmade greetings cards, purses, bags, bunting, Christmas wreaths and so much more, demonstrated the range of skills which have been learnt during workshops. The enthusiasm and creativity which has grown as the result of working together shows that this initiative is succeeding and continuing to develop. It was an extremely successful event enjoyed and supported by many from within and outside the community.

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# New year concert in the Abbey



Soprano Holly Teague, returns on 7th January, by popular request to Pershore Abbey with the Worcester Philharmonic, after a sensational sell out concert last year. She will be singing songs by Mozart and Lehar to delight the audience and orchestra alike. Holly enjoys a varied stage career, often appearing as a soloist for symphonies, oratorio and sacred concerts across the UK, as well as gala evenings, recitals and new music projects. A versatile musician, she is as at-home with delicate 16th Century lute song as she is with Romantic Art Song, or 21st Century layered voice and electronics. Shropshire-born, Holly has a particular interest in promoting classical music at home: as Artistic Director for UKAC Productions, she will present a second "Shrewsbury Proms in the Park" concert in June 2023 following its inaugural success at the county showground this summer, as well as performances of a new song cycle for voice and guitar by

Martin Bussey, 'A Shropshire Lass' which, uses the words of Shropshire novelist and poet, Mary Webb. In 2023, Holly looks forward to beginning the year with an "Opera Highlights" tour with Scottish Opera, return appearances with Cumbria Opera Group, and a recording release of Rameau for voice and organ with Edward Higginbottom at Keble Chapel, Oxford with CRD Records. She is a 2022 Josephine Baker Trust Artist, was a semi-finalist in the 2022 Kathleen Ferrier Competition at Wigmore Hall and was the 2020 recipient of the St Clare Barfield Rosebowl for Operatic Distinction. Holly splits her time as much as she can between London and Shropshire, where she enjoys spending time indoors with her cat, Roo, and outdoors with her very enthusiastic Border Collie rescue, Beau. WPO's New Year concert 'Song and Dance from Vienna' takes place in Pershore Abbey at 2.30 on Saturday 7th January.

**Worcester Philharmonic ORCHESTRA**

**Soprano Holly Teague**  
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**Saturday 7th January 2023**

**2.30pm**

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**NEW YEAR CONCERT**

**Song and Dance from Vienna**

Beethoven - Leonore no. 3 Overture  
Mahler - Blumine  
Strauss - Treasure Waltz  
Arias by Mozart and Lehar



Tickets are available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)  
The programme includes

favourites by Mozart, Strauss and Lehar. See website for details

## Pershore Retail Market Christmas 2022 Opening Hours



**Tuesday 20th Dec** ..... Open 9.00 - 4.30pm  
**Wednesday 21st Dec** ..... Open 9.00 - 4.30pm  
**Thursday 22nd Dec** ..... Open 9.00 - 4.30pm  
**Friday 23rd Dec** ..... Open 9.00 - 4.30pm  
**Saturday 24th Dec** ..... Open 8.00 - 3.00pm  
**Sunday 25th Dec** ..... Closed  
**Monday 26th Dec** ..... Closed  
**Tuesday 27th Dec** ..... Closed  
**Wednesday 28th Dec** ..... Closed  
**Thurs 29th Dec** ..... Open 9.00 - 4.30pm  
**Friday 30th Dec** ..... Open 9.00 - 4.30pm  
**Saturday 1st Jan** ..... Open 8.00 - 3.00pm

**Back to normal times Wednesday 4th Jan 2023**

**Merry Christmas to all our customers**

**Tombola on 9th and 10th December**  
In aid of Midland Air Ambulance

**Brass band Saturday 17th December in the morning**  
Tel: 01386 553232

Email: [pershore@pershoremarts.co.uk](mailto:pershore@pershoremarts.co.uk)

## Defibrillator for Wadborough



Residents of Wadborough village are delighted to have their new defibrillator installed at last. A combination of fundraising by villagers and Parish Councillors obtaining the top-up, has enabled the purchase and installation to happen. Thanks to Simon and Lydia at the Masons Arms pub for allowing the defibrillator to be installed there at the heart of the village. Villagers are now planning to obtain training in the use of the defibrillator, at the same time as hoping it will never be needed! It is reassuring to know it is there and even one life saved entirely justifies the cost.



John Driscoll and Lydia Roberts



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# December & January Events at community run The Queen Elizabeth Inn

Here's a small taste of what is going on in December and January!!  
Who knew that a rural community pub could be so exciting !!

## FISH & CHIP QUIZ NIGHTS

Join our Quizmasters at 19.30 on **Tuesdays - 13<sup>th</sup> December & 11<sup>th</sup> January**  
£10 per head entry fee including Fish & Chips. Max 6 per team

## CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN

Join us in our festive setting with a roaring log fire, and the Elmley Castle lights  
Festive Menu available lunchtimes and evenings up until Christmas Eve  
Early booking recommended

## BOXING DAY

Special lunch menu, early booking recommended.

## NEW YEARS EVE DISCO

See in 2023 with our amazing DJ. Fancy dress encouraged!

## 1970s THEME NIGHT

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 19.30. Booking recommended. Dig out those flares!



We're excited to welcome you to **Bessie's, our Breakfast & Tearoom.**  
Open Tuesdays-Sundays 09:30-17:00, serving full breakfasts and  
breakfast baps, a wide range of delicious cakes, teacakes, scones, and  
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We are a multiple award winning, dog friendly, community-run, 16th Century Inn. We aim to provide a sustainable 'heart' for Elmley Castle and the surrounding villages, and a friendly destination venue for visitors & tourists alike. Thank you for your support



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# Inner Wheel present a Tepee



Presentation of a Tepee to Campden Home Nursing CIO, Chipping Campden

Jan Crouch current President of Pershore Inner Wheel presented a Tepee to Campden Home Nursing on Monday 21st November 2022 where, as part of their services they provide Play Therapy for children who have been touched by the loss of a friend, loved one, or family member.

Anita Dee from Campden Home Nursing said she was sure that the children would benefit from using it as a quiet calm space during their play therapy session and provided a quote that explains the philosophy of play therapy. "Play Therapy is based upon the fact that play is the child's natural medium of self-expression. It is an opportunity which is given to the child to 'play out' his (her) feelings and

problems, just as, in certain types of adult therapy, an individual 'talks out' his (her) difficulties." (Virginia Axline 1947) Campden Home Nursing was founded in 1990 and provides Hospice Care at home, serious illness support and bereavement services for both adults and children to those living in parts of Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire including Pershore.

Money for the Tepee was raised at a very successful coffee morning and bring and buy sale held at Jan Crouch's home which was attended by members of Pershore Inner Wheel and residents of the local village.

## Flower Club News

On Thursday, the 17th November, Pershore Flower Club held its annual open meeting at Number 8 in Pershore which, of course, had been postponed over two years. However, on this occasion most of our members and a large number of guests came to the event, including the Vice President (soon to be President) of the Three Counties and South Wales Area of NAFAS.

Our demonstrator this year was Arnaud Metairie, who lives in Winchcombe and whose reputation went before him and was the reason we were able to sell so many tickets. His designs were spectacular and plentiful and created a real "Winter Wonderland" which was the title of his evening. As we in the audience were in complete darkness - but of course Arnaud and his masterful work were well lit up - a detailed description of each design was not possible. He used ferns, pittasporum,

sprigs of conifer, fatsia and bergenia leaves, all from his own garden and other foliage "pinched from his very kind neighbours". His flowers ranged from roses in glorious colours, carnations, chrysanthemums, stems of alstromaria, orchids, cymbidium, orchids and more, to which he added Christmas sparkle in various forms. Tasteful addition of glittering accessories extenuated the festive feel.

It was a spectacular evening and the vote of thanks given by Trish Ducker expressed the view of all that Arnaud had given us a magnificent display of his art and one we would never forget. Many people, both members and guests, were delighted to go home having won either an arrangement or a raffle prize.

Our next meeting is the Annual General Meeting on the 18th January, when the annual subscription of £30 is due, and



the first demonstration for 2023 will be on Wednesday, the 15th February when Yvonne Berry of Bromyard will entertain us with her "Sporting Favourites".

All newcomers are welcome and for further details contact Ann Kingscott on: 01905 936477



## Reg Moule

In addition to his award winning media work

Reg is also available

to speak at

Gardening Societies

and other organisations

something that he has been doing

regularly since 1972.

If you would like Reg to visit your group please email [reg.moule@gmail.com](mailto:reg.moule@gmail.com) for further details and to check availability.

## Gothic Architecture of Worcester Cathedral

Pershore u3a were given a fascinating and interesting talk by local art historian and author Paul Hirons this month looking at the history and architecture of Worcester Cathedral. We learned about the various features of Gothic architecture such as pointed arch windows, high vaulted ceilings, flying buttresses, stained glass and pointed spires. We were shown fine examples of European and English cathedrals demonstrating these styles and

came to understand that although Worcester Cathedral maybe somewhat 'utilitarian' compared to say Chartres, Cologne or Salisbury, it is nonetheless a fine example. Certainly, many of us may have taken the appearance of the cathedral for granted before, but we are now hopefully able to look at it with new eyes.

Sally Whyte  
Speaker Coordinator



**u3a**  
Persore & District

December Monthly Meeting  
**Tuesday 20th December 2022, at 2pm.**

All monthly meetings held at  
Number 8 High Street Pershore, WR10 1BG

All welcome to hear  
**"CHRISTMAS SONGS THROUGH THE AGES"**  
From *The Boar's Head Carol* to *Bing Crosby*.....  
A talk and songs performed by  
local entertainer and historian, *Richard Churchley*,  
with audience participation definitely encouraged!

For more details contact **Sally Whyte**,  
Speaker Coordinator: email: [u3apershoresally@gmail.com](mailto:u3apershoresally@gmail.com)  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/pershore>

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# St Barnabas First & Middle School



Recently we welcomed Mr David Dunn into school to complete our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). We are extremely pleased to report that we were rated as good across the school. Mr Dunn commented that 'the school's vision and associated values, underpinned by Corinthians 16:144, can be seen throughout school life. Leaders, staff and pupils relate 'let all that you do be done in love' to their life both in and out of school, and this motivates them to be the best that they can be at all times. Consequently,

St Barnabas is a school where everyone flourishes, even through times of adversity.' Following spending time with staff, parents and children during his time in school, Mr Dunn shared that 'Let all that you do be done in love' greatly impacts the attitudes to learning and behaviour across the school. These are exemplary. Pupils treat each other with respect, offering support and friendship when required.' We are thrilled with the report and extremely proud of all staff, pupils and parents working together to live our values through learning.



## Farming with trees is key to achieving net zero

A new report from the Woodland Trust shows how a major increase in agroforestry – farming with trees - in England, is essential if the country is to meet nature and climate targets, whilst at the same time securing long term food production. The report draws on new analysis commissioned from Cranfield University and reveals arable farms which adopt silvoarable systems (integrating trees into arable farming which is one type of agroforestry) could lock up eight tonnes of CO2 per hectare per year over 30 years – eight tonnes of CO2 is equivalent to the annual emissions of an UK citizen. It explains that agriculture is responsible for 10 per cent of UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions with the net effect of “land use, land use change and

forestry” responsible for another one per cent. Establishing agroforestry on 10 per cent of arable land and 30 per cent of grassland could enable agriculture-related emissions to reach net zero by 2050 whilst maintaining high levels of food production. Integrating trees into farming systems will enable farms to become more resilient both economically as well as environmentally. The report also shows that agroforestry would help address the biodiversity crisis by increasing the abundance and richness of farmland species, and birds and invertebrates in particular. It is estimated that the total number of breeding birds in the UK fell by 44 million between 1967 and 2009, and many once-common farmland birds are continuing to decline



(references below). Agroforestry is not only good for supporting wildlife but enhances soil health by improving soil structure and microbial diversity. It may also lead to passive benefits in other ecosystems services such as pollination, pest control, nutrient cycling and

decomposition, all of which are essential for long-term sustainable food production.

*The full report is available here:*  
[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2022/11/farming-for-the-future](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2022/11/farming-for-the-future)

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It's been another busy month for Pershore Rotary. Supported by Pershore's BoB Club, the Angel Hotel and FerryFast Produce Ltd, we attended Pershore High School's 'Careers Day' on 9 November, bringing together a variety of local hospitality, food production, transportation, engineering, personal finance, HR and house purchasing businesses. We are grateful to these local businesses who gave their time and experience to guide and interest the students at such an important time in their lives.

Pershore 'Craft and Chat' was set up as a wellbeing group to encourage positivity and calm through artistic and creative activities and help reduce loneliness. They meet weekly at the St Andrew's Centre. We have donated £500 to help them with setting up their projects. Contact Rachel at pershorecraftandchat@gmail.com for more information.

Two of our members ran a Digital Café at the Riverside Centre during November. Aimed at helping complete novices, the project was to encourage those who wanted to be more computer confident and safe when online. Our 2022 Tree of Remembrance Appeal really gets underway in December with cash collections outside Asda and the Co-op on Fridays and Saturdays. Members of the public are invited to 'remember a loved one' at Christmas by completing the notices in the Pershore Times and local parish newsletters. All funds raised will be donated to the Alzheimer's Society, Acorns Children's Hospice and St Richard's Hospice.

For more information, follow Pershore Rotary on Facebook or see what we do on [www.pershorerotary.club](http://www.pershorerotary.club) and it may inspire you to help us at times with our local community projects.

## PERSHORE RIVERSIDE CENTRE

**Come in from the cold and hire one of our rooms this winter!**

We are already home to many groups within the community, such as the U3A groups, Sing for health, Linda with Chair Based Exercise, and many more. With our well-placed venue, our own car park, accessible entrance and free wi-fi, everyone is welcome!

## Youth Centre

On the 17th October our Monday Club hosted a trip Bat Detecting and Moth trapping. A huge thank you to Liz at Friends of Avon Meadows, Kate from @meadowarts and Wildfowl & wetlands Trust for making this possible. Here are some wonderful pictures from the outing!

Scan our QR code to find out more!

[www.pershoreriversidecentre.org.uk](http://www.pershoreriversidecentre.org.uk) or call us on 01386 554713

f @pershoreriversidecentre    @pershoreyouthy

Pershore Riverside Centre CIO (charity no 1156413) King George's Way, Pershore WR10 1QU

### PERSHORE ROTARY TREE OF REMEMBRANCE APPEAL 2022

**"Remember a Loved One"**

In 2021 the people of Pershore raised over £4,000 for three charities. This year, with your help, we are supporting:

Society Hospice

Alzheimer's Acorns Children's Hospice

St Richard's Hospice

Families throughout the UK have continued to lose relatives, friends and colleagues to Covid-19. If there is someone you would like to remember this Christmas, please support our Appeal. To do that, please complete this form in CAPITAL letters and send it with your donation to the address below. Alternatively, you can donate online at:

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

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

First line of your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to remember the life/lives of: (names clearly and in BLOCK CAPITALS); \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to "The Rotary Club of Pershore". We suggest £5 for each life remembered and please send it to; Rotarian Peter Gardner, Middle Cottage, Church Street, Wyre Piddle, WR10 2JD. Ref: PA22. Please boost your donation by 25p for every £1.00 you donate through Gift Aid, by confirming in writing your name and date below. Thank you.

*"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."*

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

The Pershore Tree of Remembrance Appeal will continue throughout the Christmas period. The list of those remembered will be shown on Pershore Rotary's website. Personal information is only used for this Appeal and for Gift Aid (if applicable). It is not shared with any other party.

## Pershore Rotary Social Group presents

# A fun Ceilidh

In support of Wick Care Farm CIC

**TICKETS**  
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Live music from

**COTTESWOLDE COUNTRY DANCE BAND**

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To purchase tickets please email:

[socialgroup@pershorerotary.club](mailto:socialgroup@pershorerotary.club)

## Saturday 21st January '23

## at Crophorne Village Hall

### from 7.30pm

# Preservation Society restore neglected garage find



The Wychavon Oil Engine and Preservation Society frequently displays working vintage engines at our local fetes and festivals. At this year's Pershore Carnival in May, I was drawn to their exhibits of static working agricultural engines. I was prompted to ask if anyone in the society might be interested in renovating a model steam engine that my father had built in the late 1940s. This neglected machine had been rusting away for the past three decades in my garage because I

did not have the technical skills to repair it, also, for sentimental reasons, I had been reluctant to scrap it. My tentative enquiry was greeted with enthusiasm and interest by several members of the society who invited me to bring it along to their next meeting. On delivery of the dirty, rusty and incomplete machine their eyes sparkled with interest. Without hesitation the challenge of its restoration was accepted by Andy Badman, Auditor of the society. Andy

proved not only a safe pair of hands in terms of his engineering skills but also a fount of knowledge on the history and background of this type of machine. Within a month he had stripped, cleaned and rebuilt the engine also sending me photos and a Youtube video of it working. Andy is a perfectionist and insists there is more to be done, but he is confident it will appear, as a working machine, at steam rallies and local fetes in the not too distant future. The Wychavon Oil Engine & Preservation Society is keen to hear from anyone else who may have a similar vintage machine lying in a dormant and neglected condition in the corner of a shed, garage or loft space. There are nearly 100 members of the society who are passionate about preserving then displaying various agricultural, industrial, recreational, military and domestic technical machines and instruments. Their website: [wychavonoilengineclub.co.uk](http://wychavonoilengineclub.co.uk)



gives an indication of the range of their interests. Details of meetings and future exhibitions at local sites is also available here.

Alternatively, anyone interested in the clubs activities can contact Sally Skilling, Club Secretary and Treasurer, on 01905 840109.

I am so pleased I have resisted scrapping this obsolete pile of rusting metal. My father (born in 1912) would be thrilled to see it restored. It is a delight to see a project, begun in 1946, now in running order and in the safe hands of the WOEPS to whom I am very grateful.

*Richard Catford*

## A hobby develops into a business!

Whilst the Covid lockdowns were a trial and tribulation for most of us, some enterprising people, like Natasha Kuiper, honed a recreational hobby, involving leather craft, into a flourishing business. 'Tash's initiative has been coincidental with the success of

the BBC's Repair Shop programme in making people aware of the sense and joy of mending or renovating old, damaged or simply 'tired' objects.

'Tash began by making leather belts, straps and flip-flops of her own design. This quickly

progressed to fulfilling customers own designs and bespoke orders. An order for strong dog leads for a police force was a significant early development. This, in turn, prompted enquiries about the repair of leather objects that needed some TLC. This is now the fastest growing activity in her business.

'Tash does not use sewing machines. After designing a product she uses hand tools and hand stitching to create or renovate a wide range of objects. These range from belts, straps, dog leads, replacing buckles, handles, shackles on luggage and horse tack and leather tool-rolls. Renovations have also included re-colouring or staining, reconditioning and

re-finishing tired leather on bags, briefcases, boots and shoes. Her speciality is in the repair of heavy, thick leather objects such as the binocular case shown below.

In this age of austerity, abandoning or throwing out quality leather objects is wasteful. Repair and renovation can add years of useful life to any item. However, 'Tash advises we should not wait too long to seek a repair; 'A stitch in time saves nine' is a sentiment that certainly applies to her trade. Natasha Kuiper's work can be seen on her website: [www.kuiperleather.co.uk](http://www.kuiperleather.co.uk)

*Richard Catford*





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# Women's Hour!

## *Dashing away with the smoothing iron*

Susan Catford



Whilst I have always endeavoured to do my best in whatever is demanded of me, I have to confess that I am not the best housewife. Fortunately we are not required to have a qualification in this skill as I would probably achieve 'satisfactory' only. As children we were 'allowed' to wash and dry the dishes as soon as we could reach the sink. The younger sibling got to do the drying-up as this was regarded as the most tedious task. Similarly, as soon as it was safe to do so, we were introduced to ironing. Handkerchiefs came first, then anything that was straight and flat. Novelty value and the fact it was a grown-up job made this seem attractive. I have to say that over the years I then became an expert ironer. With two sons and a husband, there

were usually at least twenty-one shirts to iron each week as soon as the boys reached school age, plus the rest of the laundry. I did speed ironing and could iron a shirt in three minutes flat (!?). The sons became excellent apprentices and although one does still prefer to iron his own shirts, the other does not believe in ironing unless absolutely essential! I have recently come across an acquaintance who doesn't even own an iron and many people don't iron bedding at all. I couldn't possibly expect visitors to sleep in crumpled, used-looking bedding. My diligence in this area did lead to repetitive strain injury for a while but it also provided an opportunity to watch the box. There are other tasks which I do not enjoy so are done with more haste and less enthusiasm. We are not a household where you are expected to remove your shoes on arrival; floors are meant to be walked on. With a dog and living in the countryside, muddy floors are inevitable. We made a fatal mistake when we first moved here of having light coloured carpets throughout, since remedied with more practical flooring. The trusty Dyson makes short work of the carpets and laminate floors are easily dealt with. I want my

visitors to feel welcome and not be expected to remove their footwear at the door (unless they are wellingtons!). My husband does get earache sometimes though as he still walks over the doormat without acknowledging its presence! Polishing can be a chore but spray polish makes it easier and just the smell of it suggests a clean household! There are some things I only notice when certain visitors are expected such as dirty skirting boards and finger marks on doors. Sunny days can be a pain as well, as they highlight dust webs and smeary windows. Time then to get out the mop and Windolene. Oven-cleaning is probably top of my most irksome tasks and is postponed as long as possible. If they invented disposable oven liners I would certainly be first in line to purchase them even if they weren't classed as 'green'. Since we seem to get through ovens more quickly than most, delaying the cleaning process is my excuse. Having said that, I am aware that the interior of my oven is not only looking murky but verging on the sordid. Alas, time to get out the Marigolds and sprays! Now if you need a workout, shower-cleaning provides the

opportunity. Bending, stretching and scrubbing requires considerable exertion and consumes calories. There is nothing worse than a dirty bathroom so this is on the essential list. We have (at last) become daily users of the shower wiper blade. The 'swish, swish' of the shower user confirms their participation in this strategy. I would love to have a magic wand to wave so that things returned themselves to cupboards and shelves, ironing put itself away and likewise the shopping after a major supermarket shop. I would then not mind at all making myself a cup of tea! I am not the world's best housewife but I don't want to be remembered for my sparkling, clean house. I would rather be remembered for my kindness, warmth, hospitality and humour. So if you visit our house, make sure you haven't cleaned your glasses then you won't notice the dust and you can keep your shoes on. I will probably be dashing away with the smoothing iron, enjoying removing life's wrinkles!

## November Garden

The garden lies like the morning after a party.  
Careless guests have left their litter,  
Curled up leaves strewn and scattered haphazardly.  
Once this space was full of energy,  
Colour and light.  
Now daylight strips it bare,  
Unkempt, untidy, dishevelled.  
Before sounds filled the air-  
Nature's orchestra with all its variations  
Buzzed, whistled, throbbed and sang.  
But now the conductor has laid down his baton and left.

The applause has died away.  
A strange brooding quiet remains.  
A time for reflection,  
contemplation,  
Time to rest and prepare.  
Winter is stirring now ready to take the stage  
With silvery steps and icy fingers,  
Its performers waiting in the wings.  
Nighttime provides the backdrop with starry skies.  
The curtain rises and morning mists unveil a crisp new day.  
Let the dance begin.

Susan Catford



**'Thought Plants' is Susan's first book and is a new collection of writing and poems exploring ideas, events and everyday life.**

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# Garden Watch



What a strange November we have had! Some days have been very wet with a soggy garden but it has also been much milder than we would expect for this time of the year. Some of the plants seem rather confused! The new roses are thriving and the climbing rose just keeps flowering. The ceanothus has produced some flowers and the magnolia, which is normally bare by now, is still hanging on to some of its leaves. The trees are mostly bare and presenting skeletal profiles against the sky. One tree seems to attract pigeons and they sit with fat silhouettes like baubles on a Christmas tree! The lack of foliage does make the garden seem lighter which is good on gloomier days. The resident gardener (aka my husband) has been attending to the pots and placing vulnerable plants in the greenhouse. We have new winter pansies and primulas to replace the summer

plants. The grass is still growing due to the mild weather so some frostier days would be welcome so the mower can have a rest for the Winter. We have lots of berries on the pyracantha still, hanging in beautiful orange clusters. The birds have not stripped them yet but are consuming the bird food rapidly. Apart from the usual tits, sparrows and robins, a great spotted woodpecker has been visiting, hanging upside down on the feeder. Some magpies are also enjoying our water feature. It is always fun to watch the birds. Whenever the feeders are replenished, there are always pigeons waiting hopefully below to catch spilled seed. They are dark mornings and evenings now but we have some beautiful sunsets with fantastic cloud formations. December is here already and it will soon be time to get out the lights and add some sparkle to the garden!



# Country file - Funghi



There are many varieties of mushrooms (some we call toadstools) which may be good to eat but are also used in alternative medicine. We recognise field mushrooms, chestnut mushrooms, porcini and shitake mushrooms etc. which are available in our supermarkets and greengrocers. There are many more which can help healthwise if you know what to look for.

*Maitake* mushrooms can help to rebalance blood sugar and cholesterol levels. They can be eaten as a food or taken as a supplement in capsules.

*Shitake* mushrooms can also be eaten and help reduce cholesterol. There is evidence that they can support immunity and keep colds at bay.

*Lion's mane* is supposed to help keep brain and memory intact.

It may also help with menopausal symptoms and insomnia. Again it can be taken as capsules or as a powder added to smoothies.

*Turkey tail* can also help reduce incidences of flu and cold sores. It is also recommended as a prebiotic to address gut problems. This can be taken as a powder, capsules or tincture.

*Reishi* mushrooms can help the body deal with stress, anxiety and depression. It can also help you to sleep. Best taken as capsules or a tincture as its powder has a bitter taste!

These are just a few examples of mushrooms which may help your health as well as some tasting good. Always best to stick with ones you know but if you want to supplement your diet, visit a health food shop and seek proper advice.

## Amber Hair Salon

Christmas booking now being taken  
Gift Vouchers available

Open Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm  
Saturday 8am - 2pm

Church Street, Pershore WR10 1BH

Call Wendy on 01386 561311

## Cooking for fun! *Ailsa Craddock*

Ok, I admit it – when it comes to glass jars, I am a bit of a hoarder. When I finish one, it is carefully washed and put away in a cupboard with all the other ones – and I think they breed overnight! HOWEVER, come this time of year they come into their own and I may even lend some out!

With Christmas coming soon, and most of us having to draw our belts in a little, what better time to start making some edible gifts. They are easy to make and I always hope that the recipient knows that for the time, at least, of making, I am thinking of them. The first two recipes are soups in a jar – use any wide mouthed one you have and pile up the ingredients carefully so it looks pretty and attach a note of what to do with the ingredients. You might like to put a note on the wrapped jar not to shake!

### Split Pea Soup

This beautiful green soup mix is so festive and green! I like to stir in a cup of chopped ham when it's finished cooking to make it really hearty. To make Split Pea Soup Mix in a Jar, layer these ingredients in the order listed in a wide mouthed jar:

*2 cups split green peas*  
*1/2 teaspoon celery seed*  
*1 tablespoon dried chopped onions*

*1 tablespoon dried minced garlic*

*1 bay leaf*

*1 chicken bouillon cube*

Instructions for cooking the Split Pea Soup from mix:

Remove wrapper from bouillon cube and add it, plus all remaining ingredients, plus four cups of water to a saucepan. Bring to a boil over



high heat, reduce heat to low, and simmer until the peas are tender, about 30 minutes. Remove and discard the bay leaf. Stir in one cup of chopped ham before serving. Season to taste

### Lemon Curd (Granny's)

*225 grams sugar*  
*50 grams butter*  
*juice and zest of a lemon*  
*2 well beaten eggs*

Half fill a pan with water and put on to heat. Put all the ingredients in a bowl, big enough to put into the pan without the water bubbling over. Keep on a low heat until everything melts, stirring occasionally. Continue cooking until a spoonful on a cold plate wrinkles when pushed. Pour into small jars, cool and keep in the fridge. It's lovely on hot buttered toast and also as a pudding by swirling it into natural yogurt.

### Treacle Toffee (Granny's)

*6 tablespoons sugar*  
*100 grams butter*  
*3 tablespoons treacle*  
*1 tablespoon water*  
*2 teaspoons vinegar*

Put everything into a saucepan and bring to a boil. Keep on a rolling boil (I keep a wooden spoon in it so it doesn't over boil). It is ready when a small spoonful goes hard when dropped into a bowl of cold water. Pour into a greased

baking tin (BE CAREFUL AS ITS VERY HOT AND WILL BURN YOUR SKIN). Allow to harden, turn tin over and tap till it drops out. Keep in a screw top jar.

### Shortbread

You can't have tea at Christmas or the New Year without shortbread!

*140g plain flour*  
*30g cornflour*  
*125g Butter (not margarine)*  
*60g castor sugar*

Put all the dry ingredients into a bowl and rub in the butter to breadcrumbs. Line a small tin with butter paper or parchment and press shortbread into it. Prick with a fork. Bake at 190°C for 15 – 20 mins. Cut into fingers or triangles and sprinkle with sugar.

*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*  
*Ailsa*



## Jazz News *Peter Farrall*

Nearly everyone nowadays can recognise a saxophone when they see or even hear one and most discerning jazz fans can identify a tenor, alto, baritone or soprano sax. The saxophone has become the universal distinguishing symbol of jazz and the word jazz in logos and advertising material almost always replaces the initial "j" with a saxophone icon. The instrument and the music are now inextricably associated. Belgian born instrument maker Adolph Sax patented his latest invention in 1846 and called it the Saxophone. It wasn't the first instrument of its type and other manufacturers contested his patent resulting in a number of lawsuits, but the design and quality of Adolph's instruments proved them to be a favoured choice for military bands where the large volume of sound produced from the wide bore gave them an impressive presence. Until the early twentieth

century the saxophone did not feature much in orchestral music but was more popular in a quartet setting eventually finding its way onto the jazz scene in New Orleans where some regarded it as a passing novelty soon to be forgotten. By the nineteen twenties the sax was often included in the line up of the bands of the "jazz age"; Sidney Bechet bought his first soprano sax whilst visiting London in 1920, Frankie Trumbauer played C-melody sax with Bix Beiderbeck, Frank Teschemacher and Bud Freeman graced the Eddie Condon line-up, all of them taking solo features as well as ensemble work.

All the saxes have had their legendary champions; Coleman Hawkins is still revered as the father of the tenor sax whilst Johnny Hodges and Charlie Parker showed their very different interpretations of the alto. Harry Carney spent forty years on baritone sax for Duke



Ellington and Sidney Bechet enjoyed a long career blowing sunshine from his soprano horn. All the saxophone giants had their disciples who in turn developed their technique and interpretation to be passed on to the next generation and so on until today we have a huge choice of musicians and styles to enjoy. It is said that Adolph Sax chose to demonstrate his invention with the bass saxophone, a monster of an instrument nearly four feet tall! Sadly, not much heard nowadays but will be featured at Pershore Jazz Club's December session. Looking forward to 2023. In January there will be a popular return visit by Spats

Langham's Hot Fingers with vocalist Emily Campbell also featuring another bass instrument, this time the bass clarinet ably played by Danny Blyth.

*Wishing everyone a Jazzy Christmas and a Groovy New Year!*

*The Vitality Five*  
*Wednesday 15th December in the Function Room,*  
*Pershore Football Club*  
*Doors open at 7pm, music at 8pm*  
*Admission £15 to include a raffle ticket. Ticket only event this time. Book in advance*  
*pershorejazz.org.uk*  
*Tel: 01527 66692/07487 606964*  
*find us on Facebook*



# A Christmas border for the bees *Nikki Hollier - Border In A Box*



This may sound a bit odd, as bees are snuggled up in their hives during the cold months, however, there will be some bees and other insects that will go foraging for food and water, so providing winter flowering plants in your border is a must! Plus, it cheers us up too – a double win!

*Here's a few plant ideas with a Christmas theme.*

Bulbs such as snowdrops and crocuses are loved by bees and are great to pop into any gaps in the border. They're brilliant for early colour and can be bought 'in the green' in pots from your local garden centre, although this costs more than buying loose bulbs, it does mean you can see where the gaps are and can fill the borders

easily without digging up any other later flowering bulbs. Buy single flowers rather than doubles as its easier for the bees to get to the pollen. *Clematis cirrhosa 'Jingle Bells'* is a winter flowering version that will grow to around 5m tall and 2m wide and prefers full sun but equally happy in partial shade. It flowers from December to February with large creamy coloured scented flowers. It looks great growing over a pergola or obelisk. The flowers will become attractive seedheads too. Although this clematis doesn't need much pruning, keep it in shape by cutting back any long shoots straight after flowering and add a layer of organic matter to the base of the plant.



*Helleborus niger 'Christmas Carol'* – these are a personal favourite! There are so many colours and varieties to choose from and make a great gift in pots and are ideal for tablescaping the patio or porch. They grow to around 30cm tall and prefer partial shade. This variety will flower from December to March and look fabulous when planted in swathes. Their leaves are semi-evergreen and if they get Hellebore leaf spot, (which is a blackened spots) simply cut the leaves off at the ground and add a layer of organic matter around the plant.

*Sarcococca hookeriana humilis* – commonly known as 'Christmas Box'. This is an



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*Royal Horticultural Society  
Silver Medal Winner &  
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evergreen shrub which has delicate white scented flowers from December to February. It's a brilliant shrub for a shady spot, but if you can plant it next to a path you will appreciate the lovely scent as you walk past. After flowering it will produce shiny black berries which are loved by birds. It grows to around 1m tall.



## 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 Decembe.**

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 on. 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 long 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.



# Wellbeing hub



*Christmas is not the same for everyone!*

The Pershore Wellbeing Hub has been open for more than a year now and, as we grow, we are looking to offer a more varied service for the community.

As you will be aware, Christmas is not the same for everyone. In this country, over 7.5 million people live alone.

It is not always a happy time and, with the state of the economy, the dark and wintry days make the problems seem worse.

Does this leave you feeling low, needing someone to talk to, needing like-minded company or just want a chat?

Even people in family groups may not feel they can talk to those they know well. Seeing your problem through other people's eyes may help to get

things in to perspective and help you feel more in control.

The Pershore Wellbeing Hub is starting The Mental Health Club @ PWH. On Friday 6th January at 1.30 pm we will be opening the Hub for people to come in for a cuppa and a chat with others who are not feeling their best.

There will be a group code, as confidentiality is paramount, along with safety and consideration for others. This is a new service so we are open to suggestions and will take into considerations needs and changes as they become apparent.

You are not alone. There are more people than you think who struggle with their thoughts and feelings. Please come and join us. We may even have biscuits!

# Beauty



Angela Johns



You may have heard of Chakras or you may not but it makes no difference if you want to ponder upon the meaning in them. The Sacral chakra, or Svadhistana meaning "our own dwelling place", represents how we relate to the world through the feelings and emotions of our experience. This is about our joy, creativity, sensuality, being moved by art and culture, appreciation of nature, our sense and value of self, our experience of beauty. Sounds good doesn't it?

To experience beauty we might use any of our senses. It can give us pleasure and satisfaction, maybe even move us to our core. A piece of music or a painting may bring us to tears as we allow a wave of emotions from deep inside (from the sacral chakra if you will) well to the surface. It feels familiar somehow, it resonates, we are understood without having to explain. To feel that we ourselves are beautiful, we have found our sense of self and value it, knowing that we are in harmony with true selves. We are treating others with due diligence, respect and love, without forcing anything on them or asking them to conform. Likewise, we are treating ourselves the same way and only allow others to treat us this way.

"Our own dwelling place" may be in need of healing when we have been cheated on, bullied or abused; when we have not been taught how to take care of ourselves or made to feel guilty for feeling pleasure – we may

have learnt we don't deserve it or that we need to work hard to have it.

Likewise, we will need healing when we have done these things to others. We recognise these needs when we feel we are missing out or never satisfied, when we are overly aggressive when all we really want is to be held, when we don't express ourselves artfully then wonder why no-one understands us.

It is a lifelong quest to care deeply for "our own dwelling place" but in the end, with the bittersweet of our experience, comes beauty.

*Currently training as an Emotional Therapeutic Counsellor with the AETC, Angela is a qualified Reflexologist, Aromareflex Practitioner and Reiki Teacher/Practitioner. She is passionate about her therapies and spends quality time with her clients to facilitate their wellbeing. You can find her at [angelajohns.co.uk](http://angelajohns.co.uk)*



**We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**Pershore Wellbeing Hub**

To receive the **Pershore Times** by e-mail visit [www.pershoretimes.co.uk](http://www.pershoretimes.co.uk) enter your name and email address

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# Babies do it, cats, dogs, & birds do it!

Karen Harris

*We all should do it!*

*Do you pandiculate?*

You may not recognise the term but you'll instantly know when your pets do it - cats or dogs can pandiculate as often as 40-50 times a day! They appear to be stretching out their tummies, but what they are doing is contracting and then lengthening their neck and back muscles. It's enormously relaxing for them and it prepares them for movement. Pandiculation is a natural reflex. It involves contracting a muscle, or group of muscles, by moving, and then slowly reducing the contractions back to neutral. You may not know it, but you have been doing pandiculations your whole life. Pandiculation is nature's method of preparing a body to move in a healthy, supple and functional way. It's part of your parasympathetic nervous system, so it's guaranteed to work for everybody. Because it's a natural reflex, you already know how to do it. As we age and go through life, most of us do it less and less spontaneously... If you often experience muscle pain after exercise, or regularly experience muscle tightness after being hunched over a computer all day, pandiculation is a natural alternative to stretching that can help you feel more relaxed and improve your flexibility, mobility and vigour at the same time. It involves contracting a set of muscles, slowly lengthening them, and then contracting again to a rest position, it is so powerful that it's even been called nature's reset button.

*What is the difference between pandiculation and stretching?*

Static stretching involves the lengthening of a muscle, usually an isolated muscle such as the quads (thigh muscles) for a small duration and is considered a passive rather than active motion. In other words, you don't need to consciously tell your brain to "reach out with your leg" - it just does so without sending a complicated message to your brain's sensory motor cortex (which is your brain's command centre). But with stretching comes the "stretching reflex" - which is a response from your muscle that you've gone too far.

So what makes the pandiculation different is the brain's perception of what you want to do; you must actively tell your brain to contract a series of muscles that work together for a second or two and then lengthen them with focus and attention. This, again, sends a signal to the sensory motor cortex. The signal produced by the contractions tells your brain to prepare for movement, your muscles are tense and ready to spring into motion. The process of then releasing the muscles leads to a sense of relaxation and an improved range of motion. You should be doing this, especially before getting out of bed, without thinking. If not, and this important 'movement priming' is lost, stiffness and immobility become more troublesome. As the temperatures drop and we become less active, do yourself, your muscles and your fascia a favour and pandiculate more!



# What ever your Christmas will be . . .

Emily Papirnik

Christmas time is so individual. These weeks up to December 25th are filled with discussions of family, friends, trips and visitors. Some of my clients have already done all their Christmas shopping, others are deciding not to spend money on presents at all this year. Things have opened up in so many ways with visits to pantomimes an option again and office parties, being out out!



*For some it can be a time of space, fun, joy and merriment and no work.*

*For some it can be lonely and quiet.*

*For some it can be a time to catch up with people or get on with focus on self.*

*For some it can just mean working when others are not.*

*For some there can be huge excitement and build up.*

*For some it can be frustrating, overwhelming and fraught.*

Whatever type of Christmas you might think you will have I encourage you to find the best bits. I encourage you to be gentle with yourself and others.

Don't judge those that 'hate' Christmas time, you might have no understanding of why that is. Don't judge those that spend their last penny on a present for someone they love, you might have no understanding of their reason. Notice that child that is so excited and laughing out loud, the odd scream of joy as they look at Father Christmas. Notice how someone has made such an effort in their window display for you to enjoy and appreciate, however gaudy! Feel the excitement of this time of year, perhaps remembering your best Christmas and allowing the feelings of that to fill you up and smile.

*From me to you - Have a wonderful Christmas and breathe... Emily*



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# Heritage & History Society

## Twelve Days of Christmas ..... or Christmas in February?

Every year it seems the Christmas ad's on the telly start earlier and festive goods are adorning the shops by the end of September not long after the schools go back!

But how long will you leave your Christmas cards and decorations up this year? These days many take them down as soon as New Year celebrations are over whereas many traditionalists leave them adorning their homes until the twelve days of Christmas are over. But then again which is the twelfth night?

Is Christmas Day itself the first night or is it Boxing Day - subject of a regular debate in our family when I was a youngster. This concerns some of the more superstitious amongst us as few want to leave them up for a potentially unlucky thirteenth night. In many ways I used to think the longer the better - especially as kids my brother and I were not allowed to decorate the Christmas Tree or put up decorations and cards until

Christmas Eve. This however did certainly add to the excitement and expectation before the big day itself. In these difficult financial times for many and two years of Christmas plans for families sadly affected by lockdown restrictions, it is hardly surprising if some may decide to maintain their decorations and allow festivities for longer in the hope of a better and brighter New Year. By keeping the Christmas season into February - the Christian church's marking of Candelmas - you may be surprised to learn that you are potentially maintaining a tradition that continues in European countries such as the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, France, Belgium and the Spanish Canary islands and indeed many of the Catholic countries of South America including Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Peru and Mexico.

In Luxembourg, for example, children hold a torchlight procession through the streets to celebrate Candelmas or "Luxembourgish" on February 2nd visiting homes and singing traditional songs marking 40



days after Christmas and the official end of the Christmas/Epiphany season. Traditionally manger scenes in France and Belgium are not put away until Candelmas when all candles in the house are lit and crepes are eaten on their "Pancake Day". Candelmas in Puerto Rico involves a procession with a special statue the Virgin de la Candelaria being carried on the shoulders whilst others follow with lit candles and celebrate with a special Mass followed by a giant bonfire and traditional singing. Christians in Mexico celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple on February 2nd with special services, and family meals with tamales - which are

made of dough and steamed in a corn husk or banana leaf. And in this year when we have sadly seen the passing of Her Majesty the Queen, she carried on a family tradition until recent years spending Christmas at Sandringham and leaving her Christmas decorations up until February 6th in memory of her father George VI who passed away on that day in 1952 aged just 56..

Julian Palfrey



## 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 furrines 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*

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



# Helicopters

Tim Hickson



Years ago, if we heard the sound of aircraft in the sky, and looked up, we would have seen nothing but fixed-wing aeroplanes. Today, when we look up, we are seldom going to see anything but helicopters. The change has been gradual and partly caused by the fact the the many commercial airliner fly too high to be seen - only their vapour trails are visible. However, the main reason is that helicopters have become more versatile and a more appropriate form of travel. Finally, they have one huge advantage over fixed-wing aircraft - they do not need runways.

blades, it could perform the act witnessed by a friend of mine. He told me that, when working as a civilian at RAF Defford, he saw a Gloster Javelin fighter sitting at the end of a runway when a dare-devil pilot, as a prank, flew the Hoverfly to gently land onto the top of the tailplane. Mad times! Once the engines became more powerful, helicopters' lifting capacity became much greater. Now, they are even used on construction sites as cranes. As transports, not needing runways was their huge advantage over fixed wing aircraft. Think of the places



*Sikorsky Hoverfly*

The RAF's first helicopter was the Sikorsky Hoverfly. The photograph shows one at RAF Defford with the Croome Park oaks behind. This one was around during the very bad winter of 1947 and it brought food supplies from a depot in Hereford. However, its maximum load was one sack of potatoes! Perhaps because it was so light, made of metal rods covered with canvas and with wooden rotor

where air ambulances land. I have a daughter, who had broken her back in a fall, and was rapidly taken from a street in Tewkesbury to the helipad at Cheltenham Hospital. As well as their use by the Air Ambulance service, the police use them as we know from numerous TV programmes, the Coastguard and Life Boat services use them, TV crews use them and warfare, on land and at sea brings them into action.



*Gloster Javelin*



*Helicopter used in construction as cranes*

Furthermore, many wealthy private individuals have helicopters. A friend who was responsible for aircraft at one Ragley Hall Country Show told me he had many phone calls asking, 'should the caller bring

his fixed-wing aircraft or his helicopter?' Not something I have ever needed to do! Today, we have to expect that drones will start to undertake many of the tasks that helicopters do.



*Air Ambulances*



*A drone*



## Still a lot to celebrate!

Brian Johnson-Thomas



Yes, despite everything, even taking into account soaring energy bills, the interminable war in the Ukraine and near-record inflation levels, we still have a lot to look forward to. Not only are our pages this month full of enticing local events, there's also a whole lot happening in the wider area around us. Last month, you may recall, I mentioned the Winter Glow event at the Three Counties Showground and it seems that I have to add to that story with the news that they are also opening a Fine Food Quarter there complemented by a new Bavarian style bar at the event, offering a festive tippie of such old favourites as mulled wine and spiced cider. As a bonus both the Food Quarter and Bavarian bar are free to enter as is access to a brand new indoor Christmas Market for those last minute buys. If perhaps you fancy travelling further afield then the Westonbirt Aboretum down by Tetbury are holding an Enchanted Christmas with playful elves creating a spectacular illuminated and enchanted trail. *for details. see [www.forestryengland.uk](http://www.forestryengland.uk)*

Nearer home Stratford's Royal Shakespeare Company announced the return of the Stratford Festive Trail which will encourage families and other visitors to explore the town looking for festive wreaths, which also reflect the Theatre's current production of *A Christmas Carol*. *More details can be found at: [www.rsc.org.uk/festive-trail](http://www.rsc.org.uk/festive-trail) and Theatre tickets can be bought via the Box Office on 01789 331111*

On the opposite bank of the river there's a lot going on in Herefordshire with a new-to-me venue at Crumplebury, just off the A44 this side of Bromyard, which is an upmarket, and up beat, kind of place. Starting on the tenth of this month they're offering a black tie event Christmas Feast, carefully curated to showcase their own seasonal bounty from their home farm and kitchen garden as well as their game shoot. A week later will see their three day Christmas for the Kids experience featuring a magical trail through the farm's ancient woodlands, saying hello to various animals en route

(including Mr. Cuddles the Xmas turkey) followed by a mug of hot chocolate and a feast cooked over a fire pit. At the same time the Grand Hall will be transformed into a Christmas Market. Indeed, festivities will continue until 22 January next year when they plan a Champagne Afternoon Tea. *See [www.crumplebury.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.crumplebury.co.uk/whats-on) for details.* Santa's also visit-able at the 'Harrods of Herefordshire' aka Oakchurch Farm Shop out on the Brecon road from Hereford at Staunton on Wye. There's no charge to visit Santa but visitors are welcome to make a small donation to local charities supported by the Hereford Lions Club. For social distancing reasons intending visitors are asked to make a booking via their website. *See [www.oakchurch.net](http://www.oakchurch.net) for details.*

December the tenth also sees the Leominster Victorian Christmas Market, when the town will be filled with stalls

selling handmade and locally produced gifts, food and drink so that visitors can enjoy street food, mulled wine and roasted chestnuts whilst being entertained by Punch and Judy, Morris dancers, live seasonal music and fairground organs. The event is free, as is parking. Finally, if you are feeling both charitable and energetic then you're invited to join the thousands of folks who are 'Walking Home for Christmas' in support of armed forces veterans across the UK. The campaign, which runs from the 9th to the 20th of this month is charity Walking With The Wounded's annual nationwide fundraising walking challenge to support its work across mental health, employment and care coordination. *For details see: [walkingwiththewounded.org.uk](http://walkingwiththewounded.org.uk)*

But, however energetic you're feeling and whatever you're doing, do have a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

## Thoughts from the Snug . . .

### Domestic chores

Recently, in the comfort of the Snug, we got round to discussing domestic chores. Whilst we all sang the praises of dish washers, washing machines, etc. there emerged from our discussion some frankly disturbing notion how some activities like ironing, window cleaning and dusting are enjoyable. We had to agree to differ that these activities may lead to feelings of achievement, self-satisfaction and well-being in some, but certainly not others. The topic was exhausted and we moved on. However, a week later one of the crew turned up to a meeting with a poem.

#### Carpe diem

Dust if you must, but wouldn't be better  
To paint a picture or write a letter,  
To bake a cake or plant some seeds  
Ponder the difference between wants and needs  
Dust if you must, but there's not much time,  
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,  
Music to hear and books to read,  
Friends to cherish and life to lead.  
Dust if you must, but the world's out there,  
With sun in your eye, the wind in your hair,  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,  
Face it, this day will not come 'round again!  
Dust if you must, but bear in mind,  
Old age will come, and it's not always kind,  
And when you go, as go you must.  
You, yourself will make more dust.

Anon.

*It sealed the argument: Boo to domestic chores!*

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# Teenage Focus

Romy Kemp (18)

## The end of a long year

We are coming to the end of 2022 - what a bizarre year! Although we still have a month left of it, we must wish for a better year in 2023. Since the pandemic started in the UK in January 2020, the world has been an odd place. With all this said, University is approaching quite quickly for me. Although it will be in September 2023, my A-Levels aren't too far off. After applying to five universities last month, I have received word back from all of them with different offers. Now all I need to focus on is studying and revising until the days of my exams are over. I'm not going to say which universities I've applied to but I do have a preference for one which I am extremely excited about. I shall be visiting the ones I have more of an interest in soon as well as going around the towns surrounding them again. It is an extremely terrifying time of my life, but also something that was always bound to happen - a change, moving away from my family and friends to study and make new ones. It is the start to independence. In November, I turned 18. That was also quite scary - I'm now an adult. I can vote, and I can go out more. I can even get a tattoo - which I did. I got a cherry blossom tree. It is in the process of healing but it looks absolutely lovely.

*Merry Christmas*



### The Run up to Christmas:

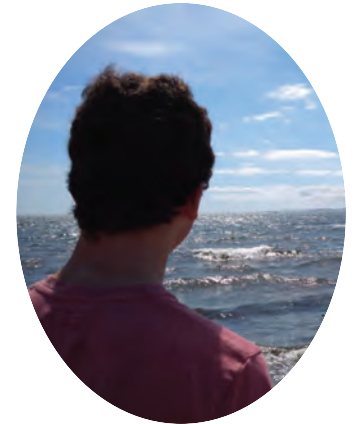
Christmas this year will be difficult for some, with increases of prices everywhere, but I believe that this Christmas will be filled with spirit and unity. My decorations are already placed around my room, not the whole house yet but it's a start. I'm looking forward to buying presents for my family and friends this year - I look forward to it every year but I hope to make a better impression in my first Christmas as an adult. Winter is one of my favourite times of year - it is cold (which I love), the atmosphere of changes, nature is more beautiful, and so much more. With winter comes Christmas, a festive time of year filled with joy and compassion. I am looking forward to all of it! Although the Christmas break will be appreciated, I shall still need to study and focus otherwise I will get into a routine of not studying.

# Gregory's world!

Gregory Sidaway (18)

## Oxmas

Brrrrrr! It's cold outside, isn't it, fellow reader? I hope you have a warm drink to hand and something cosy to wear - and maybe a chocolate biscuit too, all the best conversations involve a chocolate biscuit. I'm ticking all three of those boxes at the moment, and for me 'the moment' is the 21st November, about two weeks away from the end of Michaelmas term. I have just spent nearly a whole weekend writing an essay about Conrad's *The Secret Agent* on the very relevant theme of isolation. No, it's not that bad - I have a flock of pigeons to keep me company. They have a rendezvous point just above my window and they make their opinions known in a series of very grouchy, baritone warbles (I always mistake the sounds for my phone ringing). Being up in my room also means I have an excellent view of the festivities in Broad Street below. Clusters of brightly coloured gazebos had been set up for the Oxford Christmas market, along with giant plastic candy canes and speakers blaring a compilation of Wham! Bubl , and Mariah Carey - perfectly audible through my single-glazed bedroom window three storeys above. Needless to say, I had to retreat to the marquee study space in college's front quad so I could hear myself think without mumbling about how it was the most wonderful time of the year. By the time you read this, I'll be back at home and having lots of lie-ins with a ninth of my university life under my belt. So how has it gone? Well, like any new experience, it's a jump into the deep end at first. Imposter syndrome can be prevalent and the work is substantial - I've reached new highs of page counts and new lows of font sizes. But the long hours hunching over my desk with nothing to listen to but a chorus of grumpy pigeons while I wrack my brain for an essay thesis ... none of that is uni. 'Uni' is being lucky enough to live in one of the oldest universities in the world; eating my morning coco-pops dwarfed by a dinner hall of gold-framed, oil-on-canvas portraits; starting every Saturday wild swimming in the Thames; playing snooker at the Oxford Union; being introduced to Nigerian food



with a dish of curried goat and pounded yam; attending book signings in the Norrington room at Blackwells; drinking a cappuccino in the 'oldest coffee shop in the world' at the Queen's Lane Coffee House (c.1654); putting a fiver into sweepstakes for the World Cup; attending formal dinners in a suit and academic gown; whacking golf balls at the local driving range before heading to evensong at the chapel for what had to be the most relaxing, candlelit thirty minutes of my life. Most importantly, I was doing all of this with a group of mates I never knew before I came here. So yes, I certainly haven't done too badly. As you may have guessed from the title, they call it 'Oxmas' here, which starts early because term ends on 3rd December and the city has to prepare for an onslaught of Christmas shoppers in December. Here in college, people bought Advent calendars to be opened throughout November instead and there are several dinners planned for next week - one involving Christmas jumpers - to celebrate the festive season. The market I mentioned was part of the grand Christmas light switch-on, so now Broad Street twinkles with silver snowflakes and the shopping centre is festooned with glistening gold. And as I round off the last article of a year that has been momentous with war in Europe, cost of living crises, a new monarch, a new (and an even newer) prime minister, I'm glad you and I have been able to spend this time together in each of our monthly meetings. *Merry Christmas, fellow reader, and have a Happy New Year.*



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*According to the Alzheimer's Society more than one million people in the UK will have dementia by 2025 the statistics for women is significantly higher amongst women than men*

*If one joint account holder loses mental capacity, banks or building Societies can decide whether they will restrict the use of the account for essential transactions.*

Should that happen, then the

family have to deal with the Court of Protection and they are a nightmare. They do not understand the word Urgency let alone spell it. The writer has terrible first hand experience with a family member. The Pershore Times have made a special arrangement with Resolve Law Group on behalf of their readers using the Newspaper Code PT75. The arrangement is that the fee for each LPA is £175.00 plus the fee to the Office of the Public Guardian of £82.00. Any person should have this in place whether you are 30 or 70 years old.

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# Why landlords should go tax digital



In April 2024, landlords with an income exceeding £10K must comply with the Making Tax Digital (MTD) scheme.

*What is MTD and how it affects landlords:*

MTD is a digital tax filing system, which HMRC claims will make things easier and more efficient.

Larger businesses claiming VAT already comply with MTD. In 2024, self-employed business owners and landlords will also be required to adopt MTD.

Under MTD, people who self-assess, e.g. landlords, must keep digital records of all income and expenses, sending HMRC quarterly income and expenditure updates and file End of Period Statements using approved third-party software.

*Who will be most affected?*

For those already using software to record property-related admin, the changes won't be huge as they're already tech savvy.

But if you typically scramble at the last minute to meet tax deadlines, relying heavily on old-fashioned paper copies of receipts, then you'll have to adapt. So it's worth investigating MTD now, giving you time to get correct software and familiarise yourself with its use.

*Tips & important considerations*

- HMRC's website offers educational resources, running free tax workshops for people who self-assess. Why not invest some time in learning more about MTD?

- Ensure any accountant handling your tax affairs, uses MTD-approved software.

- Landlords with several rental properties will still only need one digital account filing income and expenditure for all the properties on one account.

- A good letting agent will be an asset when it comes to MTD. If your property is managed by a letting agent, sending you monthly rental income statements, you'll already have quick, easy access to the bulk of your outgoings.

This article is intended to provide general advice only. Always consult an accountant for advice and guidance specific to your situation.



Tom Tarver BSc Est. Man, MNAEA MARLA

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email: tom.tarver@johnsons-property.co.uk



"I am as light as a feather; I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school-boy. I am as giddy as a drunken man. A merry Christmas to every-body!  
A happy New Year to all the world!"  
*Scrooge, A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens's*

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me."  
*Scrooge, A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens's*



## Fiscal Drag

On 17 November the Chancellor Jeremy Hunt delivered his Autumn Statement and while no rates of tax were increased, the result of the measures announced means most of us will end up paying more tax. The term used to explain it is Fiscal Drag but what exactly is that? In an ideal world earnings, tax and inflation keep pace with each other. If inflation rises by 5% then earnings need to rise by 5% to allow the same standard of living to be maintained. Not only that but the point at which tax starts to be paid also needs to go up by 5%. The personal allowance in England and Wales is £12,570. This is the amount you can earn in the tax year before you start paying tax. Historically the personal allowance has risen annually but it was announced in the Autumn Statement the personal allowance level will not increase until 2028 at the

earliest. The 40% tax threshold was also frozen at £50,570 until 2028. As earnings rise each year if the personal allowance and other tax thresholds don't move more people will be dragged into either paying tax or paying more tax. Someone on a salary of £12,500 per year now would not pay tax. However, if they receive a pay rise of 5% their earnings will increase to £13,125 per year and they will start paying tax at 20% on the amount above £12,570. Total tax payable will be £111, which is 0.8% of total salary. If pay rises are awarded at 5% per year for the following three years total earnings will rise to £15,194 but the tax taken will increase to £525, which is 3.4% of their total salary. In addition to paying more tax, if earnings do not keep pace with inflation, money will just not spread as far. The reduction

*Carol Draper*

in an individual's finances leads to pressure on the economy as a whole. As people have less money to spend, the demand for goods and services reduces and economic growth slows down. That is Fiscal Drag.

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



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# Christmas Coffee Break



### MULLED WINE HOT CHOCOLATE

300ml red wine 1 cinnamon stick  
2 star anise 4 cloves 6 allspice berries  
2 tablespoons demerara sugar  
500mls milk 150g dark chocolate

Combine the first five ingredients, heat gently and simmer for 10 minutes. In a separate pan, heat the milk, then gradually whisk in the dark chocolate. Strain the red wine into the chocolate pan and stir. Serve in small glasses or cups with extra cinnamon stick stirrers.

### LUXURY HOT CHOCOLATE - with lots of topping suggestions!

2 tablespoons cocoa powder 1 litre milk  
2 tablespoons demerara sugar 100g chopped dark chocolate  
1 teaspoon vanilla essence 100 ml single cream

Put the cocoa in a large bowl or jug and mix in enough cold milk to make a smooth paste. Put the rest of the milk in a pan and bring to a simmer. Whisk the milk into the cocoa paste until everything is incorporated then pour back into the pan. Add the sugar, chopped chocolate, vanilla and cream and heat gently, stirring until everything is combined. Sweeten with extra demerara sugar to your liking.

**TOPPINGS** - dark rum, whisky, brandy, Disaronno or Baileys / squirty cream / Cadbury flake /cinnamon sticks/ ground cinnamon / chocolate chips / mini marshmallows /fudge chunks

*Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Ailsa, The Husband, Catkin, the cat, and The Four Hens!*



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

## Sudoku



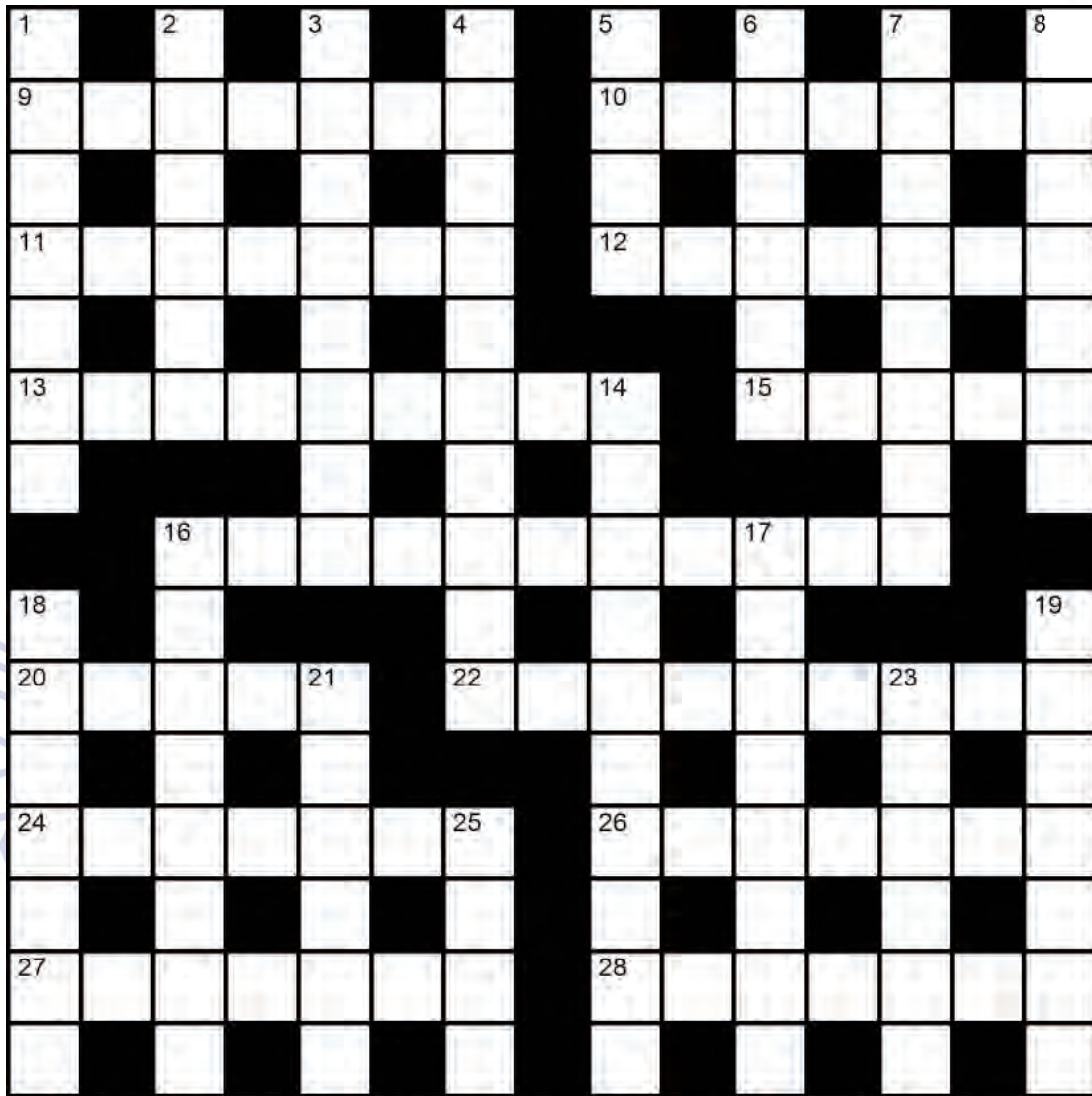
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	7	9	8	2				
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	3		1		4			
		4		8			3	5
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	8		5			2		7

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

## Wordsearch

- |         |        |          |
|---------|--------|----------|
| Abed    | Irving | Sob      |
| Ail     | Lame   | Tahiti   |
| Ashe    | Meant  | Tan      |
| Beats   | Mere   | Tvs      |
| Beeps   | Nap    | Vans     |
| Bye     | Navy   | Viet     |
| Dole    | Oat    | Wade     |
| East    | Order  | Waterway |
| Err     | Rent   | Wept     |
| Fries   | Row    | Widen    |
| Genoa   | Seemed | Yon      |
| Healthy | Sewed  |          |

# Christmas Crossword



**Across**

- 9 Hair cleaner (7)
- 10 German measles (7)
- 11 Chatter (7)
- 12 Anxious (7)
- 13 Emphasize (9)
- 15 Astonish (5)
- 16 Decent (11)
- 20 First prime minister of India (5)
- 22 Chinese revolutionary leader (3,3-3)
- 24 Type of chair (7)
- 26 Poorly matched (7)
- 27 Demolish (7)
- 28 Cooking vessel (7)

**Down**

- 1 Sterile (7)
- 2 Largest desert (6)
- 3 On an upper floor (8)
- 4 Depression from lack of company (10)
- 5 Make beer or ale (4)
- 6 Spain and Portugal (6)
- 7 Last (8)
- 8 Walked like a duck (7)
- 14 Put out (10)
- 16 Practise (8)
- 17 Wrist band (8)
- 18 Indefinite person (7)
- 19 Fishermen (7)
- 21 Yet to arrive (6)
- 23 Squalid (6)
- 25 Supporting ropes (4)



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# Christmas Crossword

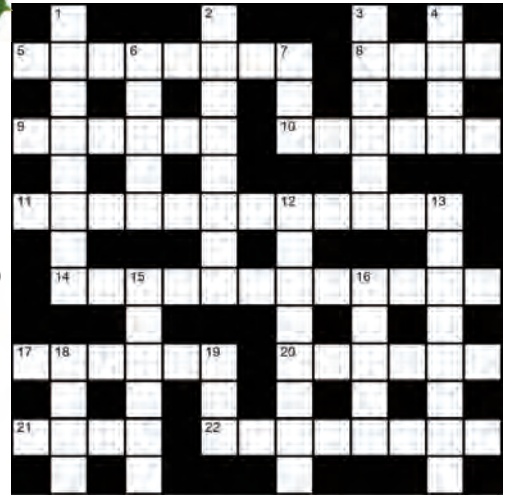


## Across

- 5 Relaxes (4,4)
- 8 Big shot in the office (4)
- 9 Epistle writer (2,4)
- 10 The Giant's Causeway is made of it (6)
- 11 Diverse enterprise (12)
- 14 Unexpectedly (3,2,3,4)
- 17 A man, a plan, a canal, ---! (6)
- 20 Untidy arrangement for natural state (6)
- 21 Concerning (2,2)
- 22 Scouring powder (8)

## Down

- 1 Highly skilled musician (8)
- 2 Declines (5,3)
- 3 Woman with many fans? (6)
- 4 Crossbow expert (4)
- 6 Not the Queen's English (5)
- 7 Soviet state security police (1,1,1)
- 12 Magnifies (8)
- 13 Shares (8)
- 15 Out-stared subjects of apprenticeships (6)
- 16 Get settled (3,2)
- 18 First-class (1-3)
- 19 Letters denoting simplicity (1,1,1)

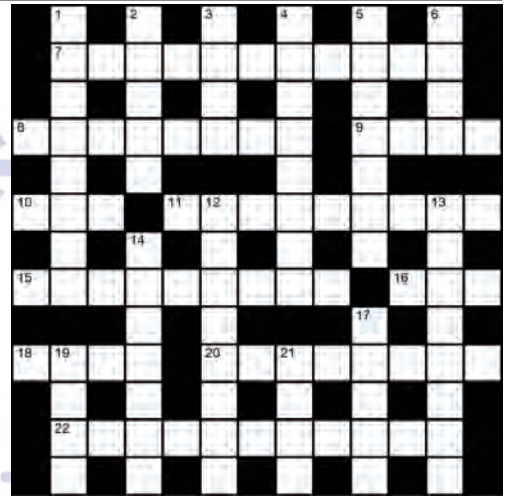


## Across

- 7 Job applicant (11)
- 8 No longer surprised by anything (4,2,2)
- 9 Chair (4)
- 10 Strike lightly (3)
- 11 Emoticons disturb financial specialist (9)
- 15 Essentials (4,5)
- 16 Become firm (3)
- 18 Tots up (4)
- 20 India's teardrop (3,5)
- 22 Very late (4,7)

## Down

- 1 Congo capital (8)
- 2 Wall supports (5)
- 3 Group of three (4)
- 4 Small compensation (8)
- 5 Pair mews too discordantly (7)
- 6 "The Wolf Man" actor --- Lugosi (4)
- 12 Albatross killer (8)
- 13 Dotted, like some eggs (8)
- 14 Hiring (7)
- 17 Rubs down (5)
- 19 Gravlax garnish (4)
- 21 Bumped off (4)

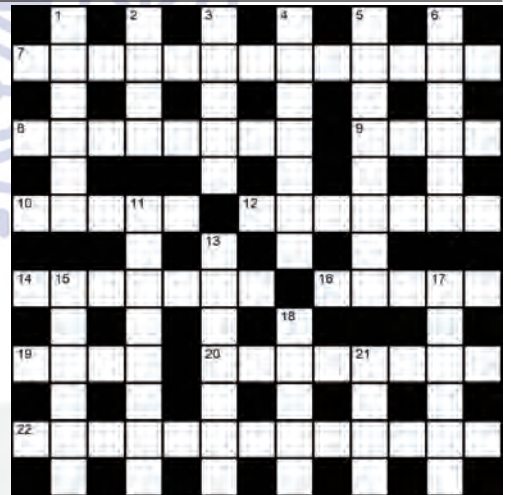


## Across

- 7 Re-erect nuns' TV, tuned for the news (7,6)
- 8 It may fit a king, a queen or a single (3,5)
- 9 Dry white wine (4)
- 10 Potholed (5)
- 12 Spreading (7)
- 14 Stumbles (7)
- 16 Rigid (5)
- 19 "--- She Lovely" (Stevie Wonder song) (4)
- 20 At the point of this, you can't go back (2,6)
- 22 Area not under government control (7,6)

## Down

- 1 A department of public administration (6)
- 2 Pâté de foie --- (4)
- 3 Finished (5)
- 4 Cloth (7)
- 5 Fish with a prehensile tail (3,5)
- 6 Medical imaging process (1,1,4)
- 11 Supposed (8)
- 13 Tearing off is hard (7)
- 15 Soak up (6)
- 17 Homily (6)
- 18 Bench exercise (5)
- 21 The practical application of science to industry (4)



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

	<b>9</b>	
<b>3</b>		<b>7</b>
	<b>1</b>	

<b>6</b>		<b>8</b>
		<b>3</b>
	<b>9</b>	

	<b>3</b>	
<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>2</b>		

# Poets' Corner

## A Shropshire Lad

Reveille VI

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

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

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

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

### Spot & Shop - November Winners

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1) Pat Collins  | 2) Bridget Barnett |
| 3) Tony Corbyn  | 4) Susan Hill      |
| 5) Adrian Smith | 6) Jean Kerslake   |
| 7) Val Culwick  |                    |

Last month's answer:  
Nigel Poole and Partners

### November Answers



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

Harold Wilson

# Christmas Quiz!



- 1) What colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant?
- 2) Who presented the first National Lottery TV program in 1994?
- 3) How many circles are there on a twister mat?
- 4) Lloyd Christmas is a character in which film?
- 5) In which sort of high street shop would you find a Brannock device?
- 6) 16th-century pirate Francis Le Clerc, nicknamed "Pata de Palo" by the Spanish, was the first modern era pirate to have what?
- 7) Which breed of dog is Santa's Little Helper in The Simpsons?
- 8) What is most common cockney rhyming slang for eyes?
- 9) Most of the top 20 largest hotels in the world can be found in which city?
- 10) What was founded in 1969 in Southampton by David Quayle and Richard Block?
- 11) 'Gone for a Burton' is a phrase used by World War Two pilots meaning gone missing, however, what was a Burton?
- 12) What is the French four letter word for Christmas?
- 13) Which politician was born on June 19, 1964, in New York City?
- 14) Which phrase meaning 'energetic labour' dates to the 17th century when it was used in print by the English poet Andrew Marvell?
- 15) How many countries make up Great Britain?
- 16) How many children were there in the TV classic The Waltons?
- 17) How many times has Del Boy Trotter been married in the BBC sitcom Only Fools and Horses?
- 18) The London Marathon takes place annually in which month of the year?
- 19) Which Christmassy item was invented in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1610 and was called 'lametta'?
- 20) 'Ablutions' is an anagram of which well known sportsman's names?



Answers: 1) White 2) Noel Edmunds 3) 24 4) Dumb and Dumber 5) Shoe shop 6) A peg leg 7) Greyhound 8) Mince Pies 9) Las Vegas 10) B&Q 11) A pint of beer (refers to going to the pub for a pint of Burton's Ale) 12) Noel 13) Boris Johnson 14) Elbow Grease 15) Three (Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom but not Great Britain) 16) SEVEN (John-Boy, Jason, Mary Ellen, Erin, Ben, Jim-Bo, and Elizabeth) 17) None (he never actually marries Rachel) 18) April 19) Tinseltown 20) USAIN BOLT



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

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## In memoriam

### Bridge. Gwyneth

Passed away peacefully at Bricklehampton Hall on 21st November 2022, aged 98 years. Beloved Wife of the late Arthur, a devoted Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Gwyneth will be very sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at Pershore Abbey, on Tuesday 6th December at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for Guide Dogs may be sent to E Hill & Son Funeral Directors.

### Keetley June

Passed away peacefully at home on November 7th 2022, aged 84 years. Much loved Wife of the late Mike, a devoted Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. June will be very sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Thursday November 24th at 12noon.

### NASH Dorothy Ann

Passed away peacefully on October 24th 2022, aged 79 years. A much loved Daughter, Sister and Aunt. Dot will be very sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service took place at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Thursday 17th November. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for St Richards Hospice and Campden Home Nursing CIO may be sent to E Hill & Son Funeral Directors.

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## Copy Deadline

February Issue - 16th January 2023

## Can you play Bridge?

If so, come and join us on a Wednesday or Friday evening for a couple of hours.

We play friendly games online and by using your computer or tablet you can chat and see everyone at the table. Players of all abilities are most welcome.

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*Some evening meetings but much home working. Average of about 10 hours a month. Attractive remuneration.*

Please apply by email to: [bcmldirectors@yahoo.com](mailto:bcmldirectors@yahoo.com)

# Planning Applications

Planning Application Ref W/22/00467/FUL.  
Land At (Os 9260 4129) South Of, Hacketts Lane, Eckington.  
Erection of 6 dwellings with new access arrangements and associated works, a new school staff car park. Change of use from agricultural to school land and related works.  
*Mr Ian O’Gorman Lockley Homes & Eckington Parish Council*

Planning Application Ref W/22/02225/PIP.  
Land At (OS 9494 4783), Station Road, Pershore. Permission in Principle for development of 3 dwellings to land at the rear of Coventry Terrace, Pershore.  
*Mr Green*

Planning Application Ref W/22/01881/HP.  
13 Furlongs Road, Pershore, WR10 1NY. Single-storey side/rear extension to form attached annex.  
*Mrs J Davies*

**Worcester Philharmonic ORCHESTRA**

**Soprano Holly Teague**  
Conductor Joe Davies  
Leader Graham Longfils

## Saturday 7th January 2023

2.30pm  
**Pershore Abbey**  
WR10 1BL

# NEW YEAR CONCERT

**Song and Dance from Vienna**

Beethoven - Leonore no. 3 Overture  
Mahler - Blumine  
Strauss - Treasure Waltz  
Arias by Mozart and Lehár

Tickets £15 (under 16’s free) available from:  
Tourist Offices in Worcester, Pershore and Malvern  
Ticket Secretary: 01905 353013  
Pershore Town Hall  
Online at: [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk)

PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE IF POSSIBLE (Booking fees apply online). Registered Charity Number 532073

# What’s On?



## Cinema Listings

**Spirited (cert tbc)**  
Monday 12 December - 11.00am & 7.30pm & Wednesday 14 December 7.30pm  
Dir. Sean Anders & John Morris  
Tickets: £8.50, Daytime £7.00

**The Banshees of Inisherin (15)** Tuesday 13 & Thursday 15 December - 7.30pm  
Dir. Martin McDonagh  
Tickets: £8.50

**The Woman King (15)** Friday 16 & Thursday 22 December - 7.30pm  
Dir. Gina Prince-Bythewood.  
Tickets: £8.50

**Roald Dahl’s Matilda the Musical (PG)**  
Saturday 17 December 7.30pm  
Monday 19 December 11.00am  
Wednesday 21 December 7.30pm  
Thursday 22 December 2.00pm  
Saturday 24 December 11.00am  
Tuesday 27 December - 2.00pm & 7.30pm  
Wednesday 28 December - 11.00am & 7.30pm  
Dir. Matthew Warchus  
Tickets: £8.50, Daytime £7.00

**Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris (PG)**  
Monday 19 December 7.30pm  
Dir. Anthony Fabian  
Tickets: £8.50, Daytime £7.00

**Confess, Fletch (15)**  
Thursday 29 December 7.30pm  
Tuesday 3 January 7.30pm  
Dir. Greg Mottola  
Tickets: £8.50

**Guillermo Del Toro & Pinocchio (PG)**  
Friday 30 December - 2.30pm & 7.30pm - Dir. Guillermo del Toro & Mark Gustafson  
Tickets: £8.50, Daytime £7.00

**Eiffel (15)**  
Thursday 5 January - 7.30pm  
Dir. Martin Bourboulon.  
Tickets: £8.50

**A Bunch of Amateurs (12A)**  
Friday 6 January - 7.30pm  
Dir. Kim Hopkins  
Tickets: £8.50

**Armageddon Time (15)**  
Saturday 7 January - 7.30pm;  
Monday 9 January - 11.00am & 7.30pm - Dir. James Gray  
Tickets: £8.50, Daytime £7.00

**Decision to Leave (15)**  
Thursday 12 January - 7.30pm;  
Friday 20 January - 2.30pm  
Dir. Park Chan-wook  
Tickets: £8.50 Daytime £7.00

**Juniper (15)**  
Friday 13 & Tuesday 17 January - 7.30pm Dir. Matthew J. Saville  
Tickets: £8.50

**The Wonder (15)**  
Saturday 14 January - 7.30pm  
Monday 16 January - 11.00am & 7.30pm Dir. Sebastián Lelio.  
Tickets: £8.50, Daytime £7.00

**The Menu (15)**  
Saturday 21 January - 7.30pm  
Dir. Mark Mylod Tickets: £8.50

**Hilma (12A)**  
Monday 23 January - 11.00am & 7.30pm;  
Tuesday 24 January - 7.30pm  
Dir. Lasse Hallström  
Tickets: £8.50, Daytime £7.00

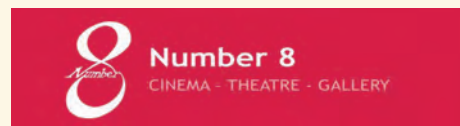
**She Said (15)**  
Friday 27 & Saturday 28 January 7.30pm Dir. Maria Schrader  
Tickets: £8.50

**The Silent Twins (cert tbc)**  
Monday 30 January - 11.00am & 7.30pm;  
Tuesday 31 January - 7.30pm  
Dir. Agnieszka Smoczyńska  
Tickets: £8.50, Daytime £7.00

## Events Listings

**Berliner Philharmoniker LIVE: New Year’s Eve Concert**  
Saturday 31 December 4.00pm  
Tickets: £17.50 (includes a glass of fizz) (plus £1 if booked online) 2hrs

**André Rieu in Dublin**  
Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 January 3.00pm - Tickets: £18 (plus £1 if booked online) 2hrs



High Street Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1BG  
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# Pershore Times



## Club Captain's charity donation to Myeloma UK



Left to right: Brian Bunn, Senior Men's Captain, Diana Harris, Charity Organiser for Worcestershire Myeloma UK, Jan Ledbury, Lady Captain, Tony Perks, Men's Captain.

A cheque for £14,250 from the Captains' Charity 2022, was presented to Diana Harris, Charity

Organiser for Worcestershire Myeloma UK, prior to the Vale Golf Club's AGM.

## Vale Golf & Country Club new lady captain



Despite the weather there was a great turn out for the Lady Captain's drive-in on Tuesday 15th November. Very well done to our 2023 Lady Captain Pearl Winchester for hitting the

ball in front of everyone with a good measurement of port to warm her up. Have a great year's captaincy

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New Year's Day 10am - 4pm

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