

Kempsey Times



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

Issue 4

May 2024

FREE



Kempsey Common

O the month of May, the merry month of May,
So frolic, so gay, so green, so green.'
These are the first few lines by the famous poet Thomas Dekker, written in 1599, and sum up our hope for May. It certainly is green and is forecast to brighten up even more as Summer comes. We hope that this will be the case and May will be a merry month! We seem to have had a long, wet Winter. The rain and cold wind of late have been very unpleasant. Maybe we are being impatient and Summer is on its way, a wonderful season. We shall have to wait and see!

The countryside looks lovely with so much blossom and hedgerows turning green. We are very fortunate to live in Worcestershire. We have lots

to look forward to with many events taking place in and around the towns and villages. There is plenty for gardeners to do and summer sports to be

enjoyed by participants or spectators. The amount of organised summer events is back to pre-Covid days. That awful time seems long ago and although many things have changed since, there is a feeling of optimism. This is hard at times though, when so many dreadful things are happening in the world too. Let's hope we will have good weather so that we can enjoy all the events and the beautiful countryside surrounding us. Then, indeed, May will be a very merry month!



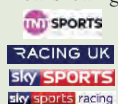
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County & District Report

It's amazing, here we are dropping into May. The year's flying round, just like a spinning Wurlitzer at a country fair. To be honest, as a child, I never liked the twisting and whirling. My grandchildren,

however, seem to love it! With the endless enjoyable chores in my veg plot, I am beginning to see my efforts bear fruit. It's a bit like being a councillor – you dig and scrape away, then, suddenly, a project blooms.

Kempsey Colts get to keep warm



I was really pleased to be able to assist Kempsey Colts by funding 28 Warm Bench Coats. Kempsey Colts is a Kempsey based community, grass-roots football club, catering for youth teams from age 5 to 18, for both girls and boys. The club is run by volunteers and has over 200 children signed up, and over 350 parent members. Sport is an important part of our children's wellbeing, both physically and mentally. I feel it is so important to ensure children get away from the internet and instead get out in the fresh air and enjoy

themselves. I was delighted to help. Vice Chair Richard Smith, who along with so many others helps run Kempsey Colts, said "These coats will allow the 200+ children to keep warm whilst playing football through the winter months. It's important that substitutes keep their bodies warm, as they might have to join the game at any moment. These jackets will allow the kids to enjoy their game, plus reduce injuries through the young players getting cold while waiting on the subs bench."

Alley North of the shop, finally the cost is in



It's been a battle of mine to get WCC to tarmac the alley heading northwards from our shop. I have finally been provided with a costing and the price is a bit of an eyeopener! To install a tarmac path from the shop to the junction with Aston Close will currently cost £28/30K. From the junction of Aston Close northwards, £47/49K. I intend to push for both parts to be done in the

financial year 2025–2026.

And finally . . .

As I type this newsletter to you, the rain has finally stopped. It's time to return to my veg plot. I realise it's also time to take stock of where we are. The winds of change are coming, we can all feel it. Let's hope for sunnier times inside and out. I'm here if you need me.

Martin

Councillor Martin Allen

New proposals for getting young people into transport

Young people could soon find more careers in transport, following Government proposals to lower the minimum age requirements for bus and coach drivers and speed up training for bus, coach and lorry drivers. Roads Minister Guy Opperman has launched a consultation to remove a restriction that currently states that 18 to 20-year-old bus and coach drivers can only drive routes up to 50km. While they can already drive an articulated lorry with no distance limit, currently a fully trained 18 to 20 year-old driver can't operate a coach from London to Manchester, or the scenic Coastliner bus route across Leeds-York-Yorkshire coast, due to the 50km restriction.

These proposals are looking to change that.

With more bus and coach drivers safely trained to drive on our roads, bus operators could be able to run more services, especially in rural areas where bus routes tend to be longer.

This will bring more reliable services and help passengers travel with confidence.

This comes on top of further proposals for prospective bus, coach and HGV drivers to start theory and off-road training

right away, rather than having to wait to have their provisional licence, meaning they can get started on their training journey immediately.

More qualified lorry drivers will support a stronger haulage sector, helping ensure medical supplies reach hospitals, parcels are delivered on time and supermarket shelves are always stocked.

If the proposals are introduced, all prospective bus, coach and HGV drivers will be held to the same training requirements as before to ensure Britain's roads remain among the safest in the world, but will mean drivers can complete training and get working more quickly.



Save the Children

**Plant Sale -
Saturday 8th June 2024**

All welcome to Save the Children's sale of plants, herbs and flowers.

Saturday 8th June from 2:30pm – 4pm at St. Mary's Church, Kempsey.

Coffee and cake will be available

We would be very grateful for any donations of cuttings, bulbs, seeds and herbs.

The work of Save the Children

We exist for children. To make their world a better place. To help them learn, grow and become who they want to be. No matter where they're growing up, we find a way to reach the children who need us most.

No matter what the emergency, Children always suffer the most!

The world is dangerous and frightening for children right now.

Conflict and natural disasters create food insecurity and threaten millions of children's survival and well-being every year - the need is greater now than ever.

If you would like to make a donation to Save the Children please contact:

Julia 01905 820138 or
Heather 01905 821040 or to donate online, visit:
www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate

Registered Charity Number:
213890

Growbaby - Worcester Vineyard Church



Growbaby is a charity run by Worcester Vineyard Church that gives away good quality, second-hand clothes, toys and equipment to families of 0 to 5-year-olds. Our stock comes from donations, and we have items like cots, pushchairs, swimming things, socks, sterilisers, car seats, bottles, nappies, books, bikes and just about anything that you can imagine a 0 to 5 year old might need!

We store our stock at Storage King and then hold events once per month, on the second Saturday, at the Ronkswood Community Centre between 9.45 and 11.30am. Everyone is welcome to come along, and everything is free! At the start of the sessions, families are asked to log in with some basic details and are

given a number. They are then able to go into the main hall where we have boxes of toys available that children can play with and take home with them; there is a limit of one bag full per family, however. Free refreshments are also available for families whilst they await their turn.

When their number is called, families are then escorted into another room which contains the clothes, shoes, Moses baskets, baby baths and other equipment which can be taken as required. Families are asked to only take what they need, however, to make sure that there is enough for everybody. Families can keep returning every month to take what they need and enjoy the company of the volunteers and the other families.

News from Chamwino Nursery School, Morogoro



I am delighted to report that Phase 1 of Chamwino Nursery School Water Appeal has been completed and is being used by the Nursery Children.

The following is a message from Rev. Robert Sekwao. "The people of the Tanzania Particular Parish of St Paul's Church of Chamwino Parish are truly grateful for your support and hard work, and may Almighty God continue to bless you all. We have submitted a construction report of the first phase of the toilet blocks using phase 1 funds raised by you. {16,020,500.000 Tsh}. Our goal is to complete Phase 2 {a second toilet block} and Phase 3 {Septic Tank} projects as soon as possible." *Thanks to all who donated and supported our phase 1 fund raising 2023*

We are continuing to support Chamwino Nursery School Water Appeal and the Phase 2 and 3 projects. Details of further "Fun" fund raising events will be available soon.

If you would like to make a donation to Phase 2 of Chamwino Nursery school Water Appeal please contact Jan Venables 07928 316080 Thank You



It's Christian Aid Week ... again!

Many years ago, I went with some good friends up to London. We were still at university. It had been a hard slog. We deserved a fun night out. And it was! We went to a show. We had a good dinner and a few drinks. I remember emerging excitedly into Piccadilly Circus which was, as always at night, a riot of coloured lights and crowds. It was getting late. We must run to catch a last train back to Cambridge. So we pushed our way through the people spilling on to the roads and still laughing and joking. Suddenly at my feet was a young man, doubled up and screaming. The crowd pushed forward. With horror I found myself stepping over the man's contorted body. We should

stop! We should do something! But what? We were late. What could we do? We ran on. But the joy had gone. That shameful moment haunts me over fifty years later. I see him yet... the young man on the pavement. The feet of the crowd. And my stepping over him. Leaving him..... Of course I have been reassured. There was probably very little we could have done. There were plenty of other people around to help. And we did have to get back. I have heard similar sensible things said on the doorstep when in the past, like many readers, I have gone house to house collecting for "Christian Aid Week". All sorts of "good" reasons why help should be

withheld. How can you be sure every penny will get there? What about Charity beginning at home? And, given the scale of human suffering, what difference can any gift of mine possibly make? There are, I acknowledge, all sorts of reasons, some compelling, some born of weariness, some of personal hardship, why we might perhaps let this year's "Christian Aid Week" slip by. But then. The three guys who left the injured man by the roadside to be rescued later by a hated Samaritan (in the story Jesus told) had their own good reasons for leaving well alone too. All I would ask of myself, and others is that we don't turn away as I did (to my shame)

that summer night in London but, if given the opportunity to donate ... maybe at church or school... we respond as best we can. From our comparative wealth. Or our straightened circumstances. Let's at least try to keep compassion alive in our hearts and within our community. And love. No one can ask more.

*Canon Owain Bell
Kempsey Christian Aid Group*

*Christian Aid Week
May 12th - May 18th .
Look out for details of how to help in your local church.
There will be envelopes available. Or contact me on 01905 82029 or e-mail: dowainbell@yahoo.co.uk*

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Monday 10:30am

St James Church Norton

Tuesday 10:00am

St Mary's Church-Kempsey

Thursday 1:00pm

St Mary's Church-Kempsey

£3 per family - Snacks and refreshments provided!

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For more information

Please contact Libberty at libberty.holt@motov8.org.uk

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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

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King's Worcester Nurseries continue to lead the way

King's Worcester Nurseries have once again been recognised by the UK popular nursery review website, Day Nurseries as Top Nurseries in the West Midlands. For the fourth year running, the King's Worcester Nursery Group, made up of city-centre King's St Alban's Nursery and King's Hawford Nursery, based in north Worcester, have outranked hundreds of nurseries in the West Midlands, appearing as one of the Top 20 nursery groups in the UK. Alongside this, King's Hawford has, for the second year running, achieved the "Top 20 Nursery" in the West Midlands, the only nursery in Worcester to achieve such an award in consecutive years. Daynurseries.co.uk is the leading UK nursery review website, with 3.5 million visits per year and almost 195,000 nursery reviews. Every year daynurseries.co.uk recognises the highest-scoring nurseries and nursery groups, based on parent and guardian reviews. Reviews are based on factors such as resources, equipment,

facilities, outdoor space, food and nutrition, and management, as well as value for money. Both King's St Alban's Nursery and King's Hawford Kindergarten are regularly rated 10/10 on daynurseries.co.uk and as such are seen as being among the leading nursery and pre-school group settings in Worcestershire. Katie Poole, Kindergarten Manager at King's Hawford added, "This is fantastic news, to have been recognised again in the individual category and for King's to be rewarded in the group category. "The two nurseries within the King's Worcester Nurseries Group provide outstanding Early Years care in nurturing and supportive environments. Children aged two years and above flourish in the heart of our Prep School communities. Winning this award is a true testament to the excellent work of the nursery staff. It reflects their unwavering commitment and dedication to ensuring that all children in their care are happy, engaged, and thriving."



King's Hawford (L-R): Max H, Aubrey D, Bodhi M, Harriett

Cornflower Club



We had a very full meeting on March 27th with our Easter Bonnet Parade, bring and buy, quiz and a visit from Cathy Garner, Kempsey's Community Builder who gave us a short talk about what her work involved; it was very interesting. Cathy stayed and judged our Easter Bonnets and enjoyed a cup of tea and chatting with our members. The Malvern ukulele band entertained us on April 10th. We always enjoy our musical afternoons.

Our meetings for May start on Wednesday 8th May and then 22nd May at 2:30 - 4:30 in the Parish Hall, Kempsey. We would love to welcome ladies and gentlemen over 60 years of age to join us, have a chat with friends over a cup of tea and biscuits. Come and see what we do.

Sally Linsey 01905 820476

Julia Grant 01905 820138



Save the Children

Save the Children are holding a plant sale on Saturday June 8th between 2-30 p.m. and 4-00 p.m. at St. Mary's church, Kempsey. There will be tea and homemade cakes to enjoy and greeting cards for sale. It would be lovely to see our regular supporters plus all the other people who live in our

village, please support us to raise much needed funds for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you

Heather Davies 01905 821040

Julia Grant 01905 820138



Contact Information

Curate in Charge: Rachel Colthurst - email: rachel.colthurst@motov8.org.uk

Baptisms: email: libbirty.holt@motov8.org.uk

Funerals: email: rachel.colthurst@motov8.org.uk

Weddings: email: weddings@severnsideparishes.co.uk

Please see social media and notice boards for more information.

KEMPSEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY 2024



We look forward to welcoming you to the Annual Parish Meeting 2024 on **Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7:30pm at Kempsey Community Centre**. Refreshments will be available from 7pm.

Guest Speakers to include:

- **Nick Hubble** - With a talk on RAF Defford
- **Rob Gardener** - With a planning update
- **Cathy Garner** - Presenting the Community Builder Project

To view the agenda, please refer to the Parish Council website:



For more information, please contact the Parish Office:
kempseyparishcouncil@gmail.com
01905 828183

Severn Stoke & Croome D'abitot News

Happenings in Severn Stoke and Environs

St. Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

We are open for business after the fourth flood in five years and look forward to seeing you at the services on the first and third Sundays at 10.30 a.m. or just come and see our beautiful medieval Church. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, 19th May following the morning service starting at approximately 12 noon. At this meeting, those on the revised Church Electoral Roll will vote for Parochial Church Councillors and Officers. Please be sure to complete the Forms to continue on the Electoral Roll and newcomers can complete the Forms, which are in church on

the table by the main door.

Friends of St. Denys, Severn Stoke

Raising funds to modernise the church!

Planning for the Artisans and Crafts Event in St Denys' on Saturday, 13th July is ongoing. If you are interested in booking a stall, please contact Jane Hall on 01684 592 924

The recent Severn Stoke and Kinnersley 100 Club Draw, delayed by the church flooding, produced the following £30.00 winners: January – Mrs Pat Comley, February – Mrs Maureen Whatman, March – Mrs Carole Bradley and April – Mrs Sally Dawson.

JB Henderson

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Booking online is often seen as easy and cheap, but it comes without all the perks and assurances of booking through a Travel Agent like me, such as personal customer care and direct 24hr emergency access. A travel agent will spend the time it takes finding you the perfect holiday, so you don't have to sift through all the options and guess which is the best for you. Travel Agents, with all their expertise and contacts, take that stress away. Not to mention the instant relief of using a Travel Agent should something go wrong. Your agent will quickly help work on a resolution for you, and with me being part of Travel Counsellors, you also have their help and support too. Travel agents really shine when booking the more luxurious

holidays, cruises, complex trips with multiple locations or difficult to access locations. These holidays need the utmost care and attention and a travel agent can put a whole package together, offering you peace of mind, saving you the stress, the time, and sometimes money too. Did you know that if you book your holiday online using different suppliers - a flight with one, a hotel with another, a tour with someone else – then you're not covered if any of these go wrong? You're on your own. Another great reason to package a holiday through a Travel Agent... and if you chose a person to book through rather than a website, you actually get to speak to someone and avoid any call centres, bonus!

*Sarah Lloyd-Rumens
Travel Counsellor*

Please put your bin out by 7am on collection day



- Green recycling bin
- Black waste bin

MAY						
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A few words from... Dame Harriett Baldwin MP Cotswold Line improvements



L-R Oxfordshire County Council leader Liz Leffman, Harriett Baldwin MP, Transport Minister Huw Merriman, Robert Courts MP, Lord Faulkner of Worcester and Worcestershire County Councillor Mike Rouse

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP says that she is hopeful that a project which aims to double two vital stretches of rail track between Oxford and Worcester can move forward. The MP joined Witney MP Robert Courts to meet with Transport Minister Huw Merriman to discuss proposals to dual two sections of rail track between Oxford and Worcester allowing more, faster services to and from London and the South East. Representatives from Oxfordshire and Worcestershire County Council joined the meeting to present a case to revive the project which lost impetus during the pandemic. Harriett has championed the proposal to double a section of track between Worcester and Pershore for more than a decade which will deliver faster journey times and allow extra services. The two local authorities have

been working together on a proposal and presented a strong business case to the Department for Transport. Harriett said: "We had a very positive meeting with the Minister and I am hopeful that the right people are now talking to each other in the Department and Network Rail to find a way to progress this plan. Before the pandemic, a strong proposal was made to carry out the dualling of the Cotswold Line but this and many similar projects were mothballed until people returned to the railways. Rail use is clearly coming back to normal, and the success of Worcestershire Parkway shows that we now need to focus on delivering faster, more frequent, more reliable services for county commuters. I am confident that the Minister has picked up on the local enthusiasm for this important project."

Historic Beethoven work in Pershore Abbey



An evening of Beethoven's choral music, including a work in which the composer himself played the piano for the last time at a public concert, is being performed in May by the members of Pershore Choral. "We have planned an exciting programme of Beethoven's choral work which will remind everybody that Beethoven was not just a symphonic genius but also a master of song," said Paul Clarke, Chairman of Pershore Choral. "The highlight of the event is probably his celebrated Mass in C, but we shall also be singing his Choral Fantasia and the final movement of his Mount of Olives which was the only oratorio he ever wrote." The Choral Fantasia was composed in 1808 when Beethoven was 38 and it was premiered at a theatre in Vienna three days before Christmas. It was the ground breaking finale of a concert of his work lasting four hours on a bitterly cold night and it had been completed only a few days before.

Beethoven himself played the piano part, which he actually improvised on the night, but his hearing was already beginning to fail despite his comparatively young age and it is believed that he never again played on the public stage. "It is sadly ironic that the choral score of this piece magnificently celebrates the gift of music just at a time when the composer's ability to hear his own music was gradually being taken from him," Paul added. Beethoven died at the age of 56 following a prolonged illness. He produced some of his greatest work during the last ten years of his life when he was almost totally deaf and unable to hear an orchestra playing what he had written. *The concert takes place at Pershore Abbey on: Saturday 11th May 2024, 7.30pm Tickets are available from Anne Howells on: 01905 770557 or email: anne.horsellhowells@gmail.com or from Blue in Broad Street, Pershore.*

Young people urged to wear seat belts



A new campaign to remind young men to CLICK their seat belt in a bid to shift attitudes and save lives on roads across England and Wales has launched. Every week, four young people aged 17 to 29-years-old are either killed or seriously injured on our roads when not wearing a seat belt, with young men more likely to not wear one, especially on short or well-known journeys. In 2022, 30% of fatalities among 17 to 29-year-olds were unbelted. To help combat this, alongside targeted advertising on road-

side posters, radio and social media, CLICK will collaborate with several partners, including various County Football Associations and local clubs to promote 'belting up' when travelling to match days to keep themselves and their teammates safe. Taxi and private hire vehicle companies, including Uber, are also supporting the campaign, and looking to introduce direct reminders to passengers to wear their seat belt when making journeys in cabs.

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Severn Stoke & Croome D'abitot Parish Council

It was with great sadness that we have learned of the death of our valued colleague and friend Hugh Hanmer. We thank his family, with deepest gratitude, for the many years of his dedicated parish contributions, both as a resident and as Chairman of Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council. Thank you to everyone that attended the annual residents' meeting hosted by St Denys' Church on 20th March. We received updates in person from The National Trust, our Lengthsman, St Denys' Church, The Parish Hall Committee and from our District and County Councillors. We also had third party reports from Tarmac and from our police officer. The Environment Agency attended – please see the minutes of the meeting for the information provided. Parish Councillors will keep residents updated with all urgent new information in respect of the bund. Thank you to Paul Mills, the Ring Master at St Mary's Church Kempsey, for the interesting introduction on Bell Ringing at St Denys' and for explaining plans for ringing on Sunday Services, weddings and for other events as well. Also at that meeting, residents voted overwhelmingly to support a motion to write in complaint to the planning department at Worcester City Council et al. This is in response to a resident's concern about the permitted housing being built at the Ketch A38 roundabout. Residents supported the topic of the letter that 'this 3-storey housing

development is not in any way suitable for this location, a blight on the surrounding countryside and, the adjacent traffic and pollution being of significant detriment to the residents who will live there'. The parish council has put that request into motion. Residents also supported a complaint to our Police and Crime Commissioner. Residents supported the letter stating 'how entirely unacceptable it is that we have just one single police constable covering the Kempsey and Alfrick ward'. No response so far! The parish council encourage all to sign up for the Police Online tool, Neighbourhood Matters. This is a free service available to all and it is where West Mercia Police will provide community messages, crime prevention advice and details of community engagements. Residents can sign up to receive messages via this link www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk Councillors continue to receive with much interest, the plans for the D-Day commemorations on 6th June, which will see a beacon lighting event on Kempsey Common. Thank you to outgoing Parish Councillor Lee Russell, who has regrettably had to resign due to work commitments. The position, which will be open to be filled via election if residents request it, will be advertised shortly on parish noticeboards. Those interested in applying for the other positions that are available to

fill immediately via co-option are more than welcome to contact the parish clerk. These times see a certain crisis in the number of people coming forward to volunteer in all aspects of society. Vibrant communities with strong levels of civic participation are good for localities and good for all individuals. Parish councils are the closest tier of government to residents and therefore the most accessible. This parish council has recently taken on and addressed a lot of feedback from past councillors and from volunteers and is a welcoming, warm and open place. No matter what your background and availability etc – the role of parish councillor is a flexible one in many respects. Make Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council the first place that you dip your toe into volunteering. The parish council has been awarded money via the West Mercia and Office of the Police Crime Commissioner 'Road Safety Grant' scheme to cover the full cost of an additional Vehicle Activated Speed Sign. This sign will be invaluable at various locations along the A38, particular when the motorway is closed at night and traffic is seeking an alternative route without adjusting speeds and ETAs as necessary! Pre-election rules prevent full publicity of this gift to the parish – we will run another article later in the year. Parish councillors, our lengthsman and local contractors have finished installing the replacement bus

shelter glass at Severn Stoke and the replacement bin at Clifton. We sometimes struggle to find businesses that are willing to take on such small jobs such as these. If you own a local handyman business (etc) and would like to be added to our contractor list, please get in touch. The bus shelters will now receive a good clean and the latest bus times will be fixed within. Download the County Council bus app 'Worcestershire on Demand' now, so that you have it ready for when you need it. Journeys can be booked by downloading the trusted app, available on Google Play or through the Apple app store. Search for 'Worcestershire on Demand'. It is also good news that the separate Worcester Wheels Friday bus is still going to keep running. Flyers for both bus services are below.

Next Meeting:
Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at the meeting room at Croome National Trust Visitor Centre.

Lisa Stevens,
Parish Council Clerk,
Tel: 07950 256363
Email: severnstokeandcda@gmail.com
Your councillors are:
Laurence Freeman (Chair),
Susan Faulkner (Deputy),
Raymond Williams,
Pat Preston,
Royston Garrard,
Nicola Sumner,
Richard Hill.
Contact the parish clerk if you would like to receive agendas or minutes by email.



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From The Lawns



A spring in our step at The Lawns

What a wonderful Easter at The Lawns celebrating with the children from Kempsey Primary School, who visited with beautiful handmade cards for our residents. Congratulations to Brooklyn, who won our Easter Raffle and dropped by to pick up her prize. Easter and new life go hand in hand and we were delighted to have cuddles with our carer's newborn baby, a trio of puppies and our therapy dog Bella. Residents threw themselves into crafting for our Easter Hat Parade – you can see from the photos how much fun everyone had – and

nothing like an inflatable chicken suit to make the event all the more memorable! Residents have been getting outside to garden in the brighter spells between the rain and also planting seeds indoors. We need a watering rota there are so many pots planted up! We enjoyed a group outing, thanks for Worcester Wheels, to St Peters Garden Centre for some planting inspiration BC (before cake!) We have planned outings next to the museum and art gallery in April and a narrowboat trip in May. Thank you to our fabulous volunteer Sarah for an afternoon of poetry and prose.

Stonehall United FC 1960's



Back Row L- R: John Bradley, Ted Goodwin, Malcolm Walford Bill Playdon, Graham Hollingshead, Graham Ford
 Front Row L- R: Eddie Collins, Dave Dowton, Clive Woodward, Trevor Fruitral, Barry Woodward
 Ten of the players were local Lads. Picture supplied by Malcolm Walford



We love welcoming volunteers here, so if you are looking for work experience, to make new friends, learn new skills or share your hobbies, please do get in touch.

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 11.00am Easter Communion at POWICK

Thursday 9th May

Ascension Day

7.30pm Deanery Ascension Service at POWICK

Sunday 12th May

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

9.30am Communion Service for Christian Aid Week at CALLOW END
 11.00am Communion Service for Christian Aid Week at MADRESFIELD

Sunday 19th May

Pentecost/Whit Sunday

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at POWICK
 9.30am BCP Holy Communion at GUARLFORD
 11.00am Morning Praise at POWICK
 5.30pm BCP Evening Prayer via ZOOM

Sunday 26th May

Trinity Sunday

9.30am Trinity Sunday Communion at CALLOW END
 11.00am Trinity Sunday Communion at MADRESFIELD

Midweek Communion at The Orchard Room in Colletts Green
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Camera Club



Travelling Alone by Charles Ashton

With a productive month in April now past, the Club is, as ever, looking forward to the opportunities for photography which are promised by the warmer and drier, Spring and Summer months. But before we get there, we have one remaining - and in many ways most important - formal meeting to round off the season.

This is our Annual General Meeting, which will be held, via Zoom, on Wednesday 8th May. Unlike in many clubs and societies, our AGM is usually very well attended and we would be happy for potential new members to be present, to meet the membership and to hear the large amount that the Club has achieved in our 36th season - and what awaits in the 37th!

Once announced at the AGM, details of the programme for 2024-25 will be published on our website:
www.kempseycameraclub.uk

As in recent seasons we will be running a series of monthly meetings, together with more casual meet-ups, through the once-closed season in the summer. These occasions are generally open to potential, as well as current, members, so if you are interested, it is definitely worth making contact with us, via the website:
www.kempseycameraclub.uk between May and the end of August. We would be delighted to see you!

In the meantime we hope that you will enjoy these two images - 'Travelling Alone' by Charles Ashton and 'Just A Thought' by Paul Dallimore - one of four top placed and one of seven commended images, respectively, in our recent 'Open and print' competition.

*Malcolm A Hay
Secretary*

'Just A Thought' by Paul Dallimore



Kempsey WI



A former Royal Worcester modeller showed off her amazing dexterity when she demonstrated flower making to members of Kempsey WI. Avril Pulley, who started making life size flowers in china clay at the Royal Worcester factory when she was just 17, now works with air-drying modelling paste but still uses the same skills to make incredibly intricate and realistic flowers in minutes. Her husband Ray, who she met over 50 years ago when he also worked at Worcester Porcelain, as a figurine modeller, passed round the completed items to the watching WI members. They included flowers ranging from roses, carnations and freesias to tiny gypsophila heads and delicate fuchsias with drooping stamens. Working as she talked, Avril explained how she likes to copy a real flower for her models and will create named varieties, often from her garden. She can also craft from photographs if necessary. She

showed how she makes petals, leaves and calyxes separately, moulding them together. Glue is only used for certain processes such as inserting the wire for the stem. While at Royal Worcester, she also made the tiny flowers and bows used on the figurines and the flowers for the bird models - including fashioning and fixing individual prickles onto gorse bushes. She still gives some demonstrations of her modelling art at the Royal Worcester Museum in the city. Avril judged the competition for Flowers in Art, which was won by Melody Baker-Joyce

May's Kempsey WI meeting is due to feature more flowers - this time real ones being planted in a demonstration of hanging baskets and tubs. Kempsey Youth Centre, Plovers Rise, WR5 3SA, Monday 20th May at 14:00

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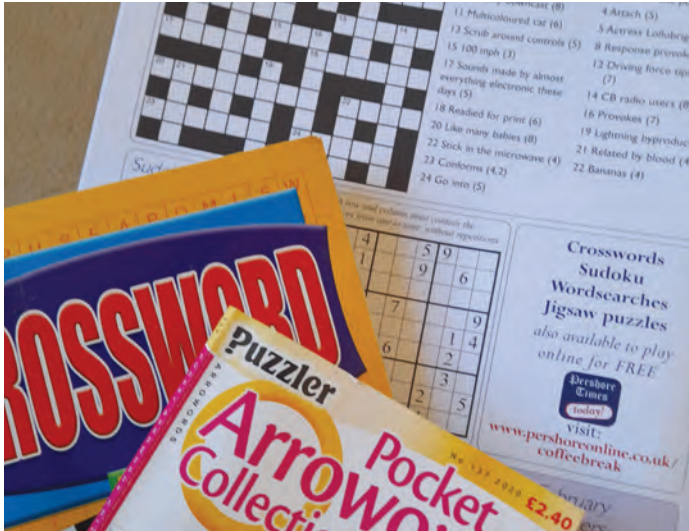
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Women's Hour! _t's _ p_zzl_! Susan Catford



Life is full of challenges of all kinds and from a very early age we try to make sense of things. Through touch, sounds, taste and sight, babies learn about the world about them; they are naturally inquisitive. To try and encourage the skill of understanding and learning, we offer them shape sorting, jigsaws, colour matching, counting games etc. Watching our two and a half (the half is important at this age!) year old Grandson, patiently trying to fit shapes into appropriate holes whilst reinforcing their names for language development, is fascinating. Concentration and perseverance are rewarded with success but there is obviously enjoyment in the task too. Similarly with jigsaw puzzles, seeing how he rotates shapes until they magically fit shows that he is already trying to solve problems. In this way, he

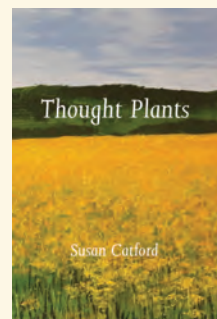
meets what is a puzzle with the desire to solve it. This is a very early learning skill which we employ throughout our lives. Puzzles also provide enjoyment for many adults. There are many puzzle books available with a whole range of different kinds of puzzles. I prefer crossword puzzles as long as they are not cryptic ones which still leave me baffled! Online games such as Wordle, Scrabble, Solitaire and even board games like chess and backgammon are great for filling time and exercising the brain. We have friends who start every day with a shared crossword and another friend who plays backgammon online as a mental warm-up to the day. In our household, there is a competitive element to solving the daily Wordle puzzle but it is also fun! I've always enjoyed the mental

challenges of solving problems, though the mathematical kind at school were not my cup of tea- best left to those with mathematical brains! Language and word puzzles interest me and we are told learning a new language is a good way to stave off senile dementia. Anything which engages the brain, using Poirot's 'little grey cells', will help to keep us mentally fit. My brain seems to be at its most effective first thing in the morning. I have often gone to bed with an apparently insoluble problem only to wake up with a solution. My sleeping brain seems able to work without me! TV channels cater for this thirst for problem solving with a whole range of game programmes. Some provide incentives through cash and attractive prizes. It is a satisfying experience watching others undergo these challenges from the comfort of our armchairs. It is also possible to offer our own solutions knowing that if we get it wrong, no-one will know! There are definitely games such as 'University Challenge' or 'Only Connect' which appeal to the more intellectual viewers. It is amazing to see the breadth of knowledge these students have quite apart from their own particular subject area. Truly awesome! There are, of course, easier games like 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' and 'Pointless' which offer multiple choice answers. The competitors are not required to

be experts so we can more easily identify with them. These are fun programmes which make us think and can be a light relief from the more serious documentaries, dramas and murder mysteries. Our own papers (now Pershore, Upton, Powick and Kempsey Times) all carry puzzle pages. The anagram puzzle is always very popular and attracts many entries. More puzzles can be accessed through TODAY online which offers a mix of current articles and news, plus updates throughout the month. (It is currently being revamped so watch this space.) We are doing our best to keep those grey cells active! Life is a puzzle. There are problems and challenges every day but there are also solutions to many, though not all, things. Whether it is seeking cures for life threatening diseases or attempting to solve world problems, it is fortunate that we are encouraged from those early days to keep trying and not give up. That is also where hope comes in as well, to help us try to overcome even the worst difficulties life can present. Life may be a puzzle at times but puzzles can be fun!

Questions?

- What is the time?
- Which is the day?
- When will it happen?
- Where will we stay?
- How can we get there?
- Train, plane or car?
- What do we need?
- Is it too far?
- Shall we bring anything?
- Some food or drink?
- These are my questions.
- What do you think?



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

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SUPPLEMENT**Memories of a
Country Village:****Part 4*****Kempsey
Worcestershire
1911 – 1995***

By Cyril Weaver

Enjoying the River Severn

In the summer swimming in the river was another past-time for us lads. There were two special places to swim, both just below the church where the stream enters the river from the Rocky. The one upstream was quite deep, while the other one, which we lads called the bathing hole, was just ideal for those just learning to swim. It was always men or lads who took part, and I never ever remember seeing a lady or girl taking a dip. Also in Summer you would see those pleasure steamers like the 'Holt Castle' or 'Duchess Doreen' plying their way between Tewkesbury or Upton Upon Severn. Or course the most regular sight, both winter and summer, were those tugs like 'The Traveller' or 'Severn Victor' with their line of barges being towed behind. As soon as we lads saw one come round the bend we would all have a guess as to how many he had on tow. Oh, what fun. What simple pleasures!

Perhaps Kempsey's main river attraction would have been the Pixham Ferry down on the Lower Ham. Here a small boat would take across the odd person, with perhaps his or her bike if so needed. Whilst that large flat bottomed ferry boat, with its railed sides and dropped ends, would take over anything large. Yes, we lads used to wait to see things go over, all secretly wishing to witness a minor disaster. It was hard work for the ferryman and a rather slow job. A strong iron chain lying on the bottom across the river, came up and over the two wheels on the side of the ferry boat. When the ferryman, using a handle, turned the wheel the boat slowly moved to the opposite bank. I used to think it great fun when I went over on my Dad's horse and cart, to deliver his gear and materials when working on the Old Hills or at Callow End. Occasionally there was a special treat when the Croome Hunt's horses and hounds used it for their 'meet over the water', as it was called. Yes, we watched and waited for some kind of mishap, but no one fell in, and those tugs that plied the river always blew their siren to warn of their approach. Secretly we were always a little disappointed when nobody fell in, but it was still entertaining to watch the spectacle.

The River Severn at Kempsey has always appealed to me very much and even today, almost eighty years, on I can still remember some of those names and places along the banks which have been forgotten by so many over the decades. There was the Top and the Bottom Ham, the Vicarage Meadow, Lanes End, the Brooks Mouth, the Stones and the Oak Cottage Meadows.

A child's misunderstanding

When I was very young there was one personal thing I just could not quite understand, it was to do with my grandparents. Those on my father's side, the Weavers, living in Church Street were not a problem to me, but those on my mother's side, living so close in the Freelands, certainly did play on my mind. You see my mother had two brothers with the surname Preece, which was also her maiden name and that of her sister, but my

grandparents surname was Floyd. Very mysterious! In those days small children were not supposed to ask private questions, so it was rather a relief to be told later that Mr Preece, my granddad, had died and my grandma remarried.

Another relationship that I experienced as a small boy of ten or eleven that puzzled and intrigued me involved a very nice gentleman I frequently met in the village. I would bump into him at weekends and holidays when he passed by our house. I got to like our meetings very much and always looked out for him. He always called me Master Weaver but I never knew his name until I was much older. Nevertheless, he always treated me kindly and politely. He was clearly 'well-to-do' and nearly always wore a long black coat and hat, also, he would often walk with his hands behind him. As a child I thought he must be very well off, because he never went to work and would

always seem to be deep in thought. That's what really puzzled me. Surely everyone worked! Most mornings he walked down that cart road between Napleton Lane and Bannutt Hill and would always invite me to walk with him, most often, to the post office in the village. Then he and I would go back by way of Napleton Lane, where he would point out names of wild flowers and trees which he made seem so interesting. Before leaving me at the cart track he would wish me goodbye and I would run along home, while he went on round the corner to his home at the Grange not far away. I always enjoyed his company and always looked forward to our meetings. We became great friends but little did I know at the time that my kind friend in the black coat was Sir Edward Elgar, our great composer. I'm sorry to say, I don't know what he composed while at Kempsey and the topic of music was never mentioned by him, or myself.

It now tickles me to remember my confusion and impertinence. There was I, suspicious and silently accusing this very pleasant gentleman of not even bothering to earning a living. I had absolutely no notion he was probably the finest musician in the land, whilst I never even mastered the simple mouth-organ.

Today I always remember him whenever I hear 'Land of Hope and Glory', and I smile with a silent memory of my own, of walks along Napleton Lane and the man in the long black coat.

The Old Bank House

The special place and private playground of my early childhood was the Old Bank House, just across the road from where I lived. It had lovely iron entrance gates with a circular drive round the paddock, and an overgrown tennis court, where as a small boy, I would pick early morning mushrooms, and also where I learnt my bird watching and nesting skills.

That grand house, with its three stairways and numerous rooms, had remained empty since the time I was born, but my father held the keys and would, now and again, allow us to play hide and seek inside. At the time it was tenanted, but never occupied. Our access was via the tradesman's entrance through the gate on the small rise in Napleton Lane and across the track in the field.

At the rear was a large yard with a very fine row of stables, the last owner being Sir Charles Bendick, the master for hunt. How different things are today; that big, empty house stood for all those years with no sign of vandalism. It remained like that until 1938 when it was sold and became a transport café and service station. Not a window had been broken and the brass rings and fittings in those stables remained still untouched. That would not happen today, I'm afraid.

I had some grand times in that large house as a boy, but little did I think that over 20 years later, I would be using my building and carpentry skills erecting the shelters over the petrol pumps and the attendants hut. Both the hut and shelters were covered with red cedar shingles. They were built for Messrs Jackson, Howard, and Jackson, who moved from their old garage site opposite the Crown Hotel in the village. Then, no sooner had it got under way, the Second World War started which made the place very busy and it became a hive of activity.

to be continued

National Service

Tim Hickson



Tim Hickson, author, is second row from top, second in from left

Leaving school in 1957, I was required to give two years of service in the Armed Services. I had an interest in aircraft and so I chose the Royal Air force. After the initial Medical, above W H Smiths in Gloucester, I joined many other recruits at RAF Cardington in Bedford where the huge old airship hangers dominated the scene. There, RAF tailors fitted us out with uniforms and we were given the other things we would need which included a knife, fork and spoon, a large china mug, a slotted brass sheet, that would protect our uniforms when we polished the brass buttons, and also a 'housewife'. The latter was a cloth containing needles, thread and wool to mend our clothing if socks developed holes or buttons came off. Some days later we were put on a train and sent off to a Basic Training camp; in my case it was RAF Bridgenorth. There we learnt to march smartly and to do drill with rifles. Inevitably, discipline was imposed by the instructors with humour; "Ere laddie, am I standing on your hair? Report to the barbers!" I had my hair cut twice one day. However, we became proud of doing things well. We learnt to fire rifles and Bren Guns and I gained my marksman badge; more pride. Also we encountered young men from other walks of life. We learnt habits that became useful all our lives. After that, Trade Training.

Having opted to work with radar, I was sent to the No.1 Radar School, 1 at RAF Locking, on the edge of Weston super Mare. Here we were instructed in the operation and repair of all the bits of equipment we were likely to encounter on operational stations. This was fun. Also, at the end of the lessons on a particular bit of apparatus, there would be an exam which included fault-finding on the equipment. As I like puzzles, this, in three dimensions, was most enjoyable. However, it was serious stuff and we all had to sign The Official Secrets Act document. Thus it was amusing when we learnt that two instructors, in a bus queue in Weston, were discussing a problem with a piece of equipment so secret that even they were not allowed to have its circuit diagram, when a man behind (later found to be a Canadian Air Force officer seconded to RAF Locking) offered to help. Secrecy was more lax in Canada and he had picked up the diagram needed in a car-boot sale in Toronto! When the ten month training was over and we had passed all the exams, the final stage was to be useful. I was sent to RAF Wartling in Sussex. This was the domestic camp for a radar station on the hillside above Pevensy. Soon after arriving, the end of National Service was announced. However, we were still deep in the Cold War with

Russia and it was the RAF which had the task of using Vulcan bombers to deliver nuclear weapons in the event of the war becoming 'hot'. The RAF realised it would be harder work recruiting the people they needed, so at RAF Wartling the result was that the catering budget was increased and, to everyone's delight, the food in the Mess became restaurant quality. The radar station was a short bus-ride away. A few of us worked on the dishes and transmitters, like smaller versions of the radio telescope near Croome, but most went underground where there was a huge amount of electronics. This was in the days of valves. (The electronics in our mobile phones today would then have taken up several rooms!) Valves needed cooling so our large, subterranean rooms had the

constant sound of fans and the place was warm. Transistors were just about to arrive but they were still experimental. (We know that the girls operating the Colossus computer at Bletchley Park used to dry their laundry using the heat from the valves.) All too soon, for me, it was over; I had completed my two years. Again I had to sign The Official Secrets Act. For the next four years, if needed, I could be brought back so I kept my uniform. (Unfortunately, my brother, working on a farm, kept "borrowing" my greatcoat so it soon was decorated with cow dung.) Then I went off to university to study Physics for which my radar experience was of use, but oh dear, had I got out of the habit of studying. I enjoyed my National Service but if it happens again I fear it will be far more serious.



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



Ich bin ein Berliner

Hallo, meine Mitleser! Book your tickets, pack your bags and dispose of any large liquids because Gregory's World is moving east. Not to the Far East, nor even the Middle East, more to the Closer East ... Germany or, more specifically, its capital: Berlin.

The idea of Germany appealed to me ever since High School, when I first had the opportunity to study a language that wasn't French. It was becoming obvious to my Year Eight self that French wasn't my forte. It sounded very pleasing when I heard other people speak it, but the language flowed and flourished and flew straight over my head. German offered a fresh start, something totally new, interests I could cultivate, enthusiasm I could build from the ground up. Sure enough, as I set to work (asking 'What is an umlaut?' and slowly figuring out that 'Frau' wasn't the teacher's first name) I started to become more and more attached to the idea of another culture waiting out there,

beckoning. In 2018, I was lucky enough to go on a week-long exchange (and a twenty-hour-long bus journey) to Pershore's twin-town, Bad Neustadt, in Bavaria. I'd never done anything like that before, but my host family made sure I had everything I needed and I absolutely loved it. For many years though, it marked the only time I'd been to Germany. Until now.

What had been a twenty-hour bus journey to Germany six years ago, was now a one and a half hour flight. We touched down at Berlin Brandenburg Airport bright and early on a Montag morning – the sun was beating down on Berlin! History leapt out and said 'Hallo' wherever we went. Think of a subject, any subject, and the chances are there's a museum for it somewhere in Berlin. From Modern Art to Magic, Currywurst to Checkpoint Charlie – they've got it all. One of my favourite things to do was just to walk west from our hotel in Alexanderplatz and see pieces of the past rise up and reveal

themselves. Alexanderplatz was a major centre of former East Berlin, bustling with shoppers and slithering with trams in the shadow of the Fernsehturm (the TV tower I am pondering very seriously in the photo). The city's main river, the Spree, forks around the banks of Museum Island – where, at some point in the 19th Century, former German emperors must've got fed up with travelling around the city and decided they wanted all of their antiquities in one basket. Go further west – dodging that bike – passing a whole shop devoted to Nivea – and you'll reach the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag and suddenly, perhaps without even noticing it, you've crossed a seemingly ordinary strip of cobbled path which, for twenty-eight years, was home to wire, watchtowers and one formidable wall. A line of stones – marking the 'Berlin Mauer' – still runs distinctly along the ground, but the best thing about seeing it for myself was being able to see how new buildings overlapped it, how people could shop at 'Fancy



Donuts' in the Mall of Berlin and head over to the nearby park to eat their purchase without anything to stop them. All places have history, I know, but it felt powerfully present here.

For me, Berlin has to be up there alongside Dublin – they have a shop called 'Coffee and Wine', what's not to like? And I don't think I can wait another six years before going back to Germany. I genuinely hope I do visit again very soon to immerse myself in history, culture and pretzels, all the while trying to remember the notes from my classes at school which I should've definitely kept hold of.

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What's buzzing in the garden today?



Tawny burrowing bee and leaf of Forget-me-not

Despite the fact that I have kept bees for nearly 50 years, I still look forward to the spells of warm weather between showers in March and April to see what the bees are doing. I find myself meandering between my hives in the garden observing the hive entrances from a respectful distance to see how much activity there is. This year the hives seem to have been quite busy and it will not

be long before I can open them to see exactly how they are progressing. Worker bees are bringing in bright orange pollen loads on their back legs, which will be from dandelions, and together with pollen from blossom and a little nectar it will be fed to the bee grubs to produce the young bees which will replace those old ones which kept the colony going over the winter.

Most beekeepers nowadays have hives with a wire mesh floor instead of solid wood. This gives us another insight into the colony without having to open the hive and disturb it. We can place a tray under the mesh and after a few days we can see piles of debris indicating the amount of activity.

Unlike hive bees, the bumble bees do not persist as a colony and only mated queens survive the winter. These will also be seen in warm spells, visiting flowers but also seeking suitable sites to establish their nest for the coming year. They are huge and they work longer days than hive bees, continuing towards evening. Most bumble bee species restart their life cycle in April or May but our other bees, the solitary bees, emerge at intervals throughout the year according to species. One of the first to be seen is the tawny burrowing bee, *Andrena fulva*, (pictured). This lives in a little vertical burrow in lawns and on grassy paths. We get many concerned enquiries about them in the spring as



people start to use their lawns for picnics etc. Fortunately these bees are completely harmless. They will dig their little tubes, collect a few blobs of pollen and lay an egg on each one before disappearing in a month or so. The next generation will hatch and emerge next year. No action needs to be taken, they will not be unduly bothered by mowing, and they are a delight to watch, coming and going on a sunny afternoon.

Martyn Cracknell

*Worcestershire
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Cooking for fun! *Ailsa Craddock*

The arrival of swallows and so many good things grown or reared locally, I love May with all its promise of Summer to come and everything fresh and newly green! It's also the time for British asparagus and Jersey Royal potatoes. The potatoes have been grown on the island for 140 years and today there are approximately 20 island farmers who grow them (and often no other crops) on approximately 7,300 acres and can only be grown on Jersey to have the name. As for the asparagus, we are very lucky to live in the Valley of Evesham, one of the homes of British asparagus. I know you can buy this most of the year from abroad - but there is nothing like the Real Thing from just around the corner! This first recipe is using these two British stalwarts - but with a twist!

Coconut potato bowl with lime and ginger

(I'm not giving you exact amounts here - just use how ever much you need to feed how many people!)

Jersey Royal potatoes, roughly chopped

Cauliflower florets

Coconut oil, melted, enough to coat

Sea salt and pepper

Asparagus

Olive oil

Cherry tomatoes, halved

Spring onion, sliced

Baby broad beans

Sliced cooked beetroot

Coconut flakes, toasted, to garnish

Dressing: 2 tbsp olive oil

Finely grated zest and juice of a lime

Grated ginger

Preheat the oven to 200°C/fan 180°C/gas mark 6. Place the potatoes and cauliflower florets in a roasting tray, drizzle over the coconut oil and toss to coat. Sprinkle with sea salt and pepper and roast for 30 minutes until tender and beginning to brown. In the meantime, prepare everything else; brush the asparagus with some olive oil, heat a griddle pan until hot and cook the stems until charred and tender. Set aside. For the

dressing, whisk together the olive oil and lime juice, then stir in the zest and ginger and season with some salt and pepper. To assemble, arrange the potatoes and cauliflower to one side and place the other ingredients round the bowl (or how you prefer), drizzle with the dressing and scatter over the coconut flakes, or serve on the side.

CRAB AND ASPARAGUS WITH THAI MAYONNAISE – again, the amount of asparagus and crab is up to you.

Asparagus spears

Crab meat

Sliced sourdough bread

Olive oil

Handful of rocket leaves or spinach

2 - 4 tablespoons of good mayonnaise



1 garlic clove, peeled and crushed

1/2 - 1 red chilli

Freshly grated zest of 1 lime

1 tablespoon fish sauce (if this is the first time you have used it please don't be put off by the smell - it tastes much better!)

Chopped coriander

Cook the asparagus in boiling water for 2 - 4 minutes, drain and refresh under cold running water. Stir the garlic, chilli, zest, fish sauce and coriander into the mayonnaise. Season, if necessary, fold in the crab meat and set aside. Toast the bread, drizzle with olive oil and scatter over rocket or spinach leaves. Pile the crab mixture on top. Toss the cold asparagus spears in a little olive oil and arrange over the crab meat. Alternatively, you could cook LOTS of asparagus and

serve, on the side, hot with lashings of butter - using any leftover toast to soak up the juices!

Asparagus Soup

25g butter

A little vegetable oil

350g asparagus spears, stalks chopped, woody ends discarded, tips reserved

3 shallots, finely sliced

2 garlic cloves, crushed

2 large handfuls spinach

700ml vegetable stock (fresh if possible)

Olive oil, for drizzling (optional)

Rustic bread (preferably sourdough), to serve (optional)

Heat the butter and oil in a large saucepan until foaming. Fry the asparagus tips for a few mins to soften. Remove and set aside. Add the shallots, asparagus stalks and garlic, and cook for 5-10 mins until softened but still bright. Stir through the spinach, pour over the stock, bring to the boil, then blitz with a hand blender. Season generously and add hot water to loosen if needed. Ladle into bowls and scatter the asparagus tips over each. Drizzle with olive oil and serve with some nice crusty bread.

Thoughts from the Snug . . .

The mysteries of cricket.

Now well into Spring, the topic of cricket regularly features in the Snug, but trying to explain the game to foreigners is fraught with difficulties.

Both teams often present themselves to play in near identical white/cream coloured outfits. When your side is in you are Batting, but only two of the team appear on the pitch at the same time. Batting starts with an over. When the batsman is bowled or caught out he returns to the pavilion to be replaced by someone else who has an innings. This rotation of players is marked by gentle applause from the opposition and spectators Changing ends at the completion of an over (every six bowls) resembles a medieval dance. Both sides relax for a very brief period and then prepare themselves for the next exchange between batsman and bowler. An over is over in about six minutes. Simple!

When the whole team is out (or they retire) they come out of

the pavilion and stand in the field. This is called fielding. The opposition is said to be Batting, but nine of the eleven remain either in the pavilion or drink tea on the boundary. Fielding requires the fielders to adopt strange crouching positions, before the bowler bowls the ball. Bowling involves a thunderous run up to crease to hurl the ball directly at the batsman. This delivery would easily kill him if he did not valiantly strike the missile with his bat. If such an incident like this occurred in the street, both would be arrested for violent affray, if not murder or manslaughter. The rituals of the game are also shrouded in technical language – Owz dat! (How's that?) 'being stumped', LBW, 'Out for a duck' and being 'caught in the slips' is a foreign language to many. Positions on the field like 'Silly Mid On/Off', 'Square Leg', 'Long On/ Off' and 'Cow Corner' bring no light to the uninitiated. It is said when Groucho Marx was taken to watch a match at Lords and, after half an hour's play asked, was he enjoying himself? he replied, "Fine! When does it start?" Then pointing at the two white coated umpires asked, "What role do the two butchers play?" Indeed, baffling.

Buddy Bach







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Creating a border in the shade with clay soil Nikki Hollier

It's highly likely there is some level of shade in every garden – whether that's caused by a fence, a neighbour's garage or trees. Thankfully, there is a plant for every space, so here's information and ideas on how to create a beautiful garden in a perceived tricky spot! According to the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) there are six types of light/shade:

1. Full sun: More than six hours of direct sun per day at midsummer.
2. Light shade: A site that is open to the sky, but screened from direct sunlight by an obstacle, such as a high wall.
3. Partial or semi-shade: Three to six hours per day of direct sun at midsummer.
4. Dappled shade: Mainly reflected or diffused light, for example through open tree canopies all day.
5. Moderate shade: equates to two or three hours of direct sunlight each day at midsummer.
6. Deep or heavy shade: Receives less than two hours of direct sun per day. The easiest way to work out where the shady spots are, is to simply look and watch the garden at certain points of the

day and make a note of where the sun hits the ground. You can then plant the right plant in the right spot!

So what plants are best for shade and grow in clay soil? Here are some of my favourite plants that look great together – a tall shrub, medium and short perennials to create a tiered effect which is easy on the eye.

Shrub -



Viburnum x carlcephalum – commonly known as a snowball tree. It's a shrub that will grow in all soil types and in sun, part sun and shade.

They grow to around 3m tall, so are ideal for small gardens that need a tree to add height. They have scented flowers each May with heart-shaped, dark green leaves, turning red in autumn.

Perennial –



Tiarella 'Spring Symphony' – commonly known as Foam Flower due to the small spires of blush white flowers from May to July. Ideal for the front of a border as they grow to around 25cm tall. The leaves are pretty too, which are green lobed with a dark centre.



Hosta 'Francee' Beautiful heart-shaped, olive green, puckered leaves with white margins. which blends with the flowers of the Tiarella. Grows to around 55cm tall.



Nikki Hollier
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They are renowned for attracting slugs and snails, so adding copper rings around the base of the plant and checking the leaves regularly for signs of them will help to keep the plant healthy.

Evergreen -

Sarcococca hookeriana var. *digyna* 'Purple Stem' flowers from December to March. It's an evergreen shrub with scented, pink-tinged flowers, which are followed by rounded blue-black fruit.

Remember, when planting in clay soil, consider adding organic matter like composted bark or well-rotted manure to improve its texture and drainage.

May gardening tips Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester

Early May

Keep all newly planted items well watered. This includes ones planted last autumn. Sow seeds of herbaceous plants. Sow or turf new lawns and keep mowing established ones – but not too low. Treat difficult lawn weeds e.g. clovers, black medic with Weedol Lawn Weedkiller, it has the right ingredients for these weeds. Hang up a codling moth trap in your apple tree, or a plum moth one in your plum tree, to reduce the number of maggoty fruit. There is also now a trap readily available for catching box tree moths which are now quite widespread in our area. Plant out cabbage, cauliflower and other brassicas but take precautions against root fly. Keep on top of pest and disease outbreaks, as well as controlling weeds. Don't forget your houseplants feed and water them regularly. Control algae and blanketweed in ponds.

Mid May

Sow suitable varieties of pansies to flower from autumn throughout the winter. Sow biennials for flowering next spring onwards e.g. wallflowers, myosotis, sweet williams, foxgloves and honesty. Plant out chrysanthemums for flowering in borders or for cutting. Plant out summer bedding plants when frost risk is minimal. Tie in wall shrubs and climbers to their supports try to train them at 45 degrees or horizontally to encourage flowering. Trim over aubretia and arabis after flowering to keep them neat. Prune wall trained pyracantha and chaenomeles after flowering. Keep strawberry fruits off the soil using straw or mats. Cut down spring flowering perennials – e.g. pulmonarias and doricums after flowering to produce a neat mound of new foliage. Untrimmed plants

often become mildewed. Sow swedes, beetroot, carrots, parsnips, French and runner beans outdoors. Plant out sweet corn in blocks, rather than a long row, as they are wind pollinated. Take cuttings from dahlias and chrysanthemums for flowering later in summer. Plant tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, cucumbers etc. in a cold greenhouse or outdoors if in sheltered site. Make up summer flowering hanging baskets and containers.

Late May

Brighten up your patio with some spectacular frost tender container plants, like brugmansia. Prune clematis montana straight after flowering, if they are getting out of bounds. Plant out leeks, marrows, courgettes and melon plants. Enjoy more herbs by sowing Basil, Coriander and Parsley every fortnight. Spinach often runs to seed if



sown after mid May – so sow leaf beet instead. Sow some half-hardy annuals for use as winter pot plants e.g. calceolarias, schizanthus and cinerarias. Sow ornamental cabbage and kale for winter colour in tubs and borders. Beware of houseplants getting scorched on sunny windowsills. Listen to the weather forecast in case of any nasty late frosts.

Holiday lets

Carol Draper

We are reliably informed that Summer is coming which, for those who own and rent out holiday lets, should mean that business will start to get busier. However, following the announcement in the March Budget that the preferential tax treatment of Furnished Holiday Letting (FHL) business will be abolished from April 2025 you may be concerned as to how you will be affected.

Few specific details have been released but the following is an indication of what may be expected.

For a property to qualify as a FHL in each tax year certain criteria must be met. The property must be available for let for 210 days per year, be let for 105 days, and longer lets of more than 31 days must not total more than 155 days. The totals do not include any days when you use the property privately.

The tax rules currently permit certain expenses to be allowed against tax. Most notably if you have taken a loan to purchase your holiday let, then loan interest can be claimed as a tax allowable expense. From April 2025 this will no longer be the case and it is likely the system will mirror that used for residential lettings where up to 20% of interest paid is allowed as a "tax reducer". For basic rate taxpayers this will make little difference, but it will have an impact on higher rate taxpayers.



Subject to meeting the required conditions business asset disposal relief is available on the sale of a property. This means capital gains tax is calculated at 10% as opposed to potentially 24% for higher rate taxpayers. There is also the option for rollover relief and gift hold-over relief. If the FHL regime is abolished none of this will be available. Capital allowances can currently be claimed on plant and machinery for use in the property. This will cease with only an allowance for renewals of certain qualifying assets being available. No details have been provided about any transitional arrangements.

For more information on the potential impact of the changes on your tax position, speak to your accountant.

*Carol Draper FCCA
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co*

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi

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Transitions

Angela Johns

One of my offspring went abroad without me for the first time. I was behind it all the way as every experience outside of what you have already done is valuable, even precious, with any number of lessons to be learned, from the simple to the shape shifting. From booking (I definitely want you to get me all the way up to Security) to six months later (if you have to drop me and go, I'll be OK) was a journey in itself for us both. Six months is a long time in Teenager-Time. As it happened, I parked up Heathrow way for a small fortune and saw him to Security with no hesitation on his part. As he disappeared out of sight, I rode the wave of love and pride and letting go. From a distance he could only see the vicarious joy in the smile on my face, not the simultaneous tear-filled eyes at the pang of the cutting of an apron string.

He returned older, wiser, taller. And me, just older and wiser but with the fresh taste of my own freedom in my mouth. No dropping off here and picking up there, just video calls and messages at times of mutual convenience. Strangely, I didn't notice much difference in the size of the washing pile but maybe I was too busy doing my own grown up fun stuff to notice.

We have both transitioned in small and subtle ways. We both have some skills in recognising our own feelings and in communicating our feelings to each other, so it has made these changes manageable even enjoyable.

Not all changes are like this. And not even the skill set you have can be enough to negotiate yourself through to the other side without pain. Some changes are just too big, too sudden, too overwhelming.



And maybe your support system (friends, family, experience) for whatever reason can't handle it either. This is when having someone impartial can help; who listens without judgement, with complete confidentiality. Our earlier experiences in life shape our behaviours and form our core beliefs about ourselves and the world. We create coping mechanisms in the only way we know how, using them again and again no matter whether they make us feel whole or understood. By identifying and working through the feelings you can come to a fundamental understanding of how you came to be, and how you can move forward with new skills to negotiate your life ahead.

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

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SJP Approved 18/08/2023

Squats for life!

Karen Harris

Squatting is an important and fundamental movement for the body. As with all movements that become restricted, once the tightness and adaptability of not doing something kicks in, it will be forgotten. But, your body (actually your brain) is a clever old thing, and just like riding a bike, those memorised muscle contractions and nerve impulses will once again fire up. It just needs stimulus!

So if you get up from your chair using your arms, the aforementioned nerve impulses don't get to contract the right muscles. The last thing you want are weak hips and legs (for many reasons) so if you could stop doing that, and do your whole body a favour, you WILL benefit!

'I can't squat, it hurts my knees.' 'I've got a prolapse and have been told the strain from squatting will make it worse'. Both valid reasons, but not if you get the technique right.

The correct technique for a squat position is with the knees bent, they should be over your ankles with your bottom behind you. That takes the pressure off the knees and makes your bum muscles work. Bending forward over the foot will create added pressure and your thigh muscles will be doing the stabilising. Without the bum muscle reaction there will be more downward force and strain on the prolapsed organs. Try both ways and see what feels better.

The correct version builds a chain reaction from feet to shoulders. Because of the many health benefits (increased ankle, knee, hip, lower back mobility, better blood flow and oxygen to the joints, increased stability and

strength for walking and balance) it's worth going through a build-up routine and making sure your form is correct to get maximum benefit and reward.

1, Test yourself in front of a mirror, without thinking about it set your stance, turn sideways on as well. Are your knees in line with your ankles, or forward? Are feet and knees pointing forward or in different directions? Was there discomfort anywhere?

2, Now get a firm cushion, put it between your knees to give a 4-6 inch gap, point your feet forward and slowly take your bottom back and down, like you were going to sit down, hold your arms out in front of you for balance. Slowly lift back up. The cushion has kept your feet, knees and hips in alignment, it might feel a bit weird but it will get the right muscles doing the right job.

3, There are two exercises you can do to if you are struggling... 1, lying on a firm bed (or the floor) bring both knees towards your chest and using your hands pull the knees gently in towards your chest and release, do this 10+ times. 2, on your hands and knees (on the bed or floor) slowly lower your bottom towards your heels. Don't worry if you don't get there initially, do what you can up and down slowly 10+ times. Repeat that sequence 2-3 times.

4, A useful tip in the *standing position, is to hold onto a strap around something solid, or pillar or post, or rest your hands on the back of a chair to give you stability as you lift and lower. It really is worth your time and effort to improve your body's physiology with squats!

Be Gentle with yourself

Emily Papirnik

Being gentle with yourself means recognising that you are doing the best you can with the resources and circumstances you have at this moment. It is all about embracing self-compassion and understanding that it is okay to not always have everything figured out or to make mistakes along the way.

In a world that often values productivity over well-being, practising self-compassion can feel revolutionary. It is a radical act of self-care that allows you to prioritise your mental and emotional health above all else.

When you are gentle with yourself, you give permission to take breaks when needed, to ask for help when necessary and to set realistic expectations of yourself. It is about treating yourself with the same kindness and understanding that you would offer to a dear friend who is struggling.

Being gentle with yourself doesn't mean giving up or being complacent. It means



approaching challenges with a sense of kindness and understanding, rather than self-criticism and judgement. By cultivating a mindset of gentleness toward yourself, you can navigate life's ups and downs with greater resilience and grace.

So the next time you find yourself feeling overwhelmed or self-critical, remember to be gentle with yourself. Take a moment to pause, breathe and offer yourself the same compassion and understanding that you would offer to someone you love. You deserve it.

<https://mehelpingme.com>

YES or NO?

Do you want to take control of your aches and pains?
Do you want to stop having to take pain killers?
Do you want the knowledge to be able to help yourself?
Do you want to feel how empowering that feels?
Do you want to feel that weight lifted from your shoulders?

YES, of course!

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

Karen Harris, Posture Alignment Specialist, Fitness Trainer
07954 544595

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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




MALVERN HILLS
Bike Marking
 The community safety team will be holding a **FREE** bike security marking event on:
Friday 31st May 2024
 11.30 – 12.30 Centurion Drive Playground, Kempsey
 1-2pm Anglia Crescent Green Space, Kempsey
 Can't make it?
 Contact: communitysafety@malvern-hills.gov.uk
www.malvern-hills.gov.uk

platform housing group

The blind Horn's hate



A big blue book sits in a far corner of my bookshelves, but it hides numerous tales of high adventure. Called, prosaically, "Ocean Passages for the World" it sets out in great but practical detail how to take a ship from anywhere on the Globe to anywhere else. But I have a very special copy of this Admiralty publication, the 1950 Edition. Special because that was the last time it included directions especially for sailing ships, giving "the average number of days that would be taken by a well found ship of about 2,000 tons burthen" on various voyages. The fastest route around the world by sailing ship is to be found via the great Southern Ocean- which is also one of the wildest and most difficult passages, which Kipling memorably encapsulated as "the blind Horn's hate". I have always admired the men who captained, and crewed, those ships and we can see their lineal successors even today when the Tall Ships, all unquestionably

"well found ships" visit Gloucester Docks this coming Spring Bank Holiday. As well as the ships themselves, there's an eclectic range of live music on offer, plus craft workshops, interactive installations and a host of classic funfair attractions. Tickets for all three days of the Festival are available via www.gloucestertallships.co.uk Another event worth considering, and again not too far away, is an offshoot of the world renowned Longborough Festival Opera, which this year is the only English opera house to be staging Wagner's Ring Cycle in full. But they also operate a very successful Playground Opera season, which brings the sensation of live opera to schools all over the Cotswolds. This year's production is entitled "The Implausible Potions of Dr. Dulcarama" and is billed as a family friendly version of Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love". This year, for the first time it's also being performed at Chipping

Campden's Cider Mill Theatre on Friday 14th June at 6.30pm and tickets start at just £2.50. They can be booked via www.lfo.org.uk/event/playground-opera-2024 Don't forget also that the RHS Malvern Spring Festival is on this month starting on Thursday the 9th and running until Sunday 12th. There's a whole lot of new experiences alongside the old favourites and I'm rather looking forward to experiencing 'The Secret Escape' billed as a 'feature garden complete with disco polytunnel, live music and horsebox bar'! They also have lots of entertaining guest speakers including the likes of Alan Titchmarsh MBE and Kate Humble, the usual quota of heavenly houseplants and fabulous floral displays backed up by delectable food and drink including some of the country's best street food, courtesy of the Digbeth Dining Club and, finally of course, lots of super shopping experiences. This year there's also a special Taster Ticket on offer for Saturday 11th May only, offering admission after 2pm for only £15. It's by advance purchase only, either

Brian Johnson-Thomas

via the Three Counties website or by phone on 0344 338 5400. Incidentally, you might have noticed that I don't often mention purely local events and that's because if you live in Pershore, for example, you know when the Carnival is and, if in Upton, you know only too well when the Folk and Jazz Festivals are in town. However there are always exceptions to every rule and it's well worth mentioning an event on Kempsey Common June 6th. That will be exactly the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the moment when the Allied Armies landed in Normandy at the start of a victorious campaign that would take them across the Rhine and into the heart of Germany to join with the Russians coming from the East to finally defeat Hitler. On Kempsey Common there will be a beacon lighting ceremony preceded by an evening of entertainment, food, drinks and remembrance, all in honour of the veterans of D-Day. For more information, see the event's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/kempseyDDay80 Maybe I'll see you there ?



Introducing a new Conductor for the WPO



The Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra (WPO) are delighted to announce they have been able to engage the services of

Dan Watson as their Principal Conductor and Musical Director. In the final round of the selection process, three finalists were invited to rehearse the orchestra, and every member present was given a vote. Dan was the clear winner, and we are very much looking forward to working with him. Dan's debut with the WPO will be on Saturday 15th June at 2.30pm in Pershore Abbey. Further details at www.ticketsource.co.uk Dan completed a Masters in orchestral conducting at Birmingham Conservatoire, where he was awarded the Conducting Prize. He also won an Emerging Excellence Award from the Musicians Benevolent

Fund. Currently, Dan holds principal and guest conductorships with a number of orchestras in the Midlands, and has also worked with youth orchestras, aiming to enthuse young musicians to pursue a lifelong passion in creating and performing. As principal conductor of The People's Orchestra, he featured in the BBC series All Together Now: The Great Orchestra Challenge. The programme was designed to inspire and promote amateur music making, reflecting many of Dan's continuing aims as a conductor; to bring together professionals and community musicians alike, culminating in high standard performances and

rewarding life experiences. Dan has a particular interest in contemporary music. He was Conductor and Artistic Director of Thumb Contemporary Music Ensemble and has directed numerous premières of new works. Throughout his career, Dan has enjoyed working with soloists in the early stages of their careers. Dan is proud to have a close association with the celebrated Kanneh-Mason family and recently worked with Mariatu in her debut concerto appearance, performing the Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1. Dan lives in Leicestershire with wife Sally, cat Morris, a small flock of chickens, two pigs, and Bethan, his six-year-old daughter.

Poets' Corner

A Shropshire Lad iv Reveille

Wake: the silver dusk returning
Up the beach of darkness brims,
And the ship of sunrise burning
Strands upon the eastern rims.

Wake: the vaulted shadow shatters,
Trampled to the floor it spanned,
And the tent of night in tatters
Straws the sky-pavilioned land.

Up, lad, up, 'tis late for lying:
Hear the drums of morning play;
Hark, the empty highways crying
"Who'll beyond the hills away?"

Towns and countries woo together,
Forelands beacon, belfries call;
Never lad that trod on leather
Lived to feast his heart with all.

Up, lad: thews that lie and cumber
Sunlit pallets never thrive;
Morns abed and daylight slumber
Were not meant for man alive.

Clay lies still, but blood's a rover;
Breath's a ware that will not keep
Up, lad: when the journey's over
There'll be time enough to sleep.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

'A Shropshire Lad'

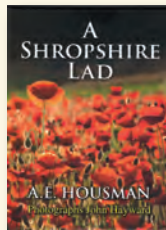
Author: John Hayward

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.

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

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Spot & Shop - April Winners

- 1) Conner Lowe
- 2) Simon Kite
- 3) Pamela Benstead
- 4) M Hamer

**Last month's answer:
The Really Good Dairy**

Fun Quiz!



1. Which Marvin Gaye song begins: 'I bet you're wonderin' how I knew 'bout your plans to make me blue'?
2. 'Thinking Out Loud' was a 2014 hit single for which English singer?
3. Who is lead singer of the American rock band REM?
4. Which member rejoined the Backstreet Boys in 2012?
5. Complete the title of the Beatles' song: 'Lucy in the Sky with...?'
6. Who sang 'Boombastic' and 'It Wasn't Me'?
7. Who was crowned winner of American Idol in 2014?
8. Glenn Frey, Don Henley, Joe Walsh and Timothy B. Schmit are members of which band?
9. Who had a hit song in the 1990s with 'Everyday is a Winding Road'?
10. Which two songs by Adele reached number 1 position in the US during 2011?
11. What year did Bruce Springsteen release an album called 'Born in the USA'?
12. What is the opening line to Bon Jovi's 'Livin' on a Prayer'?
13. Which famous girl group was originally known as The Primettes?
14. Which 1980's boy band was known as NKOTB?
15. Taylor Swift dated which member of One Direction?
16. Which song by Europe begins: 'We're leaving together, but still it's farewell'?
17. Which boy band did Justin Timberlake join in 1995?
18. Who had a hit a song called 'American Boy' featuring Kanye West?
19. Which 1984 song by Prince spent several weeks at number 1 in the US?
20. Which song by Destiny's Child features on the 1997 Men in Black movie soundtrack?

Answers: 1. I Heard It Through the Grapevine, 2. Ed Sheeran, 3. Michael Stipe, 4. Kevin Cadogan, 5. Diamonds, 6. Shaggy, 7. Caleb Johnson, 8. The Eagles, 9. Sheryl Crow, 10. 'Rolling in the Deep' and 'Someone Like You', 11. 1984, 12. Once upon a time not so long ago, 13. The Supremes, 14. New Kids on the Block, 15. Harry Styles, 16. The Final Countdown, 17. NSYNC, 18. Estelle, 19. When Doves Cry, 20. Killing Time



COMPETITION TIME!

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



- This month's prizes!**
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Complete and return this form or email:
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Kempsey Times closing date: 31st May 2024

Answer: _____

Name: _____

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Return to: Kempsey Times, Hughes & Company
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Health Hub – May



May is National Walking Month.

Walking is simple, free and one of the easiest ways to get more active, lose weight and become healthier.

Sometimes overlooked as a form of exercise, walking briskly can help you build stamina, burn excess calories and make your heart healthier. You don't even have to walk for hours – a brisk 10-minute daily walk has lots of health benefits.

Any shoes or trainers that are comfortable, provide adequate support and do not cause blisters will do. If you're walking to work, you could wear your usual work clothes with a comfy pair of shoes and change shoes when you get into work. For long walks, you may want to take some water, healthy snacks, a spare top, sun screen and a sun hat in a small backpack.

If you start going for longer walks regularly, you may want



to invest in a waterproof jacket and some specialist walking shoes for more challenging routes.

Walking also helps us stay connected to our community, helping us feel less lonely and isolated. It's also free, flexible and fun with proven benefits for our health and well-being.

Take a look at some of these tips and see how many you can tick off in May:

1. Invite friends and family for a walk
2. Let nature guide you
3. Walk to and from work
4. Get snappy and take a picture on your walk
5. Walk to the shops
6. Have a scavenger hunt
7. Let the kids lead the way
8. Have an evening stroll
9. Have a mindful meander
10. Powerwalk to the finish!



Reach out to someone and invite them to join you – you might find a new walking buddy...

U3A and Age UK have a number of local walking groups available, or perhaps join The Ramblers; check out their websites for more information. We hope that, if possible, you will follow Pershore Medical Practice and Abbottswood Surgery on Facebook and Instagram for more frequent messaging

Sign up to our regular Newsletters which you will find on our websites.

www.abbottswoodmedicalcentre.co.uk

www.pershoremedicalpractice.co.uk

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Spirituals and Psalms

John Rutter's *Feel the Spirit* and Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* with works by Howard Goodall and Herbert Howells

Conductor **Jonathan Brown** with **Chloe Underwood** – Mezzo-Soprano and professional ensemble

Saturday 18 May 2024 at 7 pm in Great Malvern Priory

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**Saturday 11 May
10am – 12pm
Earls Croome Village Hall**

Tea, coffee and homemade cakes (eat in or take away)
Bedding plants, tomato plants, perennials, houseplants, etc



Raising funds for Earls Croome Church



80 1944-2024 D-DAY

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D-Day Remembrance June 6th 2024

Where will you be at 9.15pm to celebrate?
 • Join us from 7pm on Kempsey Common to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day & Battle of Normandy.
 Entertainment includes:

- **Vintage Singer performing wartime songs**
 - **The Malvern Brass Band**
- **Pop Up Museum from the Defford Museum at Croome Court (providing information about what was happening in this area during WW2)**
- **Food and drink will be available including Fish & Chips and a Licensed Bar**
 - **Bouncy Castle for the youngsters**

The Beacon will be lit at 9.15pm, bring your loved ones, picnic blanket or chairs and lets make this special evening one to remember honouring the Heroes of D-Day - Never Forget, Always Honour.

Follow our facebook page:
www.facebook.com/kempseyDDay80



D-DAY 80 BEACON EVENT
 Kempsey Common
 6th June 2024 from 7.00pm
 Free Admission

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Published by
 Hughes & Company, 8 Church Street, Pershore WR10 1DT
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June Issue - 20th May 2024

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 Kempsey Post Office 01905 828469
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 Kempsey Parish Council 01905 828183

MHDC Council
 Out of hours Emergency hotline - In an event of an emergency call: 0300 003 5367

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 Please note: This number should not be used for 'day-to-day' enquiries.

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Kempsey Times



New lease for Malvern Rugby Football Club



Committee, will allow the club to access funding to develop the existing changing rooms into a more inclusive and fit-for-purpose environment. Moving forward, the club will aim to provide more playing opportunities for people across all forms of rugby, including a particular focus on girls' and women's rugby, as well as mixed rugby.

The club currently leases Spring Lane Playing Fields from the council under a 30-year lease, which began in December 2000.

The shortness of the remaining term, under seven years, makes it impossible for the club to access funding to improve their facilities, including access to RFU (Rugby Football Union) funding to update the existing changing rooms.

A long-term lease will allow

the club to access additional funding streams to assist with their aspirations to deliver pitch and clubhouse improvements. The club provided a ten-year Rugby and Community Development Plan to support their request for a new 35-year lease, and any future funding applications.

Visit <https://malvernrfc.rfu.club/> for more information about Malvern Rugby Football Club.

Pictured: Mark Johnson, Treasurer of MRFC, Helen Owen Youth Officer at MRFC, Cllr John Gallagher, Portfolio Holder for Resources at Malvern Hills District Council, Andrew Longley, Chairman of MRFC, Kevin Purcell Secretary MRFC, Sarah Kane, Safeguarding MRFC.

A new 35-year lease has been granted to Malvern Rugby Football Club (MRFC) to ensure its future growth and

development. The new lease, which was approved on 23rd April 2024 by Malvern Hills District Council's Executive

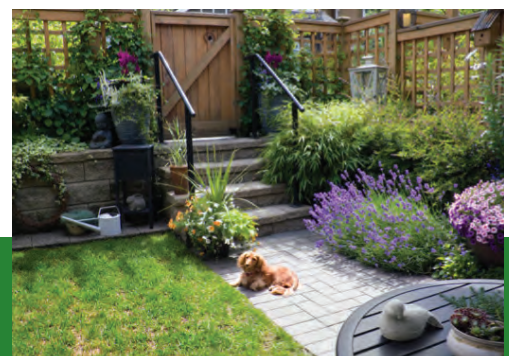


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- Hedges
- Patios
- Drives

(Blockpaving - Gravel)

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



Call Garry on
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