

# Kempsey Times



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

Issue 1

February 2024

**FREE**



River Severn and the Malvern Hills near Kempsey

**W**elcome to the first edition of the **Kempsey Times**. We had been planning to launch a newspaper for Kempsey and with the closing of **K.Links**, we brought forward our plans. This is a free publication with an initial print run of 2500 copies, which we plan to increase over the coming months. 1000 copies will be delivered by the Church volunteers to the **K.Links** contributors and the balance will be placed in shops and public houses.

We hope you enjoy the first edition. This is your newspaper, editorial is free, so please let us have as much local news as you can, club news and forthcoming local events will be most welcome. We have received very enthusiastic support which is much appreciated. Thanks go to all the editorial

contributors and advertisers. Advertisers who have existing contracts will be included in this newspaper, with the increased circulation, at no cost, until the contract is completed. The pre-paid advertising funds have been donated to the Church by the Kempsey Times. We will

negotiate with the advertisers at the end of the contracts. We have to ensure the advertisers are happy with our efforts to sell their products. We will obviously have to see how things go, but we do not plan to increase advertising rates. We do not have advertising contracts, our way is 'you pay as you go'. If you don't find the newspaper satisfactory, you can cancel at any time. We have always worked this way and we have an 85% advertising repeat ratio. We publish three other Newspapers - Pershore, Upton and Powick Times, plus we have a daily on-line newspaper called *today!*. This fills the gap

between the monthly printed copies and events happening today! You can obtain your newspaper on-line and it will come to your phone, pad or computer every month free of charge. 2024 is going to be an exciting year for us and we are determined to make the Kempsey Times successful.

To receive the  
**Kempsey Times**  
by e-mail visit  
[www.kempseytimes.com](http://www.kempseytimes.com)  
enter your name and  
email address

## GET HANDS ON AT HAWFORD

King's Hawford is a prep school that nurtures potential, challenges limits and inspires creativity. Join us at our forthcoming discovery event to experience all things Hawford.

**DISCOVERY DAY SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [KSW.ORG.UK/HAWFORD](http://KSW.ORG.UK/HAWFORD)



 **King's  
Hawford**

# County & District Report

*Councillor Martin Allen*

Here we are, January gone, the worst of the dark behind us and, come March – the 31st to be precise – I will be worrying about how to change the clock in my better car. You would think it would be easy – I fiddle with it twice a year – but the procedure seems to alter each time. I'm all for leaving it on British Summer Time.



funded by the council as a 12-month trial. It covers a wide area, including Great Malvern, Upton, Tewkesbury, Kempsey, Croome Court, St Peter's Garden Centre and St Peter's Tesco. Please give it a go: it's a case of use it or lose it, and with the reduction in commercial bus services, we need this new service to pick up the space.

## **Our Super Bus Service Official Launches**

The Worcestershire on Demand bus service has finally launched. There are several 16-seater buses that provide the service. You can use the app on your phone or smart device, but if you prefer you can call 01905 846180 to book a trip. It's just like ordering



an online taxi. If you want to go out immediately, you put your destination into the app and the next available bus will display. However, if you want to prebook a trip, you change the date using the drop-down menu and request a time slot. You will receive a confirmation text message an hour or so before your departure, and then texts giving 15 and 5-minute warnings. You can track the progress of the bus on the App, and it will also give you details of the vehicle. The normal cost is £2.50 per trip and £1.25 for the second passenger where a couple are travelling together. For passengers with concessions, such as senior bus passes, the trip will be free. This service is

## ***A big welcome to the Kempsey Times***

Can I add my name to the list of people warmly welcoming the new Kempsey Times, I wish them every success. I hope to post in here now and then when I feel there is something you should hear about. Finally, as ever, I am here for you if need me. With Spring on the horizon and the daffodils about to burst, I'm so grateful to live in such a wonderful area.

Warmest regards

*Martin Allen*

# Save the Children



Children in Gaza are living through a nightmare – one that gets more distressing by the hour. Children in Gaza have been killed, maimed and subjected to unrelenting violence while Israeli children have now spent more than two months as hostages. After over two months of siege and bombing, children's mental health in Gaza is being pushed beyond breaking point. As the cold, wet winter sets in, children who have had to flee their homes with little more than the clothes on their back are also at risk of hunger and fatal illnesses like pneumonia. The children caught up in this terrible conflict – who had nothing to do with causing it – urgently need your help.

## ***What Save The Children is doing to help children in Gaza***

We have begun to distribute food parcels, water, hygiene products and recreational kits to families in Gaza through local partners.

We have also started to provide mental health and psychosocial support to children and their families and we're delivering cash to families to help them to buy essentials.

In Egypt, we're supporting hospitals and ambulances to receive medical evacuees from Gaza, including assistance for premature babies, and we're training frontline staff on child safeguarding as well as mental health and psychosocial support.

We are ready to scale up our response as soon as it's possible to do so.

*If you would like to make a donation to Save the Children please contact Julia on 01905 820138 or Heather 01905 821040 or to donate online, visit: [www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate)*



**Save the Children**

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and that you had a good Christmas.

2023 was another successful year for the Kempsey Group of S.T.C., together with the wonderful, generous people of Kempsey, we raised £4,207.10,

a fantastic amount which will help children and their families have a better standard of living. We would like to thank our regular supporters for helping us raise that marvellous amount.

*Heather and Julia*

# Cornflower Club

Happy New Year to all our members. We look forward to meeting new members as we gather to enjoy tea and biscuits together.

We have a full programme of speakers and entertainers which Sally kindly finds for us. We have a raffle and if we have time, a game of bingo.

The first meeting for February

is on Wednesday 14th and a fortnight later on 28th starting at 2-30 in the Parish Hall. We would really like to see more people come and join us.

Ladies and gentlemen over 60 years of age would be most welcome, come and see what we do.

*Sally Linsey 01905 820476  
Julia Grant 01905 820138*

# Camera Club



"Best Of Enemies" by Cathy Dhonau

A somewhat belated Happy New Year! Following a quieter December, and a pick up of activity in January, February promises to offer a reasonable middle ground. We hope that the items from our programme for this month, as listed below, might be of sufficient interest for you to register as a visitor and perhaps - in due course - become a new member! Our first meeting of February, which will be held on Wednesday 14th, will take the form of a presentation and discussion of images under the title of "Edit Challenge". For this, images edited by their original authors will be compared with an alternative edit carried out by another member of the Club; a previous version of this allowed the similarities and differences of technical and interpretative approach - and result - to be considered by all present, and for lessons to be drawn. The second meeting in February will be our second "Open" DPI (projected image) competition of the season, for which the

judge will be Erica Oram CPAGB, AFIAP BPE3. This will be Erica's first visit to the Club but, as she comes highly recommended, we look forward to hearing her comments and ranking of the images submitted. For all of our on-line meetings, we will continue to welcome "virtual" visitors in the hope that they will see the benefits of joining the Club by subscribing for the season. Details of these, and the following meetings, are available at the web address below.

*If you are interested in attending any of the meetings then please contact us via the link on the website.*

[www.kempseycameraclub.uk/2023-24-programme](http://www.kempseycameraclub.uk/2023-24-programme)

In the meantime we hope that you will enjoy these two very different images - "Best Of Enemies" & "Potting Up" by Shelagh Allen - two of the five top-placed images in our recent "Open" Print competition.

*Malcolm A Hay,  
Secretary*



"Potting Up" by Shelagh Allen



# Kempsey WI

To kick off the festive season, members of Kempsey WI were delighted to welcome Pershore's Guided {correct} Lilies for their last-ever performance. After more than 20 years of singing, performing sketches and giving readings, to raise money for numerous good causes, the group of women has decided to give up. For their final event, at Kempsey Youth Centre, seven singers and a keyboard player entertained the WI members with Christmas songs, readings, jokes and rhymes. The over-60s entertainers convincingly played young children in an hilarious version of a Nativity play and alternative versions of The twelve Days of Christmas and Little Red Riding Hood, along with a story of the '4th Wise Man' with his practical

presents, also brought laughter. Long-time organiser June Herbert was presented with flowers at the end of the performance. She judged the competition for a corsage made from artificial flowers, with Janet Jeynes placed first. The celebrations continued with about thirty members enjoying a Christmas Ladies That Lunch, at The Bell in Lower Broadheath. Then the regular December meeting took the form of a Christmas party, with festive food, party games and a quiz.

*February's Kempsey WI meeting is due to hear about the family business of Johnsons Coaches.*

*Kempsey Youth Centre,  
Plovers Rise WR5 3SA  
Monday 19th February at 14:00*



# Probus Club



The Probus Club of Worcester South meets on alternate Monday mornings at St Dunstan's Bowling Club, Greenhill, off Bath Road, Worcester WR5 2AF.

Probus is a recreational and entertainment club with no specific requirements for visitors or members save that they should be mainly retired. Worcester South is a gentleman's club but there is also a lady's club in Worcester. The club's secretary, Geoff Winkworth explained: "Probus Clubs are a fantastic antidote to loneliness and a point of focus for retired members providing companionship, entertainment and recreation. He added: "We are an entirely social and recreational club, we do not fund raise and the only cost to members is the modest cost of running the club. There is plenty of free parking. Our meetings begin with a chat and

then sit down to listen to a talk or presentation on a variety of subjects very often including slides or a video. This is followed by more chat, coffee and biscuits and a very short business meeting. We also enjoy periodic outings with wives and partners to places of interest or which might include a visit to a pub for a meal."

*South Worcester Probus Club would like to welcome visitors and maybe prospective new members who can contact Geoff Winkworth at [gwinkworth@aol.com](mailto:gwinkworth@aol.com) or 01886 822215*

*For more information visit: [probusonline.org/worcester-south](http://probusonline.org/worcester-south)*

# Exciting volunteering opportunities

with *Kempsey's Community Interest Company (CIC)*

Kempsey Promotions CIC was officially registered as a not for profit limited company in August 2022 after leading involvement with a successful four days of fun and frivolity celebrating HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Since then the CIC has been leading the way with Community Events in Kempsey including Warm Welcomes, King Charles III Coronation Big Lunch and a memorable pop up Skatepark in the centre of the village.

We work closely with other Kempsey stakeholders such as the Parish Council, Church, School and Platform Housing. We are keen to talk to you if you are interested in one of the following:

## **D-Day 80 Celebration** coordinated by Pageantmaster **Bruno Peek.**

On 6th June 2024 there will be a Beacon Lighting event linked across the country at precisely 9.15p.m. We expect a sizeable crowd on Kempsey Common and have a number of roles during the planning, preparation, delivery and breakdown.

*Email to register your interest – infokempseyrevels@gmail.com*

## **Digital Inclusion Project**

You can be in at the start of this ambitious project to support and guide the community in an ever increasingly digital world. At this early stage it is a project requiring vision and drive in

order to deliver community benefits.

*Email to register your interest – infokempseyrevels@gmail.com*

## **Oral History Project**

This is a longer term project to capture first hand memories of events and change in and around Kempsey from a resource with so much to offer and a challenge of time and capability. We have seen some big and intriguing ideas for an end product and are looking to arrange accredited training through the Oral History Society to ensure professionalism throughout all aspects of the project.

*Email to register your interest – infokempseyrevels@gmail.com*



## **Kempsey Village Summer Fete**

This annual event is planned for Saturday 29th June 2024, and we are always looking for new and exhilarating ideas to make the event memorable, profitable and fun.

*Email to register your interest – infokempseyrevels@gmail.com*

*Please feel free to get in touch if you want to learn more about the work of Kempsey Promotions CIC. We would love to hear from you!*



## Severnside Parishes

### **Art Ministry Relaxation & Mindfulness**

Mindful Colouring  
Bible Journaling  
Sketching  
Poetry  
Creative writing  
Painting  
Prayer Doodling  
Collage

#### **Friday**

**9:30am - 12:00 noon**

Refreshments & Breakfast

Pastries 9.30am

Create 10am - 12pm

**Term time only!**

### **Sanctuary Arts Community**

**The Beechhill Room,  
St James Church, Norton**

Car Park on Hatfield Lane WR5 2PY

There is no charge but we ask for a suggested donation of £5 for on-going material

**All Welcome!**

**For more information**

Please contact Kay Mason

01905 356216 / 07921 122802

Email: [kay.mason@motov8.org.uk](mailto:kay.mason@motov8.org.uk)



## **Stepping Stones**

Join us with your children ages 0-5 for play, friendly chat and shared support!

Crafts and a sensory around a theme!

**Monday 10:30am**

St James Church Norton

**Tuesday 10:00am**

St Mary's Church-Kempsey

**Thursday 1:30pm**

St Mary's Church-Kempsey

**£3 per family**

**Snacks and refreshments provided!**

**All Welcome!**

**For more information**

Please contact Libbirty on

[libbirty.holt@motov8.org.uk](mailto:libbirty.holt@motov8.org.uk)



## **Fun, games, community and a little talk or thought!**

We have pool, table tennis, craft and lots of games!

**Free of charge to come**

A tuck shop for those who want sweets!

**Wednesday  
6:30pm - 8:00pm  
at St Mary's Kempsey**

**Year 6 - Year 13  
Term time only!**

**For more information**

Please contact Libbirty on

[libbirty.holt@motov8.org.uk](mailto:libbirty.holt@motov8.org.uk)

### **First Sunday**

10:30am All Age Service  
St Mary's Kempsey  
10:30am Holy Communion  
St Denys Severn Stoke

### **Second Sunday**

10:30am Holy Communion  
St Mary's Kempsey  
10:30am Holy Communion  
St James Norton

### **Third Sunday**

10:30am Informal Worship  
St Mary's Kempsey  
10:30am Holy Communion  
St Denys Severn Stoke

### **Fourth Sunday**

10:30am Holy Communion  
St Mary's Kempsey  
10:30am Morning Worship  
St James Norton

### **Fifth Sunday**

Benefice Service  
Please see social media and notice boards for more information.

### **Thursday's**

10:00am Holy Communion  
followed by coffee morning

## **Contact Information**

**Curate in Charge:**

Rachel Colthurst  
[rachel.colthurst@motov8.org.uk](mailto:rachel.colthurst@motov8.org.uk)

**Baptisms**

[libbirty.holt@motov8.org.uk](mailto:libbirty.holt@motov8.org.uk)

**Funerals**

[rachel.colthurst@motov8.org.uk](mailto:rachel.colthurst@motov8.org.uk)

**Weddings**

[weddings@severnsideparishes.co.uk](mailto:weddings@severnsideparishes.co.uk)

# Severnside Parishes

New Year! New Magazine!  
New You? A belated Happy  
New Year!

We hope you will enjoy this very first edition of The Kempsey Times (which replaces the K.Links Parish Magazine) and that all the varied contributions that you find within its pages will provide a few moments of light relief during these rather gloomy winter days.

So... a new year, a new magazine... and, as Severnside parishes (in the villages of Kempsey, Norton and Severn Stoke), we too find ourselves in a new season. We are in 'vacancy' as we await the arrival of a new vicar for our churches, and as we move into our new office space at Seabourne Leisure.

This feeling of newness is an interesting concept!

On the one hand, there's something about 'the new' which is very attractive - exciting even - the prospect of a fresh start, and new possibilities; the first page of a new book, the first day of a new year, a brand new exercise regime, collecting the keys of a new car, stepping into the hallway of a new home, or the

arrival of a new baby - present us with the potential of new and exciting opportunities.

On the other hand, 'the new' may instil in us a rather different reaction - causing us to feel daunted or concerned and wondering what might lie ahead, or how things might play out in the future. Will the new job be as fulfilling as my old one? Will my new relationship last? Will my child's new school be the right place for them? Will this new treatment work? Will my parents be ok in their new care home?

I wonder what it is about 'the new' that evokes such a wide range of emotions?

As I have pondered these things at the start of this year, it has struck me that the new things we encounter in our lives remind us that the stories we tell ourselves about who we are, and where our lives may lead us are - as yet - unfinished. And furthermore, the new things we encounter - the new project, the new pastime, the new love, the new season in life - not only prevent us from stagnating, from standing still - but also remind us of all that is

possible within us.

Embracing what is new involves a change, a breaking up of the normal pattern of our lives and reconfiguring them in some way. This is not always easy and takes courage, some self-compassion, a strong will, and a degree of vulnerability to let go of the old, take a risk, and leap into the thrilling, yet sometimes terrifying waters of what is new.

I wonder what your new thing is in 2024. And how do you feel about it?

It might surprise you to know that the Bible tells us that God is someone who always welcomes the new; in fact, he's the instigator of it! We read that he 'is doing a new thing' (Isaiah 43:18-19), making 'all things new' (Revelation 21:5), and making each of us 'a new creation' (2 Corinthians 5:17) when, through Jesus, we become his friends. The Bible also tells us that God's mercy and compassion are 'new every morning' (Lamentations 3: 22-24), that his unquenchable love and forgiveness are available to us all, each day, and renewed every morning - no matter what yesterday was like, and no matter the story of our lives so


far (the good, the bad, and the distinctly ugly). Every day, God offers us a new day full of fresh opportunities to encounter his love and his friendship.

As Christians, we know that with God, our lives are constantly being made new and that in any new, and changing season, we can hold tight to God's promise that he will always be with us and that he will 'never leave us or forsake us' (Deuteronomy 31:6) - no matter what new thing we are facing.

As church families, we would love to welcome you, and walk with you as you embrace 'the new' in your life in this year, and as you continue to write the unfinished stories of your lives - whether that's an exciting prospect or one that feels a little more challenging right now. Please do come and join us or drop us a line.

To close, I'd like to use the invitation of Irish poet and priest John Donoghue to encourage you to take hold of any new beginning you have on your plate - not least this new year of 2024!

*Rachel Colthurst,  
Assistant Curate,  
Severnside Parishes*



## NEW YEAR

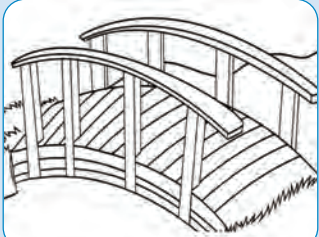
GRASPING OPPORTUNITIES...

### Questions

What is the biggest bridge you can think of?

What is your New Years Resolution this year?

### Colour me in



At the start of each year, we know that there will be many challenges and opportunities ahead of us. Just like the bridge in the pictures, some opportunities seem very exciting and inviting, and we can set off towards them with confidence. However, some bridges leave us feeling a bit frightened and unsure.

### Prayer

Dear God,  
Thank you for those around us and for the difference that we can make in each other's lives. Thank you that you are always wherever we go!  
Amen

Nevertheless, no matter how we feel, crossing the bridge is essential if we want to move to the other side and experience all the things that are in store for us there.

At the start of a new year, it is a good time to stop and make some decisions about the year ahead:

1. Maybe we could decide that we are going to try something completely new.
2. Maybe we could decide that, even if we find something hard, we are going to continue to try hard.



## Angel Bombing Community Project 2024



Sanctuary Arts Community

ART IS WORSHIP | WORSHIP IS ART

## Calling all knitters and Crocheters!

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



### Join us on Fridays

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

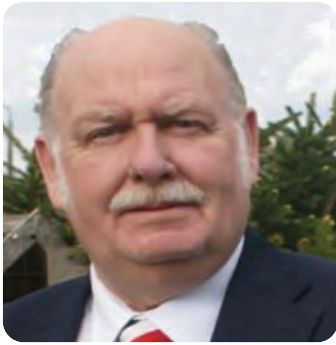


There will be yarn and patterns available for you to use in the church.  
If you prefer to make the Angels at home, please contact us for the pattern.

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

# District Councillors February Report

*Here I try to give you a brief update on District Council and other items that we have been involved in, within the Ward of Kempsey. Produced on 19th January 2024. The contents of this report are provided by David Harrison who is the sole person responsible for the contents.*



David Harrison

We have to start off thanking Hughes & Company for producing this local newspaper/magazine for the Kempsey area. This follows the Kempsey Parish Magazine and also KLINKS over the last 40 plus years. On behalf of myself and my wife Jan, we wish everybody a Happy New Year and thanks for all for the cards for Christmas and wishing me a speedy recovery for my four hour operation in the Alexander Hospital in Redditch for Bowel Cancer on 6th December – now fully removed and recovering but very, very tired. I must say a brilliant service and the staff are also excellent. Thanks also to those people transporting myself and Jan over the last two months.

## **Severn Stoke Flood Defence**

I have it in writing from the Environment Agency that they are discussing with the final two Contractors (as of 14th February) and deciding soon, which contractor will build the Flood Defence for Severn Stoke. The trees have been removed, but hopefully the archaeological survey will re-commence soon and when the flood waters recede, then the “newts” can be caught and re-located.

## **Kinnersley Daffodil Bulbs**

Twenty large sacks have been planted, supplied from our District Council funding in 2022-23 and also local donations. I am sure that these will enhance the village and grateful thanks to Ray and

his volunteers with this project. Looking forward to spectacular results.

## **SWDPr**

The public enquiry of the District wide Local Plan is hopefully due to take place locally very soon. Two planning inspectors have already been appointed. Questions have been asked of the three Councils (Malvern Hills, Wychavon and Worcester City) and these are due to be responded to before the end of January. See South Worcestershire Development Plan Review | Local Plan Examination Services ([localplanservices.co.uk](http://localplanservices.co.uk)) for more details.

## **Local Planning**

Severn Stoke Village hall has been demolished and the future of this area is not yet decided. A planning application for housing in Brookend Lane for approx. 40 properties has been approved. Unfortunately Cllr John Michael tried his very best to fight against this as, unfortunately, I was not able to attend as having my operation at this same date and time.

## **Kempsey and Severn Stoke “On Demand” Buses**

The full introduction of the “On Demand Buses” is now active...

You can now book a bus trip to Malvern retail park and train station, Upton, Worcestershire Parkway, Croome Court, Tesco, B&M, Aldi, plus County Hall has been added and you can walk through to the Hospital from here (less than 10 minutes) but other areas are still being negotiated by Cllr Martin Allen and Cllr Tom Wells – Thanks to them for this first initiative within the Malvern District area. (Late news - you can go to Tewkesbury and back direct on a Wednesday on this service). Cost is £2-50 per journey with second passenger paying £1-25 and concessionary passes can be used after 9.30am. Trips must be pre-booked by calling 01905 846180 or via the app.

Please note that the telephone line is only open 9am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, so book the day before or Friday for Monday. The bus operates Monday to Saturday 7am to 7pm and if you are disabled, then just say. Please note that this is run by

Worcestershire County Council and may have teething problems at first. Please use it or we will lose it!!

Let us know how you get on – good or bad – thanks.

## **Cllr John Michael Report**



John Michael

A very Happy New Year to you all which hasn't started too well with all the floods we've suffered recently, particularly those who live in Severn Stoke and I hope the promised action by the Environment Agency that work in earnest will begin shortly in providing much needed protection for the village. One of my roles as District Councillor is as a trustee of Malvern Hills Trust formerly known as Malvern Hills Conservators, and I have recently been elected to chair the Land Management Committee and also Vice Chair of the Governance Committee. We are actively engaged in preparing a Private Members Bill to submit to Parliament by November this year. The aim of the Bill is to amalgamate the five Acts that govern the use and maintenance of the Hills. The earliest Act is dated 1884 with subsequent Acts being introduced until the last one in 1995. Many of the clauses are now out of date and the language employed old fashioned and it is time they were all amalgamated under one Act which is easier to understand. Finally I am glad that my Co-

Councillor David Harrison has been returning towards better health as his knowledge of all things Council related is unsurpassed. I am still dealing with housing problems so please contact me if you have problems. Draft Local Habitat Map and details on how to participate in the consultation – The consultation document, a link to the Draft Local Habitat Map, and details on how to participate in the consultation can be found on the County Council's website at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lnrs](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lnrs)

## **Fire Service Review**

A review of the fire service and their equipment/personnel is available at...

[www.hwfire.org.uk/your-right-to-know/consultation](http://www.hwfire.org.uk/your-right-to-know/consultation)

It is critical that responses are sent regarding this consultation as most of our area is either motorway or countryside away from the location of these services, and any cuts, could be disastrous.

*In the first instance, please contact your local Parish Clerk:*

**Kempsey Parish Council**  
Sharon Baxter 01905 828183  
[kempseyparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kempseyparishcouncil@gmail.com)

**Severn Stoke Parish Council**  
Lisa Stevens 07950 256363  
[severnstokeandcda@gmail.com](mailto:severnstokeandcda@gmail.com)

*But please feel free to contact either of your District Councillors with any questions:*

**David Harrison**  
01905 828107  
8 Brookend Lane, Kempsey  
[davidthomasharrison@hotmail.com](mailto:davidthomasharrison@hotmail.com)

**John Michael**  
01905 317930  
18 Meadow Close, Kempsey  
[john.michael@malvernhillscd.net](mailto:john.michael@malvernhillscd.net)



# A few words from... Harriett Baldwin MP



## Further Emergency Flood Support

Harriett Baldwin MP has welcomed confirmation that an emergency fund will come into operation for a second time in four months to help homes and businesses affected by flooding. A series of storms over the Winter has led to saturated land and serious flooding across the country and properties along the rivers Severn, Avon and the Teme have been impacted by flood damage. The Government has confirmed that a support scheme, managed by local district councils, will help people to fix storm damage as well as helping them to access funding to prevent future flooding. The scheme was last triggered in October when Storm Babet hit the region and Harriett has been working closely with Malvern Hills and

Wychavon District Councils to ensure that people who qualify, are able to get support during this latest weather event. Harriett commented: "I am saddened that yet again homes and businesses have flooded across West Worcestershire with all the disruption and turmoil that comes with serious bad weather. The saturated ground means that flooding remains a risk and I am once again grateful that we've got major flood defence schemes in places like Upton-upon-Severn and Kempsey and Pershore working to protect properties. They have paid for themselves many times over in the years since they were constructed. My thoughts are particularly with the people living in Severn Stoke, who were promised that the permanent flood defence scheme construction would have been underway by now, and I am due to have a meetings with both the Department and the chief executive of the Environment Agency to discuss this hold-up. Right now, my focus is on making sure that everyone is able to access support and as Parliament returns, I'll be talking to the key Ministers to see what we can do to accelerate the two schemes currently outstanding in my patch – in Tenbury Wells and, of course, in Severn Stoke."

# King's Worcester -

*One of Top 30 Sporting Schools in the country*

King's Worcester has been named in the top 1% of sporting schools in the country this week. This impressive ranking sees King's sitting alongside some of the country's top sporting independent and state schools, such as Millfield, Epsom College, and Repton School. The School has jumped 98 places in the last 12 months and this Top 30 ranking puts King's in the top 1% as well as being the only school in Worcester to appear in the Top 165. The list, independently created by School Sport Magazine, is compiled from 20 different sports and over 120 different events. Weighting is given to success in a range of sports rather than a particular sport, and to those sports with more schools competing. To be listed, schools must have reached the later stages of at least two, three or four national competitions. Foundation Director of Sport, Jonny Mason commented, "This is fantastic news for sport at King's. We've had busy and successful few years recently, and the hard work that both the Sports Department and the pupils have put in has really paid off. We are so fortunate, as a day school, to be able to offer such a wide range of sports and to compete in these at national level. Consistently playing at such a standard takes skill, resilience,

and determination." Headmaster Gareth Doodles added, "Sport has always been incredibly strong here at King's and it's wonderful to be recognised for this and to be up there with the best sports schools in the country. We are fortunate to have an enviable, finely honed, and impressive sports programme, with dedicated and professional experts guiding the pupils to achieve their very best and more, both collectively and individually. The opportunity for our pupils to play at national level is something that most of us could only have dreamed of as a child." This news for King's follows hot on the heels of their recent Top 10 national ranking for academic performance, as the School was named in the prestigious Sunday Times' Parent Power 2024 Schools Guide as one of the Top Ten Independent Secondary Schools in the West Midlands. Ranked for their academic excellence against some of the county's 900 secondary schools, King's appears in seventh position, alongside King's High Warwick, King Edward VI High School, Birmingham, and Solihull School. This is a testament to the rounded education and inclusive ethos of the King's Foundation of Schools.

*We spent ages trying to think of a decent bin pun.  
Turns out, they were all rubbish!*

 Green recycling bin

 Black waste bin



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

MARCH						
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APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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# Kempsey Parish Council News [www.kempseyhub.co.uk](http://www.kempseyhub.co.uk)

## **Planning update**

Malvern Hills Council's Northern Area Planning Committee has decided to grant planning permission for up to forty dwellings on agricultural land off Brookend Lane, Kempsey. This is despite having refused to permit a similar proposal for slightly fewer dwellings off Post Office Lane and then won, with the Parish Council's support, an appeal against the decision. Both are outside the development boundary, both would intrude into the countryside and harm the village's landscape setting as well as put an added burden on existing services and facilities. Indeed, it is now confirmed that there are no primary or secondary school places available and children from five years onwards will have to be "transported" to unspecified schools elsewhere. A legal agreement to secure financial contributions is required, so the permission has not been formally granted yet. It was a close call with six councillors for and five against. Another application for up to

140 dwellings around Bannut Hill hasn't been decided but the Brookend Lane decision is worrying. A strong public representation against the application at the meeting could have changed the Brookend Lane decision and is a lesson for Bannut Hill in due course. Councillors are making decisions which affect us – be there and let them know what you feel!

## **Community Builder**

As part of its Connected Communities policy, Malvern Hills District Council is committed to supporting communities to continue to be strong, resilient, and sustainable and believes 'that people live more fulfilling lives when they have the power to shape their own outcomes and change things that matter to them'. This principle is entirely supported by the Parish Council. To this end, KPC has secured £50k of funds from MHDC, using money from central government (UK Shared Prosperity Funding), to employ a Community Builder for two years. Community Builders work with residents and partners

to strengthen community connections with the aim of reducing isolation and improving health and well-being. Community Builders are already operational at MHDC, Worcester City and elsewhere in the county. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Cathy Garner will take up this post from January. Cathy was brought up in Kempsey and continues to live in the village with her husband and two children. She has previously served as a governor of Kempsey Primary School and as the co-chair of the successful campaign to bring improved flood prevention to the village. From October 2021 to April 2023, Cathy served as a KPC councillor leading our highly successful Parish Survey in 2022. Taking forward the results of the survey through wider community consultation will be a key part of the role, with the aim of establishing a 'vision' for a future Kempsey based on the aspirations of its residents.

## **Christmas Tree**

Around eighty people attended

the lighting of the Christmas Tree event outside the Parish Hall on 5th December to listen to songs from the children's choir and to see the tree illuminated. Many thanks to the team who organised the tree and the evening, especially to Cllr Neil Stevens who led the event.

## **Public consultation**

A chance to view and comment on the plans for the new Community and Sports Centre at Old Road South / Pixham Ferry Lane will be held early in the New Year at the Youth Centre at Plovers Rise. Watch out for the details coming soon.

*For more information regarding the activities of the Parish Council, please refer to our website [www.kempseyhub.co.uk](http://www.kempseyhub.co.uk) For all enquiries, please contact Sharon Baxter, Parish Council Clerk and Financial Officer on 01905 828183 or by email at [kempseyparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kempseyparishcouncil@gmail.com)*

# Severn Stoke & Croome D'abitot Parish Council

## **Bund update from The Environment Agency**

"We have two suppliers that we are in final discussions with. The procurement process has taken longer than originally anticipated due to the scope having to change because of all this wet weather – originally, we were hoping to have all material on site by the end of the winter, that is now looking very unlikely due to the wet weather/ground conditions, so the supplier is going to have to work with material being imported during the construction phase. This doesn't change things too much, but we do need to account for this with the supplier selection. In the next week or so, or at least when ground conditions are dry enough you will see us in Severn Stoke carrying out a site walk over with the suppliers. We haven't done this yet because of the flooding, but this hasn't slowed down the procurement process. The site clearance and Great Crested Newt trapping is scheduled to recommence in

February, when conditions are suitable to get back onto site. At this time, construction is anticipated to start in the spring. I will have a further update for you at the end of the month with final details of who is going to be building the scheme. Thank you for your support with the scheme, I appreciate that yourselves, the residents of Severn Stoke and the Rose and Crown have been hit badly by this flood event." *Paul Jones, Partnerships and Strategic Overview Advisor West Midlands Environment Agency, Hafren House, Welshpool Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 8BB*

Thank you on behalf of the parish council to everyone that helped the parish pull together during recent floods. Thank you also to our lengthsman for clearing some of the resulting debris, particularly around the war memorial and also for helping to organise the road sweeper, in hand with our District Councillors. We will keep our eye out for any grants that become available to help those affected.

The parish council has received a grant towards a new defibrillator for the parish, has received an offer of a venue for hosting and has also received generous offers of contributing donations. Thank you to all involved and watch this space for the final location. We are also applying for a grant for an additional new 'vehicle activated speed sign' – as the equipment we have already is spread too thinly across the parish. We hope to be successful in our application to the Police and Crime Commissioner. Insurance claims for the damaged litter bin and damaged bus shelter are proceeding.

The parish council has fed into recent consultations from both the Hereford Worcs Fire Service (changes and reductions) and also the County Council Local Nature Recovery Strategy. We have listened to our residents on both occasions and made sure that your comments were passed to the correct people. The recent Levelling Up Bill now allows money to be spent supporting religious organisations

in certain ways, for example maintenance of clocks on public buildings and churchyard maintenance. This change in the law is welcome as something that residents have often asked for. To make this fair for all aspects of society, the parish council is clarifying its grants policy and will make this policy available more publicly to all that may apply, not just to religious organisations. Give us time to sort this work out and ask if you need more information.

*Contact the parish clerk if you would like to receive agendas or minutes by email.*

## **NEXT MEETING:**

*Wed 20th March 2024, 7.30pm- Annual Parish Meeting of Residents with the usual Parish Council meeting afterwards – Venue aims to be St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke.*

*Lisa Stevens,  
Parish Council Clerk  
Tel: 07950 256363  
Email:  
[severnstokeandcda@gmail.com](mailto:severnstokeandcda@gmail.com)*

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# New Year plans at The Lawns

Happy New Year! We had an early New Year's Eve Party accompanied by the Pershore Scottish Dancers and Simon Addison, The Piper. There was singing, dancing, a wee dram or two of whisky and a resolution made for the New Year to live, love and laugh every day, at least once!

We had a fabulous Christmas and thank you to everyone in our staffing team for pulling out all the stops to bring such festive joy. Our residents are especially proud for their 2023 fundraising, which culminated with our Christmas Craft and Bake sale. They sewed, baked, knitted, planted and made gifts, jams and chutneys all in readiness for the day. We are delighted to say we raised over £500, which added to our fundraising pot, meant we reached our target for the year for The Guide Dogs. We can now support a puppy through training, which we have named Lorne.

So, whats in store for 2024! A little rest first, but our Social Committee and Resident's

Ambassador are getting together to plan new events, activities and fundraising goals for the year. We shall be continuing our community collaborations with local schools and groups and planning trips out once the weather starts to improve into Spring. The birthdays of AA Milne and Michael Bond in January give a lovely opportunity for a reminiscence afternoon about children's books. This Chinese New Year is the year of the dragon. Then there is Shrove Tuesday with The Lawns infamous Pancake Race Event, back by popular demand with fancy dress and lots of competitiveness! Then Valentines Day – will the Love Bug be visiting?! Watch this space....

*With best wishes from Joy Hoskins Lifestyle & Well-being and Team Lawns  
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## Walk from Kempsey to St. Peter's Garden Centre



The walk begins at the end of Brookend Lane, at its junction with the A38. Please note the start of the walk is on a road, which does not have a pavement. Please take great care when walking along the road.

1. Walk down Brookend Lane for about 240 metres, passing The Limes and crossing Hatfield

Brook. You will reach a left turn (Holdings Lane). Walk along this country lane for another 240 metres. The road again crosses Hatfield Brook about half way at Little Brookend Farm.

2. Just before the sharp right bend, turn left at the footpath fingerpost. The path crosses the field

diagonally up the hill. It is usually clearly marked. Over the hill, go through the gate into a small paddock (if there are sheep in here please put dogs on leads). Go straight across the paddock (keeping to the right of the trees, which surround a pond) to a kissing gate, which leads onto Broomhall Lane.

3. Turn right and walk along the lane for about 140 metres. The path is on the left and is shown by a bridge and waymark. Go straight across a field (again usually well marked) to another bridge.

4. Having crossed the bridge, the path goes straight along the field edge for a few metres to the first large oak tree and then diagonally across the large field towards a farm and the housing estate at Norton.

5. The path emerges onto a track by the farm. Turn right and walk along the track until you get to the road. There is a thatched cottage and roundabout at this point.

6. Turn right and walk along the pavement until you get to St. Peter's Garden Centre, which will be on the opposite side of the road. *(Dogs are allowed in the Garden Centre, including in certain parts of the café). Reverse instructions to return back to the starting point.*



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## Women's Hour! *These are a few of my favourite things!* Susan Catford



Christmas has gone and the decorations consigned to the loft apart from a few stray strands of tinsel. We even took down the star that has been hanging in the study for two years, sadly neglected since then! We have turned the page to the new year and 2023 didn't start so well with a very wet weekend which dampened the spirits. However, we wished each other a Happy New Year and in spite of the strikes, cost of living increase and a whole range of lurgies raging, we try to be optimistic and count our blessings. Winter can be a dismal time but there are some bonuses. Dark mornings and long nights do have some compensations. Seeing dawn break after we are out of bed, with the sun poking its head

over the horizon and chasing away the darkness, signifies the start of another day full of possibilities. Dusk brings the chance of beautiful sunsets with fantastic cloud formations. Time then to light the fire and settle down to a toasty, firelit evening. Having had a near oil crisis just before Christmas (why does the tank suddenly run on empty then?), we were delighted to have an oil delivery in the nick of time. At least we have passed the shortest day and from now on the days will gradually lengthen. We have also been more careful about energy usage, so those thermal vests have come in useful! Sharing time with friends and family is something we have learned to value even more post

Covid.

Evenings at the local, family get-togethers and social events are lovely times. Having our new grandson over the past year has been a delight. Watching this tiny baby become a small person is quite amazing. The back and knees have suffered but now he is walking, it is more about needing eyes in the back of your head! Who would know that fire irons could be so fascinating or the brush and dustpan irresistible to this inquisitive child. He had no idea about Christmas yet but he loved the lights, decorations and, of course, the wrapping paper! We now have a house which resembles a kindergarten with the biggest playpen – large enough for a few rounds of boxing – a highchair, cot, toy box, and all the other necessities such as bibs, wet-wipes, baby cups etc. But do we mind? Of course not! He has brought constant smiles to our faces and lovely cuddles. So the Christmas lights may have gone but Spring isn't so very far away. The tinsel has been replaced with beautiful spring flowers from friends and family for my recent birthday. Birthdays in January were not much fun as a child; no picnics, barbecues or outdoor parties, but as a grown-up they seem to have got better. Unfortunately, one son is also a January baby and as I write, it is his birthday today and he has the



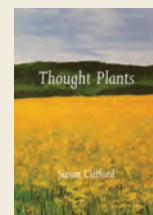
'flu! We Capricornians are tough though, mountain goats, so we know that we may have hills to climb but the view from the top is often splendid! And we will celebrate as soon as he is well. The year stretches ahead and though it has started with poor weather and strikes by various professions, there will still be much to enjoy. Longer days, outings, holidays, celebrations and (hopefully) some time to read, paint and relax, will provide more of my favourite things. Also, with a bit of luck, our incapacitated car will be repaired and, who knows, we may even win the lottery!! Lots to look forward to, so wishing you all a happy, healthy new year too. P.S. I'm sorry there are no 'girls in white dresses' or 'whiskers on kittens' to be seen here - not my favourite things!!

## Night Watch

Night falls as the sun sinks.  
One minute shafts of golden light,  
Illuminating, enhancing colour.  
Then no more.  
A blanket descends.  
A dark shroud, envelops all.  
Shapes without edges  
Inhabit the darkness.  
But then a new light.  
A moon slides into view,  
Peaks out from behind clouds,  
Peers coyly through bare branches  
Spilling a delicate silvery glow.  
Dark shadows cling to silhouettes.  
And above, the night sky  
Bearing precious jewels.

Scattered stars, the courtiers of the moon,  
Twinkle and nod to each other.  
Orion stretches out his arms towards the planets.  
An infinite congregation populates the velvet canopy,  
Accompanying the majestic progress of the moon.  
Slowly it pursues its night-time journey,  
The guardian of darkness,  
Silently and steadily  
Making its way  
Until the sun rises from its bed  
To take over the daytime watch.

Susan Catford



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## Country Watch



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

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

Yew berries are poisonous to most mammals but not badgers. They can eat the fruit and the seeds pass through them without poisoning them. Blackthorn berries (also known as sloes) are used in the making of sloe gin. The bushes make good nesting places for birds who then benefit from the berries in Winter. Blackthorn berries have also been used in the treatment of humans for bladder, kidney and stomach disorders.

Mistletoe is a parasitic shrub which can often be seen high up in trees. The sticky white berries are popular with birds such as blackcaps. We bring mistletoe into the house at Christmas for decorating and kissing! The story is that the goddess Frigg wept tears when

her son was killed. These turned into white berries which fell into his wound and healed him. Frigg blessed the mistletoe plant and promised to kiss all who passed under it. Today mistletoe is often hung near the doorway to greet guests with a kiss. Other berries are those from the Wild Service tree (also known as the Chequers tree) which are eaten by birds and small mammals. These berries were used to make alcohol, hence many pubs and inns being named 'The Chequers'.

Cotoneaster was originally a garden shrub but can now be found in natural habitats. Its bright clusters of berries are very popular with birds. The spindle tree produces clusters of bright pink/orange berries which are poisonous to us but provide food for birds, mice and even foxes. The Guelder rose is a small tree found in hedgerows and woods as well as scrub and wetlands. Its clusters of red berries are an important food source for birds, particularly waxwings, mistlethrushes and bullfinches. The Guelder tree is one of the national symbols of Ukraine with its large white blooms which flower in the Summer. The Wayfaring tree bears berries which are red at first but are black when they ripen. They are popular with both birds and small mammals. All these berries are essential food sources for our wildlife but birds still benefit from bird feeders in our gardens to keep them well-fed through the winter. Time for me to shop for seeds, nuts and fat balls then look forward to some fascinating visitors in the cold months ahead. Oh, and not to forget water for the birdbath, making sure it is not frozen over.

## Book review

Richard Catford



### Handbook Volume 3 'And another Thing' by Reg Moule

Reg Moule has done it again! He has produced another useful, pocket sized handbook entitled 'And Another Thing' on growing fruit and vegetables. This new publication complements handbooks 1 & 2; 'The Garden Diary' - a month by month explanation of gardening tasks and 'This is what I would do' - an explanation of techniques and advice for both novice and experienced gardeners. This new Handbook gives more detail and explanation on many of the topics mentioned in Reg's previous publications, but without fear of repetition. Although it is not intended to be an instruction book on growing all crops, it does cover a very wide range of fruit and veg.

In this new volume Reg adds his own tips on ensuring bumper crops and avoiding disappointing failures. How to feed, fertilize and care for crops, avoid pests and diseases is explained. He explains when and how to apply potash, phosphates and other nutrients to crops, but the main emphasis is on organic techniques.

These tips can be applied to cultivation on any scale from pots, window boxes, or containers to full sized flower beds and allotments. There is comprehensive coverage of the less commonly mentioned produce such as mushrooms, celeriac, asparagus, chillies and garlic. Guidance on cultivating citrus fruits, grapes and olive trees, plus other fruiting shrubs and bushes is explained. How to prune and renovate older trees will be appreciated by those just beginning their gardening journey and act as a handy reminder for the more experienced gardener. When will I use Reg's handbooks?

*Handbook 1 - 'The Garden Diary'* is used regularly throughout the year. It tells me when to do things in the right way at the right time. It is a diary that prompts me on jobs to do each month.

*Handbook 2 'This is what I would do'* I will probably use this a little less often, but certainly before I go to the garden centre to buy compost and new plants, or before I plan to reorganise a flower bed or corner of my garden. I will certainly look up how to prune my wisteria and other shrubs each year.

*Handbook 3 'And another Thing.'* Focuses on fruit and vegetables and gives more details on successful cultivation of more exotic, unusual fruit and veg. As my gardening confidence grows I will use the advice in this handbook to ensure better care of the things I have planted.

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

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## 'And another Thing' Handbook Volume 3

By Reg Moule

This new Handbook gives more detail and explanation on many of the topics mentioned in Reg's previous publications, but without fear of repetition. Although it is not intended to be an instruction book on growing all crops, it does cover a very wide range of fruit and veg.



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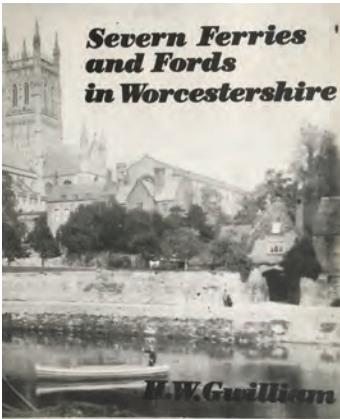
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# River Crossings

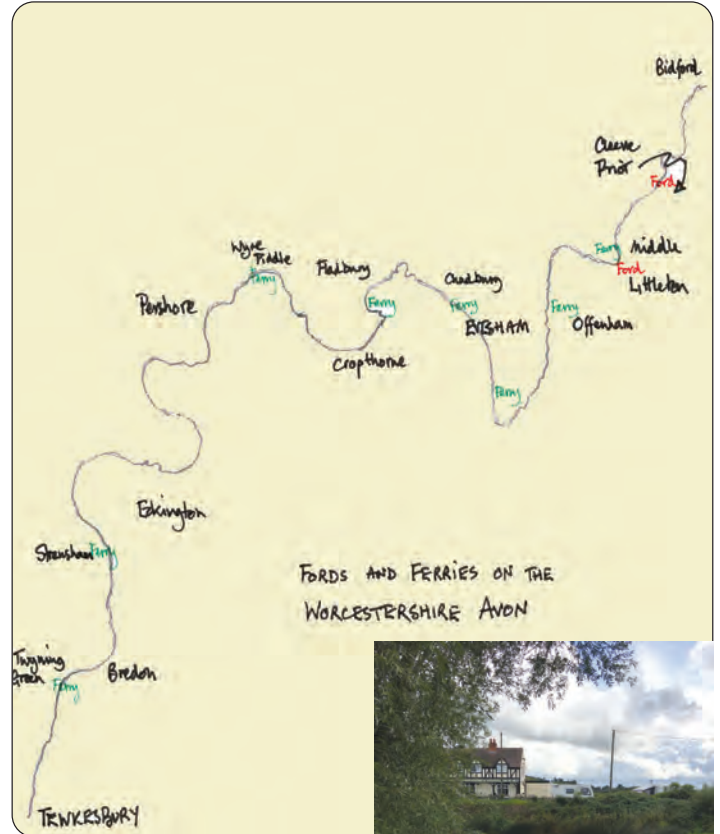
Tim Hickson



On major rivers these crossings were often quite significant. On the Wye, the name Hereford means, in Old English, 'ford suitable for the passage of an army'. On the Severn, as another example, at Pixham near Kempsey, in 1265, Simon de Montfort crossed with his army and his prisoner, Henry III, heading to Evesham. There is still a road leading to the river on the west side but on the Kempsey side just a big field, Kempsey Ham. (Here, incidentally, the last duel in the County took place in 1827.)

These days we tend to cross rivers on bridges although there are still some ferries and even some fords. Before we all had motor vehicles, before the Second World War, there were many more ferries and fords. Furthermore in these places there was usually an inn. Sometimes these are still there. We should also remember that before the building of locks and weirs, our Worcestershire rivers were affected by the tides. So once, some fords became useable only at low tide. In 1849 from Stourport to Gloucester there were 26 fords used by men and animals. Sometimes stepping-stones would have been added and, if the crossing was needed often, then a foot bridge might have been added though animals and carts would still need to use the ford.

Navigation on the Severn was, of course, only possible when the tide was in and the fords were not popular with the boatmen. Also, in the summer the water was often particularly low and might become a series of pools. The increasing demand for goods to be transported by river led to the 1849 Admiralty Inquiry. Hence the building of weirs and locks. That led to the need for ferries at the old crossing places. People crossing the rivers now had to pay to use the ferry and that provided an income for the ferryman and for the owner of the ferry. There is an excellent booklet by H. W. Gwilliam titled Severn Ferries and Fords in Worcestershire but not yet one on the other major Worcestershire river, the Avon.



Early ferries crossed the river by hauling on a rope stretched between anchor points on opposite banks. Later the ropes were replaced by more permanent chains. No need for motors when more appropriate technology could be used. By looking at old maps I have found fords and ferries still marked from surveys between 1791 and 1874. The sketch above and shows these.

Why the ford is no longer there!

The two pictures are of the places where once there were fords. Can you tell which is which?



**SUPPLEMENT**

# Memories of a Country Village:

*Kempsey  
Worcestershire*

1911 – 1995

By Cyril Weaver

## Introduction

Cyril Weaver was born in 1911, he died in 1994 and is buried at Severn Stoke. In the years before his death he committed to four notebooks his memories of his life in Kempsey and Severn Stoke, two villages just south of Worcester. He also produced an account of the time he spent at Diglis Basin as a supervisor and foreman of a joinery factory in the 1930s and 1940s.

Common and central to all his memoirs is the time spent with the Deveraux family who ran the Rose and Crown in Severn Stoke for over 50 years.

Cyril's memoirs form an amateur social history of an era now greatly depleted of those who remember the time. The writings are a snap-shot of life from the 1920s to the 1980s as he remembered it. Whilst this publication does not claim to be a definitive history of the time or places mentioned, it does aim to stimulate other people's thoughts and memories.

Those who have been kind enough to read the drafts of these memoirs have noted several inaccuracies in dates, names and facts Cyril uses. Some extracts of his stories have already been aired in the Pershore and Upton Times provoking readers to write to the editor identifying errors or mis-representations. I think we need to be generous and acknowledge Cyril's age and the sense of urgency he felt as he completed his project. He knew his time was running out and that clearly comes out in his writing. I am sure Cyril would be the first to acknowledge any mistakes he made and, at the same time, be delight that his writing has stimulated discussion.

Several people still remember Cyril. He is acknowledged as a delightful fellow, mad keen on horse racing. He spent most of his working life as a joiner, cabinet maker. He plied his trade as a supervisor and manager at several wood-working businesses in Worcester. In his social life he devoted his time to supporting the local hostelrys in south Worcestershire and enjoying horse racing. He even became the landlord at the Rose and Crown in Severn Stoke for a short time during his retirement in the mid 1980s.



Cyril's notebooks were discovered during a 'Spring Clean' by John Henderson, a resident of Severn Stoke, who tentatively enquired if there was any value or interest in possibly publishing them. When we read through Cyril's notebooks we were touched by his sentimentality, his appreciation of a vast number of characters he had met and a huge gratitude for the cards life had dealt him. I met him just twice; he was certainly memorable in a most pleasing way. Cyril would be tickled pink to know his memoirs are now being read by people he would have loved to have met.

Richard Catford.  
Hughes & Company, Pershore, Worcestershire  
January 2023

*Kempsey, is just four miles South of Worcester. It has that age old River Severn down the one side, that not so old, but very busy, M5 motorway on the other, together with what was known as the Olde Bath Road, (now marked on the map as the A38) which runs right through the middle of that ever growing village.*

I, Cyril Weaver, was born here in the year 1911. My Mum, Dad, a brother and sister, my four grandparents also lived here and are buried in that lovely old churchyard overlooking the river.

Long, long ago, way back in the past, the old stage coaches would have rattled through Kempsey on their way from Birmingham to Bath but not, I'm afraid, on what is today called the Main Road or the A38. At that time the Bath Road would have gone down what is now called, Olde Road North before joining up again with Olde Road South, via the Squires Walk. Even so, those two parts and the 'new' main road as it is today, actually came into being long before I was born. However, in those eighty odd years I can remember since 1911, the village has seen quite a lot of changes.

While many places have been taken down and disappeared others have taken their place. Where there were once only

green fields and hedges, is now mostly built upon. But, even with all its changes, Kempsey is still a really nice village and has not been spoilt by any large factories, multi-storey buildings or those ever increasing supermarkets. There are still quite a few places just as I remembered them as a little boy. Places such as that grand old church of St Mary's with its covered Lych-gate close to that always running stream, where the ford crosses the road, called today, as it always has been, The Rocky. The archway with its iron gate, and the narrow bridge forming the pathway over the top of the stream, provided the people from the lower end of the village access to the church. Those from the top end of the village would pass another place of worship, the small but very nice chapel, built in, of all places, Church Street. This is what I remember as the heart of the village, before the motor car began to take over during the roaring 1920s.

## My Earliest Memories

The first thing I remember of Kempsey was the Freeleands, and of course, Pear Tree Cottage, where I was born. Today Bye-fields and Plover's Rise have been built across the road. In the 1920s, on our side of the road, our house was between the cul-de-sac and the alley that led to Olde Road South. It is still there, but the large workshop, the stables and coal yard, where my father worked, are long since gone. It was up the steps, at one end of that workshop where I, as a small boy, would stand and watch my Dad cutting glass. He was a skilled craftsman. I always wanted to be like him. Incidentally, I still have in my tool chest that same diamond glass cutter that my father handed down to me, all those years ago.

## Early School days

Of course, another place I remember as a small boy, was the local school on the top of the hill, still there but not the seat of learning anymore; it is now the Community Centre. The journey to school was always an adventure because it involved negotiating the 'Alleys'. In fact, if I had to have just one thing that stands out most in my memories as a youngster,

it would have to be 'Alleys'. These footpaths started just above Church Street, went up behind the school to Windmill Lane to join a footpath along the Grove, past the open barns to come out at the Ketch. As a small five year old, I would love to let go of my sister's hand and run up that Alley. How Molly would shout to tell me that the gypsies were coming, or that the bogey man would get me. What's more I believed her! But then of course I had to, she was grown up, three years older than me, she was eight! There were no playschools then. During much of the day Molly was responsible for me, and there was nothing unusual about that in those days.

Of course, please remember, at that time we were right in the middle of that First World War 1914-1918, but it was not until it ended, when I was aged seven, that I remembered much about it. You see a young lad of six or seven at that time thought more of stealing a lift by hanging on the back of any horse and cart that was passing by, although I can still recall that party we held in the lane when the Great War was all over. Although I only stayed at Kempsey School until I was nine, I remember that boys and girls shared the same classrooms, but not the same playgrounds. The boys were on one side, girls on the other, with iron railings in between. The toilets, which were not very nice, were under the trees at the far end of the playground.

That walk to the school was a long way from 'Freelands' at the other end of the village where I lived. However, there waiting for me each morning by the post office which, by the way, was on the opposite side of the road to what it is today, was my first school pal, Francis Atkinson, whose parents kept the Queen's Head Public House. So with a small satchel on my back, in which were a few meat sandwiches, a piece of cake, my tin cup, and a packet of Lemon Kali to make a drink for our midday break, Francis, myself, with my sister Molly in charge, would trudge up that hill and back five times a week. Saturday and Sunday always seemed they would never come on school days, but at least it was downhill going home. On arriving at that large iron school gate, where Miss Katy Jarvis was the Head Mistress, having taken over from her father, we queued up in

our separate playgrounds to be sent to our classrooms. My teacher was Miss Wadkins. During our time in the infants there were no pens, pencils or paper, all we used was our slate. Anyway, we learnt our numbers and letters and just to think the pocket calculator and computers were then fifty years away; modern kids have it easy today!

At the end of school Molly would collect us and we would start the journey home. The roads at the time were muddy in Winter, and very dusty in Summer. You played marbles on the dirt path, there were no curb stones, those followed later, and with only just a few pony and carts, and hardly any cars, the older lads used the road to play whip and top.

What a great pleasure it gives, just to hold a memory of those wonderful things we saw on our way to school, things that young children of today will never see. Simple things were fascinating. Like those men I watched when they started tar spraying the roads. First, they rolled that barrel of tar up onto the tank over the big fire. Then, when it was hot and steaming, brush it on to the road with wide brooms. Other men with shovels would then cover it with grit from the small heaps placed at intervals on the path. As a young boy I could never quite make out how they always had just the right amount in each heap to cover that stretch in between and what was more, they didn't get messy and dirty doing it.

Another activity that fascinated me was watching workmen on the telephone poles that were all along the main road in those days. Just to see those men with a spike on the inside of their shoes, and a leather belt slung over their shoulder, climb those poles, fasten the belt around them, lean back and start to repair the wires was a delight. In those days, to be able to do that or to become a train driver was almost every lad's dream of his future.

*to be continued*

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

## Travels with my air fryer

I like cooking. Cooking doesn't always like me.

Everyone's had a few hiccups in the kitchen before, haven't they? In my Year Nine food tech class, back at school, it was bread week and I was working my ball of dough. I kneaded, rolled and slapped that thing into shape, sprinkling it with rosemary and little studs of salt, let the oven look after it for twenty minutes ... only to realise I'd forgotten the yeast. Everyone else in my class could boast freshly baked loaves. I stood there with a tough old biscuit to take home. In chow mein week, I set fire to the noodles. It was a collaborative effort with a friend. I was helping her to tear open the packet, but I tore it hard enough for a sheet of rock-hard, bone-dry noodles to spin out and wedge itself under the flaming hob. The teacher didn't look happy. Neither did the noodles.

My mate, Nathan, once asked the teacher about his baking assignment and – so I'm told – she replied: 'Well, if Greg can do it, I don't see anyone who can't.'

But I won't glamorise this too much. If cooking doesn't always like me, then it's my fault. I'm not exactly an adventurous soul when it comes to the culinary world. For the most part, I stick to what I know best: toast, sachets saying 'just add water', a bit of pasta (the shells – conchiglie – are my favourite), and the microwave's always got my back when the moment calls for vegetable soup or baked beans. If there are any fellow novice chefs reading, I would recommend finding your own way into it. In my case, I discovered an unexplored passion for cottage pie. We didn't have beef or lamb mince in the fridge, only pork, so we renamed it a 'sty pie'. I once cooked a sty pie so large that it won me a scout badge. I'm telling you all of this, fellow reader, because I've started a new term at uni and it has brought with it a few changes. Instead of living in my main college in the centre of Oxford, I'm now staying in a college-owned house on Abingdon Road (there are fewer noisy pigeons down here, thank goodness). Out of the whole of the main college last

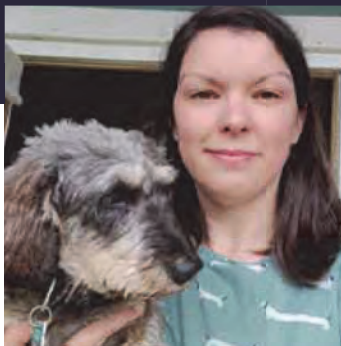
year, we had only one tiny kitchen hiding in the back of the common room; the place usually looked as though it had been plundered and it was home to many interesting smells. Most of us never used it because we were encouraged to eat in the dinner hall, where – under its vaulted ceiling and the stern stares of its many portraits – I was privileged enough to enjoy roast duck, rump steak and even crab! Moving to alternative accommodation with its own kitchen, as you can imagine, took a bit of getting used to. It was as if I'd been pulled from my communal, firelit cave and pushed out into the wilderness with nothing but a Tesco Clubcard to defend myself. At the moment, I would say I lack artistry in what I cook; I'm one of those people who eat to survive, to top up the battery, rather than to transcend into an aromatic world of flavours and taste sensations.

Who knows? Perhaps, as this new year develops, I will hone my craft and come to consider myself a part of that aromatic world. For now, though, I remain comfortably in Gregory's world – and



Gregory's world has an air fryer. These are nifty gadgets with an impressive skill of popping up in almost every cooking-related conversation people are having. When I tested mine over the summer, I left my potato waffles in it for too long; I've known Ryvita softer and fluffier than the dried-out slabs of hard, hot potato that my air fryer handed back to me. Fortunately, as with any meaningful and long-lasting friendship, I then got to know it (and its settings) better and have since enjoyed all kinds of meals, from the potato realm and beyond!

With any luck, I have made a new companion on my long and bumpy, yeast-less and overcooked, culinary odyssey. Care to join us?



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### Parasite Control When Travelling Abroad

With pet travel in Europe opening up again and Summer just around the corner it is nice to know that our furry friends can travel with us on holiday. As an island nation in the north of Europe the United Kingdom is usually well protected from some of the endemic diseases seen in mainland Europe, however our pets could transmit these diseases back to the UK or become infected with exotic diseases whilst abroad. Therefore, it is important to think carefully about parasite control whenever travelling with your pets.

**Tapeworm** - Currently tapeworm is the only parasite with a mandatory treatment 1-5 days before entering the UK. The tapeworm of concern is *Echinococcus multilocularis* which can cause serious disease in humans. Foxes are a reservoir of infection and it is present across most of Europe. The UK and Ireland are currently free of this disease. Dogs should be treated monthly with a tapewormer whilst abroad, 1-5 days before return and within 30 days of re-entering the UK. Cats are currently very low risk for transmitting it.

**Heartworm** - Heartworm caused by *Dirofilaria immitis* is an infection that predominantly affects dogs but can affect cats and ferrets. It is spread by infected mosquitoes in mostly Southern Europe. Some parasite collars will be effective at repelling mosquitoes but a suitable monthly worming product is needed to stop infection establishing, this should be continued for at least 1 more treatment after returning to the UK.

**Leishmaniosis** - Leishmaniosis causes a chronic disease that can also be spread to humans in areas with the sandfly vector. A sandfly repellent, usually in the form of a collar, should be started a week before travel and continued after return to the UK.

**Ticks** - There are a variety of ticks abroad that are not native to the UK and carry exotic diseases that can affect pets and humans. These include those carrying *Babesia canis* and Mediterranean spotted fever. Preventative products to kill, or kill and repel, ticks should be used along with regular checks to find and remove any attached ticks rapidly. This should again be continued upon return to the UK. For specific treatment advice please speak to your vet.

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Best wishes *Eliza*



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# Cooking for fun! *Ailsa Craddock*

## Carrots can be Carats

Since last month's column, we've had days and days of rain and then flooding but as I write this we now have brilliant sunshine albeit bitterly cold. Corky, the cat, is sat by the fire, the hens are snug in their coop and The Husband disappeared into his warm office, only to reappear for coffee and sustenance as its obviously too icy even for him to go fishing! So it's back to comfort food - but still want healthy. And what could be better than carrots - the unappreciated gold amongst vegetables? Carrots are one of the most versatile foods that Mother Nature has to offer. From stews to salads, roasts to juices, this bright-hued veggie can be part of nearly any meal. The best part about them, though, is that carrots are high in nutrients that support your health from head to toe — and they can taste great.

Too often presented as a side dish of extraordinary dullness, they can be pepped up with herbs, lemon juice and butter - or made into any of the below recipes.

### Spiced Carrot and Lentil Soup

- 2 tablespoon butter
- 2 onion, finely chopped
- 2 -3 cloves of garlic
- 1 dessertspoon grated ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon each chilli flakes, ground turmeric, ground coriander, ground cumin
- 3 - 4 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 tin chopped tomatoes
- 160g red lentils
- 1 litre vegetable stock

Melt the butter in a saucepan and gently fry the onion, ginger and spices and cook until soft. Add carrots, lentils and stock and slowly bring to the boil.



Cover and simmer for about 40 minutes until tender. Serve, with toasted sourdough, in a bowl with a swirl of yogurt and mint for garnish.



### Quick Carrot and Walnut Bread

- 350g plain flour
- 150g wholemeal flour
- 1 teasp salt
- 2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 150g carrots, peeled and grated
- walnut or pieces, a handful, toasted
- 300ml Greek yoghurt
- 125ml semi-skimmed milk

Heat oven to 230c/fan 210/gas 8. Mix the flours, salt and bicarbonate of soda, then stir in the carrot, walnuts and yoghurt, followed by enough of the milk to make a soft, quite sticky dough. Tip onto a floured surface and form a flat ball, put on a baking sheet, slash the top and bake for 30 minutes until risen and cooked. It'll sound hollow when you tap it.



### Carrot Muffins (makes 6)

- 75g margarine
- 125g carrots
- 100g sugar
- 100g Self raising flour
- 3/4teasp cinnamon
- 1 tea sp baking powder
- 1 large egg
- 60g sultanas
- 25g nuts

Preheat the oven to 200C/gas mark 6/fan 180C. Melt the margarine in the microwave. Top and tail, then peel and grate the carrots. Combine the carrots, sugar and margarine in a bowl. Sift in the flour, cinnamon and baking powder. Beat the egg in a small bowl and then add to the mixture. Also mix in the nuts and sultanas. Line a muffin tray with 6 muffin cases and divide the mixture equally between them. Bake for 20 minutes. Allow to cool - and either enjoy them as they are or mix a little cream cheese and icing sugar together as a topping.

## Thoughts from the Snug...

### The Snug's Best Friend?

Like so many other local pubs our Snug welcomes dogs. There are treats readily available and even Doggy Ice Cream for sale. However, some customers are not always enamoured by their presence, but in general most tolerate the mutt that sits obediently at the feet of a responsible owner and does not invade their space. Prue Leith, writing in the Oldie magazine recalled a hotel owner's notice that read:

*Dogs are welcome in this hotel. Why?*

*We have never had a dog that smoked in bed and set fire to the blankets.*

*We have never had a dog who stole towels, played the TV too loud or had a noisy fight with its travelling companions*

*We have never had a dog that got drunk and broke up the furniture.*

*So... if your dog can vouch for you, you are both welcome.*

*The management.*

Nobody in our Snug can recall a customer and their hound being asked to leave because of misbehaviour. Indeed, we have always seen management extend the warmest of welcomes to customers and their pets. Nevertheless, awareness and respect for non-dog enthusiasts must prevail and acknowledgement of their tolerance appreciated by the owner.. but it's probably best not to let the dog show its appreciation on these occasions. Cheers. and Woof woof.

Buddy Bach

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## Love your borders *Nikki Hollier - Border In A Box*

Roses are the flowers we all associate with love and friendship and are frequently given on Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. But how about offering a different token of love this year and create a beautiful border filled with lovely pink flowers and shrubs that not only look pretty but are loved by our pollinators too! *Daphne 'Perfume Princess'* – these are one of my favourite winter shrubs as they're evergreen, happy in dappled shade and the scent is gorgeous. Plus, they only grow to around 1.5m x 1m tall and flowers, from January to March. The flowers form in clusters along the stem which makes them ideal to cut and place in a vase indoors to fill

the room with their perfume. One tip – plant them in their 'forever home' as they do get grumpy if they are moved. They may take a while to establish, but its definitely worth the wait. *Wallflower 'Sugar Rush Purple Bicolour' F1* I love to include these in my pots and borders. I feel you get a lot of flowers for your money as they can bloom twice a year – once in March-to May and a second show from September to October. Although I have grown them in pots with tulips, I've found they are more vigorous in a border. They're loved by bees and are happy growing in full sun or partial shade, to around 30cm tall.

*Tulipa 'Angelique'* – if you plant one tulip, this variety is the one to go for as they are often mistaken for peonies in my garden with their bowl-shaped soft pink flowers that open fully in the sun. Plant them in swathes to create even more impact. They grow to around 45cm tall, and you can buy them in pots (in the green) from the garden centre ready to plant in your borders. *Salix gracilistyla 'Mount Aso'* – who doesn't love a fluffy catkin in spring? These are a gorgeous shade of pink, and once established they also make lovely additions to flower arrangements. Although willow trees are renowned to grow rather large, this particular variety will only grow to

around 1.5m x 1.5m. Pollinators, especially moths love a willow tree and prefers a sunny spot in the garden. *Hellebore 'Walberton's Rosemary'* – Another beautiful pink flowering variety. They prefer partial shade, so plant them in the shadow of the Daphne and Salix. They flower from February to April, are also loved by bees and again plant them in swathes for more impact. They grow to around 50cm tall, and the leaves are semi-evergreen, dark green and leathery. They will also expand in clumps over time too.

**Nikki Hollier**  
 nikki@borderinabox.com  
 @borderinabox  
 www.borderinabox.com



## February gardening tips *Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester*

### Early February

Continue planting trees, shrubs and perennial plants if conditions are suitable. Plant Jerusalem artichoke tubers. Plant shallot sets (in colder areas start them off in pots of compost in a cold frame) If you do not have a cold frame just buy a large clear plastic storage box, drill some holes in the bottom put in a layer of grit, pop on the lid and there is a cold frame. Look after garden birds by providing food and water- try to tailor the food to the birds you have around. In heated greenhouses sow Antirrhinums, Begonia semperflorens, Verbenas and Pansies for summer bedding. Otherwise buy seedlings or baby bedding plants later to grow on. Sow sweet pea seeds, growing them on in a cold greenhouse or frame. Buy seed potatoes and stand them on end in trays or egg boxes to chit (begin to shoot) Potatoes are easy to grow in pots above 30cm (12in) diameter. To this end store some first early seed potatoes in the fridge

bringing some out to chit every 10 days. The previously chitted ones are then planted in pots and kept in a frost free place to grow. You will then have a succession of new potatoes to harvest every 14 days or so. **Mid February** Complete the pruning of apples, pears and soft fruits. Prune Clematis that have their main flowering period from July onwards back hard to about 30cm (1ft) above the soil. Cut back herbaceous perennials dead stems to ground level. Stock up on pots, labels, twine and other quickly consumed sundries before the season gets into full swing. Prune back old, woody Mahonia stems to keep the plants bushy. Buy Begonia and Dahlia tubers as well as other summer flowering bulbs such as Gladioli. Cover strawberry rows with cloches for an earlier crop. Prune Buddlejas and the Spiraeas with colourful foliage, like Spiraea Goldflame, back hard. **Late February** Dig up and divide herbaceous

perennials. Check wall trained plants to see if they require watering as it can get very dry at the base of a wall. In heated greenhouses sow Dianthus, Lobelia, Ageratum, and multi-bloom Geraniums for summer bedding. Dig up, divide and re-plant overcrowded clumps of snowdrops. Prune winter jasmine (Jasminum nudiflorum) by trimming back by two thirds



shoots that have flowered. Sow summer cauliflower in trays under glass.

## 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.*

## It's cold outside!

Angela Johns

When it's windy and dark and wet outside it's so good to be inside, warm and dry. To draw the curtains, light the fire and eat hot food gives a comforting feeling of safety and protection. Therapy can feel a lot like that. You've been metaphorically out in the wind and rain and you may not have had your big coat on. Instead of fighting the elements it's time to come in and dry off.

This month I will be welcoming the arrival of the Winter Solstice. It may not feel like it just yet, but the days will get incrementally longer and we can set our sights on the coming of Spring. No rush though. When we can accept the cold and dark, the wet and muddy days, we can cultivate our appreciation of the warm sunny days of t-shirts and sandals. Neither of them last forever. How I wish that it was the Solstice that gave us a Bank Holiday to feast and celebrate the momentous turning point in the natural year. It seems a more balanced approach than a heavily loaded review/goal setting event of the calendar New Year - so much pressure! Better to create your beautiful life whenever the



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

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

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

*Albert Einstein*

## Think more long term for pain relief

Karen Harris

In our modern society in which we strive to work efficiently and effectively, and be performance driven, we are always looking for ways to get rid of pain and discomfort quickly and easily. The need for a 'quick fix' has led to a massive range of products such as specially developed chairs with upwards of 32 positions for the optimal working position and posture. Massage pillows with infrared functions to loosen muscles after a full days work behind a computer. Braces, supportive straps, posture aids to keep the upper back and shoulders in the 'correct' position, supports for feet, weak ankles and wrists; the list is endless.

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

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

'Support' to the body means that it can switch off, why bother working if it doesn't need to? 'I have a weak back, it runs in my family, I wear a belt to support my lower back.' 'I work a lot from home so I need to have an office chair that supports me.' 'I have weak ankles, so I wear a brace just to be safe.' There's a problem with these statements, they are from people who are looking for 'a fix' not a solution. A support will continue to feed the problem and the disassociation of the areas of the body to the control centre - the brain. Succumb to these and you are limiting yourself, your movement and mobility. Joints don't have enough freedom of movement as it is, we certainly don't want them strapped and braced to limit what little movement is left! A braced knee for example, means less movement from both the ankle and the hip - amongst other things- that will tighten the muscles to the knee, and the stabilising muscles of the hip will have less work to do and will become weak. That could potentially affect the lumbar spine because you will have also compromised your gait and more. So, think more long term in any decisions you are making about your body, you want to be as pain free as possible to enjoy the things that give you pleasure. Short term 'fixes' do not work! Yes, a holistic approach requires a little more effort but your body will thank you in the long run.

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# Embracing Individuality

Emily Papirnik

## The power of being unapologetically yourself

In a world that often pressures individuals to conform, embracing one's own uniqueness can be a revolutionary act. As an individual, you possess a medley of thoughts, memories, joys, pains and idiosyncrasies that make you distinctly you.

Despite this, societal norms and expectations can create a pervasive need to fit in, causing many to overlook the inherent value of their authentic selves. The paradox lies in the fact that while each person is inherently unique, there is a societal tendency to conform to perceived norms. The desire to fit in can stem from various sources, such as societal expectations, fear of judgement, or a need for validation. However, in the pursuit of conformity, individuals risk losing the essence of what makes them extraordinary.

It's crucial to recognise and celebrate your worth as an individual. Your thoughts, experiences and emotions are valid and contribute to the rich tapestry of human existence. Acknowledging your uniqueness fosters self-acceptance, paving the way for a more fulfilling and authentic life.

Consider the celebrities and influencers who have captivated the world with their authenticity. The most revered figures in entertainment and beyond often stand out precisely because they embrace their individuality. By being true to themselves, they not only carve out a niche but also inspire others to do the same. To break free from the chains of conformity, it's essential to



start believing in your own worth. Understand that the qualities that make you different are the very ones that contribute to your distinct identity. By embracing your oddities, successes and failures, you empower yourself to navigate life authentically. Embarking on the journey of self-discovery involves understanding your strengths, weaknesses, passions and values. Embrace your unique features, whether it's the shape of your nose or the colour of your hair, as they are integral parts of what makes you whole. Celebrate your personal narrative, for it is yours to own and share. In a world that constantly beckons conformity, embracing your individuality is a revolutionary act of self-love. Recognise that you are as worthy and important as anyone else, and by being true to yourself, you contribute to the diverse mosaic of humanity. Let go of the need to fit in, and instead, revel in the power of being unapologetically yourself. The world needs your unique perspective and it's time to shine as the individual you were meant to be.

# Thinking about self-employment?

Carol Draper



Do you currently work for someone else but think you could do their job better or more efficiently than they do? Do you have a particular passion or skill that you believe would make money?

If you are good at time management and decision making, are self-disciplined and forward thinking, are blessed with creative flair and a certain self-confidence then you could consider becoming self-employed.

Self-employment means you work for yourself rather than anyone else. It gives you the flexibility to decide when you work and allows you the creativity to choose how to complete the jobs you do for the clients you have chosen to work for. Managed properly the result can be a much better work-life balance.

While initially it can be difficult to become established and income is not guaranteed, there is the potential to earn more money than you may do working for someone else. There can be higher job satisfaction as success is due to the effort you have put in. New clients, jobs completed, and money made are all down to you and seeing an idea become reality can be enormously rewarding.

While there are benefits there can also be disadvantages when compared to traditional employment. Income is not regular and is not guaranteed.

At the beginning you are likely to need investment or at least a financial cushion until your business becomes established and even when it is, you will experience peaks and troughs in your income that you will need to manage.

Being self-employed requires you to be self-reliant. You are responsible for the decisions you make, which can lead to extra pressure, and you may end up working more hours than you did as an employee to achieve the results you need to. Once you have taken everything into consideration, if you believe self-employment is the right course of action for you then register with HMRC to advise them you are Self-Employed and take time to speak to an accountant to clarify the records you need to keep and ensure you understand the processes required.

Carol Draper FCCA  
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd

"A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work."

Colin Powell

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# Along the Wall

Brian Johnson-Thomas



It's a sobering thought that the British Empire only grew to full size just over a century ago – to be exact on 29th September 1923 – with the addition of Palestine and Transjordan. The thinking apparently was that adding those extra territories would make the route to India (aka the Jewel in the Crown) more secure by expanding the frontier. That other great empire – the Roman Empire – had much the same idea when they built a strong wall across the northern province of Britannia, again to make their possessions more secure by delineating the frontier. However, they built, as it turned out, a rather longer lasting legacy in the shape of Hadrian's Wall which still stretches from the North Sea to the Irish Sea. Designed to keep the barbarians out, the complex system of the Wall itself, the sequential Milecastles for small garrisons and the larger garrisons with their surrounding small towns are all amazingly well preserved after some two thousand years. The Northumberland side of the Wall is perhaps the better preserved and makes a good destination for a weekend or other short break, especially

since it offers the chance of staying in or near some rather nice towns like Hexham, which is big enough to be interesting but small enough not to be off-putting. We stayed nearby in the Slaley Hall Hotel which lies due south of the town in a thousand acres of surrounding woodland and which offers two 18 hole golf courses as well as a Spa and other facilities. It's a sensitive addition to the old Hall, with most of the bedrooms being in the new wings – which perhaps paradoxically ensures that they're up to date and very comfortable. We also found the restaurant menu interestingly varied and the food was well cooked and presented. We didn't actually try the heated indoor pool or the Spa though they both looked very nice. See [www.slaleyhallhotel.com](http://www.slaleyhallhotel.com) It's about half an hour's drive north to the nearest spot on Hadrian's Wall which runs for 73 miles from coast to coast - a lot of the way through some rugged and spectacular landscape –and the whole of which is classed by the UN as a World Heritage Site. It's

difficult to know where to start but I was impressed by Housesteads, Britain's most complete Roman fort and also the Roman baths at the cavalry fort of Chesters not far away. (Interestingly the Roman Army didn't have any cavalry regiments so they hired in riders and horses as 'auxiliaries' from other parts of the Empire. Some are known to have come from as far away as present day Hungary and Spain – I often wonder what they made of the weather up there in Winter...)

If you go to the English Heritage site – [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk) – and click on Hadrian's Wall then you can get a plethora of information about the wall itself, life in Roman Britain and even useful tips on using Roman makeup. They also suggest a couple of walking routes although you can find on the Web several private companies who offer walking tours in the area. Now to something a little less palatable, I have mentioned before that the time is coming when we'll all have to get pre authorisation to travel across the Channel to Europe and, after several delays, this is now set to begin in the second half of this year (*please read [www.travel-europe.europa.eu](http://www.travel-europe.europa.eu) for the fine details.*) Basically there will be a new entry/exit system for non-EU nationals (that's us) travelling for a short stay in the 29 countries of the EU. In addition to registering online, and paying the necessary fee it seems that the first time you enter Europe you will be fingerprinted and have your face scanned, so expect long queues at Border points when



this first comes into force. (Indeed, it's said that the reason for the delay in implementing this new system is because of the Paris Olympics this year – the French are expecting quite enough hassle at their borders without the additional burden of a new system, thanks) Eventually, of course, it's envisaged that this new high-tech system will do away with passports altogether. Indeed as early as next year returning Brits to Heathrow may just have to scan their faces at the electronic booths which currently scan your face and your new e-passport concurrently. Given the unfolding scandal of the Post Office's IT system I somehow have the feeling that this new bit of IT kit may well also end in tears! Oh well, here's to the onset of Spring!





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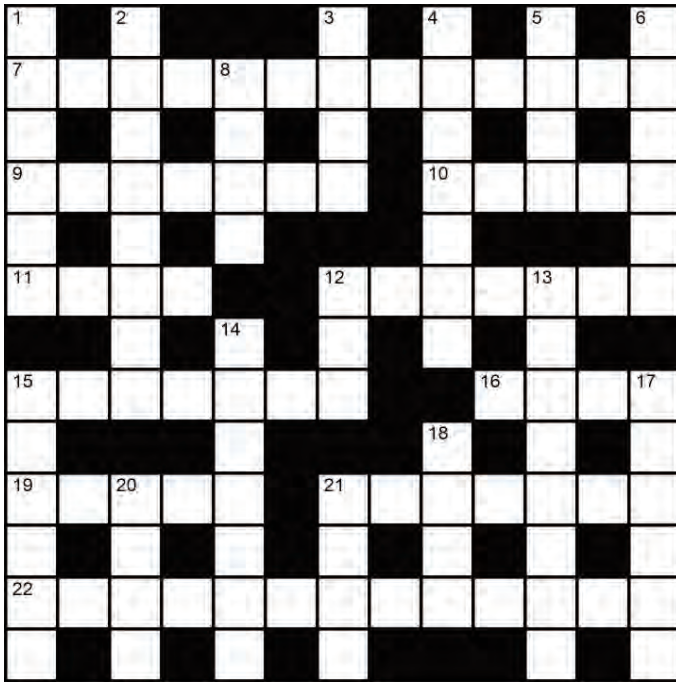
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# Coffee Break

## Crossword



### Across

- 7 In solitary confinement (13)
- 9 Improve in appearance (7)
- 10 Flat circular plates (5)
- 11 Part of an ear (4)
- 12 Defame (7)
- 15 Fruit-flavoured sweet powder (7)
- 16 Skin eruption (4)
- 19 Elevate (5)
- 21 An Irish girl (7)
- 22 Resident of e.g. Pittsburgh (13)

### Down

- 1 Fuel oil (6)
- 2 Clamber (8)
- 3 Oxidize (4)
- 4 Command to a horse (7)
- 5 Consumes (4)
- 6 Cat good at rodent control (6)
- 8 Chess ending (4)
- 12 Become firm (3)
- 13 Dilapidated (8)
- 14 Side by side (7)
- 15 Zebra-like (6)
- 17 Warm ocean current (2,4)
- 18 Bloodsucking insect (4)
- 20 Charged particles (4)
- 21 Young cow (4)

## Sudoku

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

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

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

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### Sudoku

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

- |          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| Aberdeen | Grafton      |
| Asquith  | Grey         |
| Attlee   | Heath        |
| Balfour  | Lloyd George |
| Blair    | Major        |
| Brown    | North        |
| Bute     | Peel         |
| Cameron  | Pelham       |
| Canning  | Pitt         |
| Derby    | Russell      |
| Eden     | Wilson       |

## 'A Shropshire Lad'

*A E Housman was born at Valley House in Fockbury, near Bromsgrove in Worcestershire. Housman was educated at King Edward's, Birmingham and later Bromsgrove School. Where he revealed his academic promise and won prizes for his poems. In 1877 he won an open scholarship to St John's College, Oxford. Housman completed 'A Shropshire Lad', a cycle of 63 poems. After publishers turned it down, he subsidised its publication. At first selling slowly, it rapidly became a lasting success. the book has been in print continuously since May 1896. Housman died, aged 77, in Cambridge. He was buried at St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, Shropshire.*

# Poets' Corner

## A Shropshire Lad 1:

From Clee to heaven the beacon burns

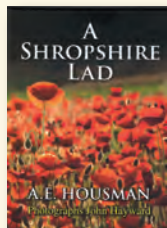
From Clee to heaven the beacon burns,  
 The shires have seen it plain,  
 From north and south the sign returns  
 And beacons burn again.  
 Look left, look right, the hills are bright,  
 The dales are light between,  
 Because 'tis fifty years to-night  
 That God has saved the Queen.  
 Now, when the flame they watch not towers  
 About the soil they trod,  
 Lads, we'll remember friends of ours  
 Who shared the work with God.  
 To skies that knit their heartstrings right,  
 To fields that bred them brave,  
 The saviours come not home to-night:  
 Themselves they could not save.  
 It dawns in Asia, tombstones show  
 And Shropshire names are read;  
 And the Nile spills his overflow  
 Beside the Severn's dead.  
 We pledge in peace by farm and town  
 The Queen they served in war,  
 And fire the beacons up and down  
 The land they perished for.  
 "God save the Queen" we living sing,  
 From height to height 'tis heard;  
 And with the rest your voices ring,  
 Lads of the Fifty-third.  
 Oh, God will save her, fear you not:  
 Be you the men you've been,  
 Get you the sons your fathers got,  
 And God will save the Queen.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

### 'A Shropshire Lad'

Author: John Hayward

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



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# Fun Quiz!



- Which branch of Mathematics uses symbols or letters to represent numbers?
- Which British chef is known for the Hell's Kitchen, The F Word, and Kitchen Nightmares television shows?
- Medical terms beginning with 'Gastro' generally relate to which area of the body?
- In the cartoon, what is the name of Tin Tin's dog?
- 'The Oriole Bird' is a baseball mascot in which US city?
- In the Beatles song of the same name, what was Eleanor's surname?
- Beauchamp Tower is part of which London landmark?
- Who wrote the 1961 novel Catch-22?
- Prince William, Duke of Cambridge attended which university?
- In electronics, what does 'IC' stand for?
- Which Scottish comedian was given a knighthood in 2017, the year of his 75th birthday?
- Englishman Richard Illingworth is an umpire in which sport?
- In which part of a cow or horse would you find the hock?
- In which year of the 1990s did Bill Clinton first become a US President?
- Dawn French played Geraldine Granger in which successful British comedy?
- The Walbrook is a tributary of which UK river?
- Block & Quayle was the original trading name of which British DIY store?
- Anne Hathaway was the wife of which English playwright, born in 1564?
- Anthea Turner, Stuart Miles and Tim Vincent all presented which BBC children's show?
- Tom Rowlands and Ed Simons make up which electronic music duo?

Answers: 1. Algebra 2. Gordon Ramsay 3. Stomach 4. Snowy 5. Baltimore 6. Ricky 7. Tower of London 8. Joseph Heller 9. St. Andrews 10. Integrated circuit 11. Billy Connolly 12. Cricket 13. Leg 14. 1993 15. The Vicar of Dibley 16. River Thames 17. B&Q 18. William Shakespeare 19. Blue Peter 20. The Chemical Brothers



## COMPETITION TIME!

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



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**Kempsey Times closing date: 26th February 2024**

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## In memoriam

Jean Ann Lewis (Nee Clarke)

Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 9th December 2023 in Worcester Royal Hospital. She will be remembered as a kind caring person, raising funds over the years for the Midlands Air Ambulance. Jean is survived by her four Sons: Dave, Andy, Pete and Mike. Dearly loved Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. A funeral service took place on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at St Mary's Church, Kempsey. Kind donations in memory of Jean are invited for Midlands Air Ambulance.

Donations may be sent to:  
**Bedwardine Funeral Services**  
 30 Bromyard Road, St Johns,  
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 Tickets £12 Online from Ticket Source / £13 on the Door

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## Save the Date!

To mark the  
**80th**  
 anniversary of  
**D-Day -**

**Thursday 6th June 2024**

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Kempsey Promotions CIC, a not for profit limited company established last year. We are working in partnership with Kempsey Parish Council to stage a Beacon Lighting event on Kempsey Common on Thursday 6th. June to mark the 80th. anniversary of D-Day. This is being project managed by Cllr Neil Stevens. We have included our near neighbours Severn Stoke and Croome D'Abitot in the project team. The beacon lighting is part of a national occasion coordinated by Pageant master Bruno Peek. Beacons across the country will be lit at precisely 21:15. It's also National Fish & Chips week - we will be marking this with Mannie's Eats mobile Fish and Chips up on the Common. A 1940's style singer - Ruby Rouge along with the Malvern Hills in Swing era mode and a locally based bugler from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. There will be food and drink available on the Common and things to keep the youngsters occupied. When Neil Stevens organised the

beacon lighting for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (QPJ,) in 2022 we had a thousand people on the hill.

We are seeking volunteers to assist with organisation; set up; marshalling and break down. Reach out to local businesses who might want to get involved with sponsorship and support. Reach out to Military History Groups who might offer some D-Day hardware as an attraction.

Save the Date!  
To mark the 80th. anniversary of D-Day - Thursday 6th. June

Simon Bott  
Director of Kempsey Promotions CIC



## Useful numbers

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- Kempsey Mobile Library  
Second Tuesday in the month ..... 01905 822722
- Kempsey Police Station ..... 101  
.....(In an emergency always call 999)
- CrimeStoppers ..... 0800 555 111
- Kempsey Post Office ..... 01905 828469
- Kempsey Doctors Surgery ..... 01905 820466
- Kempsey Parish Council ..... 01905 828183
- MHDC Council  
Out of hours Emergency hotline - In an event of  
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- To report faulty traffic lights or urgent Highways  
issues call: ..... 07875 033759  
Please note: This number should not be used for 'day-to-day' enquiries.
- Waste Services ..... 01684 862490
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# Kempsey Times



Kempsey Colts Football Club now on  YouTube



Kempsey Colts FC now have our own YouTube Channel. With the club being in the privileged position to be able to purchase a VEO Cam this season, we will be posting one game each week from across our teams.

The first game uploaded to our new channel is our U17's, who played Alcester and came out 2-1 winners in the Ambassador League.

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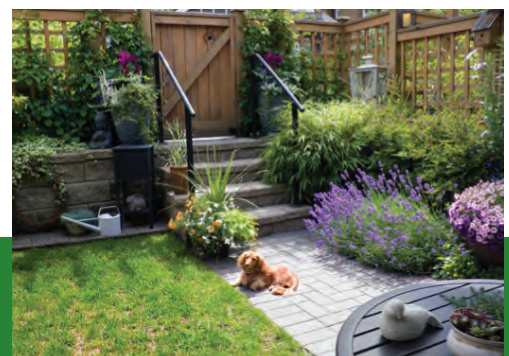
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