

# Pershore Times

A free monthly newspaper for Pershore and surrounding villages



Issue 91

March 2024

**FREE**



Rainbow over Pershore Abbey

**The North wind doth blow and we shall have snow, and what, will the poor Robin do then?** Let's hope we miss all that! We are often fortunate in the Severn Valley and a mild March would be very welcome. We have a busy month ahead with Mothering Sunday and the Easter weekend. We also put the clocks forward on the 31st of the month. That is a signal that Spring is here! Summer is fast approaching and gardeners will have to get going this month with all sorts of jobs to do!

We are going through some very disturbing times with the Middle East war and the incredible loss of life. The Ukraine situation also doesn't seem to be getting anywhere near the possibility of a cease fire. We also have forthcoming elections here and in America. However, most of this all a long way from where

we are and so let's enjoy the beauty of Spring in this lovely part of England. The countryside, the wild life, so many historic and interesting gardens and buildings to visit. We are very fortunate and also have lots of events to look forward to. The cricket season will soon begin and that always

brings great pleasure to me. The Ashes series brings particular excitement and happy memories. All these things put everything into perspective. Wishing all our readers advertisers and contributors a very happy Easter and thank you so much for your support.

**This month's cover picture**  
*The remarkable front page photograph of the Abbey was taken by long time contributor Emily Papernick. The dark clouds, the rainbow and the sun shining on the Abbey could be sending us a message of Easter; goodwill and hope!*

**Mothering Sunday**



**10th March**

**Clocks will "spring forward" on Sunday 31st March**

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# News from Pershore Town Council!

## *Bonhomie, bratwurst & Bavarian beer*

At first glance, there's little that Pershore has in common with Germany's Bad Neustadt an der Saale and the French town of Plouay. Yet all three communities are bound by formal charters pledging close civic sisterhood; they are twinned.

Since Pershore twinned with Bad Neustadt in 1979 and Plouay in 1996, generations of locals have benefitted from sporting, cultural and educational exchanges. These contacts have led to lasting friendships, individual visits - even to work experience and jobs. To mark 45 years of our twinning with Bad Neustadt, a visit is planned October 10th - 15th using return flights Birmingham to Frankfurt and coach transfers to historic Bad Neustadt in Bavaria's scenic Franconia region. Pershore's twinning community currently

comprises town and village locals who have previously enjoyed exchange visits and want present and future generations to enjoy the same chances of getting to know our German and French neighbours. Travel broadens the mind, and travelling within a twinning context means you make firm friends and really get to know the place you visit - not just see the sights. Everyone pays their way, there are no freebies and Councillors play a relatively small part. Twinning comes to life between individuals, families, and groups. But don't take our word for it. Sample the joy of new friendships and experiences in Bad Neustadt in October. Just contact Pershore Town Hall for details.

*Pershore Town Council*



## *Worcestershire Parkway growth plans*

Harriett Baldwin MP has welcomed emerging plans which will see extra train services stopping at the popular Worcestershire Parkway train station.

Harriett has been campaigning for additional services stopping at the new station since it was opened in 2019 and the new facility is operating well ahead of projections.

Worcestershire County Council is already planning to expand the station's car park capacity and has purchased land for that purpose. Harriett has lobbied Cross Country trains to allow services between Bristol and Manchester to stop at Worcestershire Parkway. In recent months, the MP has written to the rail operator as well as meeting with representatives from Network Rail and the Office of Rail and Road to press for additional services.

Cross Country has confirmed that discussions are ongoing with the county council and Harriett is planning to meet with the relevant stakeholders to offer her assistance to make the changes happen.

Harriett said: "I had strong

indications last summer that Cross Country was looking to stop more services at Worcestershire Parkway and that has been welcomed by the county council, rail user groups and businesses based in my constituency. Over recent months I have attempted to accelerate this work and I've had recent communications from the rail operator offering a meeting to discuss this plan. It is clear to me that this is in the company's long-term plan and would be a popular addition to the rail network for people using Worcestershire Parkway as well as bringing more tourists to the region. I'm grateful that this proposal is slowly taking shape and will continue to lobby at a national level to make this ambition a reality."



## *Simon does the Fan Dance!*



Simon Roberts of the Masons Arms in Wadborough recently took part in a 24km run at Penny-Fan in aid of the charity CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably). This is a charity aimed at preventing suicide. Each week 125 people end their lives with 75% being males. CALM provides advice both online and on the phone to help those who feel desperate and miserable.

The Fan Dance is not just a run, it is a brutal mental and

physical endurance challenge. Participants wear military gear and carry 35k weights. It is also used as a selection process for SAS and SBS soldiers. To take part, Simon had to train hard but he was grateful for the motivation and fantastic support he was given by friends, family and locals at the pub. His efforts raised an amazing £3,138.39 for CALM. A truly impressive performance for a very worthy cause.

# We are NOT! For closing! *An Easter message from Claire Lording*



**Contrary to the report in the Evesham journal the company is still thriving and performing well. We can assure our staff and customers we are certainly not closing!**

Lawrance's bakery Evesham are celebrating 70 years in business. The company was founded by Les Lawrance in March 1954 he had taken over the bakery from E W Dyer and was later joined by his sons Peter and John, they then expanded to Pershore (Upper Crust) Broadway and Cheltenham, with wholesale covering a wide area as far as Oxford.



In 2021 the business was passed on to the present owners Donald McClellan and Andrew Dolphin who had been with the firm since teenagers.

*Peter Lawrance*

*Dear Friends*  
Life is full of surprises. There are surprises that are challenging - some bad news or unexpected behaviour from someone whom we thought we knew. There are surprises that are lovely and turn into great experiences - a surprise party or a gift or a kind word. One way or another it can be surprises, good or bad, that stay with us and can have a lasting impact on our lives.

Easter is a time of the most incredible surprises. In the space of seven days we travel through so many surprises. We remember that Jesus died on a cross, surrounded by people who probably couldn't believe this was happening. If this really was Jesus, surely he could make all the suffering stop? And then we have the surprise of Jesus laid in a cold tomb, and all of his friends and family being surprised that it looked like the Jesus adventure was all over. But the biggest surprise was yet to come. On the first day of the week everything changed with the very surprising news



that Jesus was alive! And this surprise was shared far and wide and everyone who heard it was overjoyed. This surprising news kept being shared and that's how we get to today with all of our Easter celebrations.

Easter is about being open to being surprised by God who does incredible and surprising things all of the time, not least, sharing the Easter story with us. Why not think about coming to a service in one of our churches and seeing how you can have your own Easter surprise?

*Happy Easter!*

*Claire*

## *Koffee and Cake* *Under new ownership!*



Koffee and Cake are an independent family run coffee shop welcoming both new and previous customers. We opened our doors to the public on Friday 8th December. We are now open Wednesday to Saturday 9:00am -3:00pm and Sundays 10:00-3:00pm. We serve Wogan Coffee Roasters speciality espresso coffee and a

wide range of 'Oh For Cake's Sake' homemade delicious bakes including brownies, blondies, and traybakes! We also have an entire cabinet dedicated to homemade cookies. We hope to see you soon!

*Colin, Christine, Maddi, Beth, and Dan*

Pershore Benefice  
**EASTER DAY**  
March 31 2024

HE IS RISEN

- 0600 Dawn Service and First Eucharist of Easter** (*Pershore Abbey*)  
followed by breakfast of boiled eggs and rolls at St Andrew's Centre. (Please bring an egg cup with you!)
- 0800 Eucharist** (*Pershore Abbey*)
- 0900 Parish Communion** (*St Mary's, Wick*)
- 1030 Sung Eucharist** (*Pershore Abbey*) *with LIVESTREAM*
- 1030 Holy Communion** (*St James', Birlingham*)
- 1030 Holy Communion** (*St Nicholas', Pinvin*)

ALL WELCOME

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Facebook: @pershoreabbeycom    YouTube: Pershore Abbey Community

## Schools' Art Exhibition



Each year, Number 8 Arts Centre commissions an artist to deliver a series of workshops in local schools. Artwork created by the children is then exhibited in our Gallery.

This year, the workshops were inspired by aspects of Pershore's past, with support from the Pershore Civic Society courtesy of a legacy from David Wynn. Pershore Heritage Centre is a treasure trove of historical items, and we are grateful to Wendy Berry for allowing us to take some artefacts into local schools to show the children.

There was a leather purse, c.1800 (with a bill inside for £1.0s.8d), ammonites found in the River Avon, delicate lace items, and a commemorative medal. We also included the idea of stained

glass from Pershore Abbey. Our artist, Maggi Davis, taught each class a different technique: Sewing a button and ribbon onto felt and creating a purse with blanket-stitch, making a tile of an ammonite and then printing from it, moulding clay to recreate a special medal, exposing lace to light-sensitive paper, and creating a 'stained-glass' effect picture. Please come and visit our Number 8 Schools' Exhibition, which opens to the public on Thursday 21 March and runs until Wednesday 10 April. Opening hours are Monday to Saturday, 10am - 4pm and entry is free!

*Ellen Honeybunn  
Education Liaison at Number 8  
Arts Centre*



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## Tree planting marks anniversaries



*Cllr Linda Robinson, who represents Upton Snodsbury Ward, and Cllr Robert Raphael, Chairman of Wychavon District Council, plant the Blenheim Red apple tree in Naunton Court Orchard.*

A special tree has been planted in a historic orchard to celebrate three significant anniversaries.

The planting marked 25 years of Vale Landscape Heritage Trust, which owns the site, as well as 20 years of their partnership with Severn Waste Services and 50 years of Wychavon. The historic orchard was bought by the Trust nine years ago and stands on a ridge and furrow field that has existed for at least 600 years. It would have originally provided food for the owners and residents of nearby Naunton Court. The Blenheim Red was the last variety needed to complete the orchard's collection of Worcestershire apple trees. It was originally discovered at Welland near Malvern. All 32 varieties of Worcestershire apple tree are now planted in the orchard, with others including the Martin Nonpareil,

which has its origins in the village of Martin Hussingtree. It is the only known complete collection of Worcestershire apple trees in the country. Since the Trust took on the site, about 120 new trees have been planted over the years. Through careful management of the site, it is now becoming a thriving biodiversity habitat. Dead trees are left in place and are now home to several rare insects which depend on deadwood including the rare Noble Chafer beetle and nationally scarce red-belted clearwing moth. Some of the older trees boast plenty of mistletoe, which as well as traditionally being used to kiss under at Christmas, is also home to several rare bugs and other insects.

*To find out more, visit:  
[www.wychavon.gov.uk/fifty](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/fifty)*

## RBL Annual Dinner

Just a reminder to all members and friends that the returns for the 93rd Annual Dinner to be held at the Bell Eckington on the 27 April 2024 6pm-7pm must be returned by the 24 March 2024 to the email address on the forms sent out last month.

Diary events coming up will be the DDay Commemorative concert on the 7th June 2024 to be held at the Baptist Church Pershore.



The Alcester Victoria Silver Band have kindly agreed to perform. Tickets will be on sale shortly at £15per person.

## A few words from... Harriett Baldwin MP



Harriett Baldwin MP has thanked local people who attended an MP Question Time held at Pershore's Riverside Centre.

The MP fielded questions from local people on a wide range of topics including the local NHS, rural crime, house-building and local transport during the hour-long session. Alongside regular surgery sessions for

one-to-one advice, Harriett hosts the Meet Your MP events held in public venues across the constituency. Harriett said: "I am grateful that people braved the cold weather to come out to question me and share their views. It is always useful to hear the opinions of my constituents and I find it heartening that we are able to debate matters of local and national concern in a calm and respectful way. I try to be as accessible as possible and I have had lots of positive feedback from these events. In my role as Member of Parliament I represent all the people in the constituency and I hope that those people who took the time to attend felt that their views had been expressed and heard."

## Volunteer drive



L-R Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre CEO Karon Swinburn (left) with Harriett Baldwin MP.

Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre is looking to increase the number of helpers as it expands the area covered by its popular community transport scheme. Volunteers use private cars and minibuses to offer community transport across 40 villages around Pershore and Harriett offered to lobby the Department for Transport to help the charity to expand its services. Community transport schemes across the county play an increasingly important role helping elderly and vulnerable people to get out and about. Harriett said: "Over the last

few weeks, I have had some very useful meetings with the people leading community transport schemes and I am extremely impressed at the breadth of coverage, especially in very rural areas. "The Department for Transport has previously offered community transport support and one of the Pershore Plus Volunteer Centre minibuses has benefited from this scheme. As well as looking to refresh the fleet, the charity is looking for new volunteers and I hope that more people will be willing to help out if they can."

## Harriett hits the beat to hear Police progress



L-R PC Kevin Johns, Harriett Baldwin MP and PC Amy Hunt

Harriett Baldwin MP joined police on the beat in Pershore as the local team focuses on combatting a spate of anti-social behaviour in the town. Harriett joined West Mercia Police on a Friday night patrol to gain their insights on the challenges faced by local teams dealing with crime and other issues raised by her constituents. Late last year, the MP visited Cherry Orchard extra care housing to hear some of the concerns shared by residents and she has also met up with the manager of Asda in Pershore who flagged issues with local policing. Harriett was invited to head out on patrol in Pershore with Safer Neighbourhood Team members PC Amy Hunt and PC Kevin Johns. Harriett said: "I was grateful to be able to accompany Amy and Kevin as they patrolled Pershore and it was really

useful to hear their insights on the challenges they face on a daily basis. We discussed some of the issues raised by residents in Cherry Orchard and I support the police's efforts to deter anti-social behaviour there. We also discussed some of the issues faced at Asda, particularly in the dark evenings, and I have been briefed on uniform and plain-clothed police initiatives to combat crime. I am pleased to report that anti-social behaviour has fallen by 44 per cent after the local policing team upped its work and I am hopeful that this extra effort and increased presence will nip the issues in the bud. In my recent letters to the Police and Crime Commissioner, I have stressed the importance of local, visible policing and I was grateful to be able to see this in action."

## New breast screening figures

Thousands of women are being urged to attend NHS breast screening appointments as new figures today show that, despite a slight increase in uptake in the last year, over a third of women still did not take up the potentially lifesaving offer. In 2022-23, a total of 1.93 million women aged 50 to 70 (64.6%) attended screening appointments (within six months of invitation) out of the 2.98 million invited to book a check-up – an increase in uptake on 2021-22 (62.3%). However 35.4% of women did not attend their appointments following an invitation, increasing to 46.3% of women who were being invited for the

first time. The screening programme led to cancers being detected in 18,942 women across England in 2022-23, which otherwise may not have been diagnosed and treated until a later stage. NHS England is calling for women to put their health at the top of their to-do list and come forward for breast screening when invited. The call comes following a major £70m Government investment in the Digital Transformation of Screening initiative to modernise screening services over the next three years. *More information is available at [www.nhs.uk/conditions/breast-screening-mammogram](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/breast-screening-mammogram)*

## Local musicians & choir *aiming high for Air Ambulance Charity*



Andrew Hemming -  
Musical Director

A full orchestra and choir are set to stage a special performance in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity in Pershore Abbey at 7.30 pm on Saturday 13th April. The programme will feature a live performance of *In Paradisum*, an original requiem by Andrew



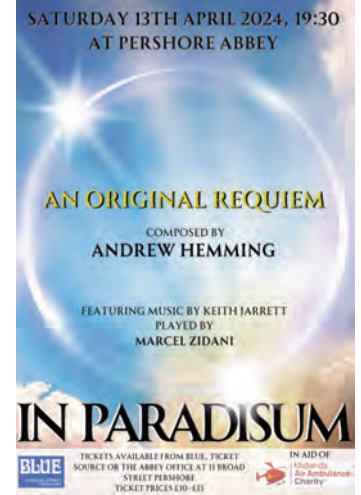
Marcel Zidani

Hemming (Musical Director of popular Pershore Operatic and Dramatic Society) along with music by American composer Keith Jarrett played by award-winning local concert pianist Marcel Zidani. Andrew told us that the Air

Ambulance Charity is close to his heart. "My Grandad Harry, who lost his son Stephen after a car crash before I was born, often wondered would Stephen's chances of survival have improved had the air ambulance been operating then? Raising cash to help avoid other families having to ask that question seemed appropriate, especially as the concert date will mark the third anniversary of Harry's death." Grateful to the musicians and singers volunteering their time and talent to this fundraiser, Andrew added, "Thanks to their interpretive artistry, the evening's music promises to match the majesty of its setting. Together, we aim to raise enough cash for one of our Air Ambulance's life-saving missions, but that's down to people's support. Please get your ticket and - together - we'll keep our Air Ambulance funded and flying for all."

Tickets are on sale at *Blue in Broad Street*, *Pershore Town Hall*, or online at *Ticket Source*.

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/pershore/pershore-abbey-church-walk/in-paradisum/2024-04-13/19:30/t-jzmlmjn](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/pershore/pershore-abbey-church-walk/in-paradisum/2024-04-13/19:30/t-jzmlmjn)



## Town Choir prepares for second 2024 concert

Pershore Town Choir will be performing its second concert of the year at 7.30pm on Friday March 15th at St Mary the Virgin Church, Elmley Castle, along with the Tapestry Chamber Choir. Tickets are £10 on the door or in advance from choir members. The Concert aims to raise funds for local charities, including Leukaemia Care. Musical Director David Barclay says, "It will be a concert of lovely choral music from two different, high quality local choirs. We hope to raise a lot of money for charity."

The first concert of the year was on February 23rd in the Baptist Church, when the Choir invited residents to "Spring into Song" to chase winter blues away.



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# What is Pershore Community Cupboard?



We are saving food from waste and giving it out for free. We are open most days for at least an hour at the Pershore Baptist Church in Broad Street, Pershore. Volunteers collect food from supermarkets, vegetables, fruit, bread, cakes and some foods to be frozen. Volunteers sort and stack the food and encourage visitors to the Cupboard to take a basket of items which they can use. Less waste going to Landfill!

Donations of food and money from many sources enable us to also provide and buy food and toiletry basics for people and families who need more help and for those in crisis. We are also providing items for children at local schools. Just come and talk to us in confidence and we will do our best to help and guide you to more help available. Please tell friends and neighbours about us. New volunteers are welcome to

get involved with collecting and sorting food and welcoming visitors to Pershore Community Cupboard.  
 Email: [communitycupboard2@gmail.com](mailto:communitycupboard2@gmail.com)  
 or send a message to our Facebook page.

*Best wishes from Pershore Community Cupboard Volunteers*

### Opening Hours

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



# From the Market to Drakes Broughton!



There had been a pet shop in Pershore Market almost since it opened, most recently owned and run by Anne and Paul Worrall who had been there since 2009. When the news came that the market was to close they began the search for new premises. Unfortunately there was nowhere large enough with access for deliveries and collections within Pershore town itself so the search had to expand a little. They were lucky enough to find a large empty shop in Shrubbery Road, Drakes Broughton, WR10 2BA which was available. The planning began. The market closed its doors for the last time on 30th December and after a couple of days off over New Year the packing started. Everything in the old shop was boxed up and moved along with shelving, freezers and till, ready for the new shop

to open for business on the 16th January. A hectic two weeks!  
 Anne, Rob and Lizzy have been very heartened by the warm welcome they have received in Drakes Broughton. They have been pleased to welcome many customers who used to shop at the old shop in the market along with some new faces too.  
 Anne is still selling all the old favourites of pet food and accessories, wild bird seed and feeders along with horse and poultry food. You are assured of a warm welcome in the new pet shop. It is only five minutes from Pershore in Shrubbery Road, Drakes Broughton and has free parking.  
**Pershore Pet & Livestock**  
 34, Shrubbery Road  
 Drakes Broughton  
 WR10 2BA  
 01386 561635  
 07754 475712

# Moving to Universal Credit

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is in the process of moving claimants still on Legacy benefits to Universal Credit. The Legacy benefits are: means tested Jobseekers Allowance; means tested Employment Support Allowance; Housing benefit; Income Support and Child and Working Tax Credits. You can't usually make a new claim for these "old" benefits. This process is called Managed Migration and has been taking place over a number of years and if you are contacted what you will need to do depends on what's in the letter. If the letter gives a deadline for you to claim Universal Credit,

it's a "migration notice". The deadline should be at least three months after the date the notice was sent. You should claim Universal Credit by the deadline in the letter otherwise your benefits will stop. If your letter doesn't have a deadline, you don't have to claim Universal Credit unless you want to – even if the letter says you'll have to claim Universal Credit in future. It's important to remember that you won't be able to go back to your old benefits after you claim. Your old benefits will stop after the deadline. If you claim Universal Credit before the deadline, DWP might pay you

extra to stop you being worse off. This is called "transitional protection". This means that if you'd get less on Universal Credit than your old benefits, you'll get an extra amount to make up the difference. The DWP will reduce the extra amount over time - so you'll eventually just get what you normally would on Universal Credit. If you don't claim before the final deadline (and sometimes this can be extended) you may lose any transition protection granted so it is important to respond. If you need help moving on to Universal Credit, you can talk to an adviser.



*For further information and advice, please contact your local Citizens Advice South Worcestershire office on 01684 563611 or visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)*

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## Pershore Flower Club



For our first demonstration of 2024 in Bishampton Village Hall on Wednesday, the 21st February, we welcomed Linda Seabrook from Daventry who gave her presentation the title of "Seasons Greetings". She began with a heart-shaped door hanging – to greet you at the front door – to which she added stems of dogwood, leaves of phormium and laurel both rolled and stapled. Then she added stems of pink oriental lilies, red carnations, red gerberas and alstroemeria called "Indian Summer". For her next design, Linda produced a round bowl to which she had placed wooden dolly pegs round the edge and then woven a web of string going backwards and forwards to form a mesh into which she placed stems of green cornus and pussy-willow. She then added short stems of Delft blue hyacinths round the edge of the bowl. Stems of veronica, yellow chrysanthemums, Astrantia, yellow genista and finally three yellow roses were all inserted into the centre. To celebrate Mothering Sunday, Linda used a large basket coloured lilac and silver and tied with a lilac bow. Round the edge she placed dried lavender and purple liatris. To this she added gerberas of varying colours and lilac 'anastasia' chrysanthemums and to add to the pastel design she used soft peach roses. She passed on a good tip – when using small chrysanthemums she inserted these into the stems of larger blooms. For her next design – a handtie – she used a double ten-inch wire ring crisscrossed with wire thread into which she inserted tall pale roses and carnations to create a pastel

palette. She brought the stems together and added stems of palm leaves to form a collar. All these stems were trimmed and tied with string. For her final design, a arrangement for Easter, she produced a structure made of a ceramic halo covered in a trailing grass-like plant on a wooden stand. She used various dried grasses, a stem of a cymbidium orchid, orange and yellow gerberas and yellow with small dark claret chrysanthemums. As usual, all these designs were raffled and the holders of the winning tickets went away very happy.

*Our next Club meeting is on Wednesday, the 20th March at 7.30 p.m. at Bishampton Village Hall when the demonstration will be described as "Botanical Art". All visitors welcome; for further information please telephone 01905 936477*





# History & Heritage Society – *Memories of Pershore in 1947*



*Snowdrifts at Priory Farm Inkberrow*

In the December's edition of The Pershore Times, I wrote about my memories of Pershore in the 1940's. Afterwards, speaking to my brother about my memories he recounted his experiences of the early harsh months of 1947. He would have been six at the time and his memories are all much clearer than mine, as I was only three. Here are our memories shared. In those days many of the houses did not have central heating, just open fireplaces or paraffin heaters and sometimes coal and wood burning black hearths in the kitchen. That is what we had, and no heating upstairs apart from in the lounge and that fireplace was only lit on a Sunday when we went in there after Sunday lunch. So it was cold everywhere apart from the kitchen and a little snug room next to it which had a fireplace.

The only bath was a tin tub, which mummy filled with hot water from the kettle, and this was placed in front of the kitchen hearth. It was tiny and we sat in it, huddled up, trying to soap ourselves and stayed cuddled until mummy put the towel around us. We always had a hot water bottle in our bed, but as you slid your feet down to the bottom they were freezing; Simon reminded me that in the 1947 Spring it was like sliding your feet down sheets of ice every night!

The whole country was caught up in the freeze that year and Pershore was no different. The snow started in December then after the New Year, day after day, it snowed somewhere in the UK for three months from January to March, and, in the Vale of Evesham we had fifty-five days of snow non-stop. The drifts were huge, whole buses were engulfed in the

snow and everywhere transport came to a standstill. Both fuel and food were in short supply due to the roads and rails being blocked, and food rations, which were still in operation from the War years, added to the day to day access to basic food for families.

One day our big fluffy cat, Ginny, jumped out of the sitting room window and disappeared! I was frantic and tried to climb after him. Daddy came to the rescue and went outside and dug him out of the snow! He was soaked and looking very sorry for himself so mummy wrapped him in a towel and put him in front of the fire to dry off. He didn't try to go out through the window again!

At one point the snow was so deep and the temperature so low (for a lot of the time it reached -21 degrees in the Vale of Evesham) that daddy brought in a lot of our 'outside' animals; there we were, Simon and I, sharing our fire's warmth with three cats, three dogs, one giant rabbit and six ducks! We couldn't get near the fireplace. Miraculously they all settled down together to sleep! Daddy had drawn a line and refused to have the hens and our three pigs into the house even though I thought they should come in and insisted daddy gave the pigs lots of straw to keep them warm. Outside on the High Street the shop keepers had shovelled the snow into the gutters to make a walkway on the pavements and the road snow was swept for the traffic into the gutters. This resulted in a huge wall of tightly packed snow between the roads and the pavements.

The shopkeepers set about cutting doorways into the snow so that the people could go from shop to shop on both sides

of the road. What a picture! I was too young to remember but my brother said it was quite something to see.

This gave daddy the idea of making an igloo in the garden. He and my brother worked all day packing the snow into snow bricks, then began to build it. I watched through the window and eagerly waited for daddy to let me go inside it. At last I was let outside. It was so magical sitting in a room of snow! Albeit it was very tiny and only one small person could get in at a time!

All this snow eventually had to melt and, inevitably this caused the river to flood.

Next came another problem; as the snow melted and the floods arrived. These were no ordinary floods, at their worst the old bridge could not be seen and the river rose to cover the road up to the old entrance to the Horticultural College on one side of the bridge and up to the Manor House Hotel on the other side.

At home our cellar was flooded underneath the Chemist shop floor. It worried daddy greatly as the water was nearly up to the ceiling. He padlocked the door to stop us going there. Then the flooding lifted the refuse in the Municipal dump, which was at the bottom of our garden between the town tennis courts and the river. The rubbish travelled down river towards Eckington, clogging up the river as it went.

Then there were the rats! They came up from the dump and into Pershore. As our shop was very near the dump we had a bad invasion of them. Daddy kept the poisons that he used in the pharmacy in a locked room at the back of our kitchen scullery. When he opened the door crowds of rats ran past him and into the garden. It was horrid and scary too.

*Written by Sue Price*



*Midland Red bus stuck in drift between Evesham and Pershore*

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# Former Mayor's record fundraising year



L to R is Gloria M Winfield, Deborah Gascoyne, Community Fundraiser, Matthew R Winfield, Lesley Faulker.

Former Pershore Mayor Matthew R Winfield wishes to thank all organisations and supporters who fundraised and who kindly donated their time and money to ensure that over £6285 was raised for Brain Tumour Research. The money

raised has paid for two days research, for the charity, in memory of Rob Faulkner, a local resident who was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Later in the year two tiles will be installed on the memory wall at St Marys, Paddington in recognition.

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# New package to help families save energy bills

Flexible, so families pay less if using electricity when prices are lower. A new package of measures to help families save on energy costs and access cheaper deals is being launched by the government, as figures published today show prices set to fall to their lowest level since Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Ofgem confirmed the price cap – the maximum amount a typical household pays for gas and electricity – will fall by £238 from April. Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho has welcomed the decrease as a milestone in the government's work to reduce costs for families – proof the plan to reduce bills for hardworking Brits is working. Long-term measures announced today include examining how standard energy deals should work to pass on the cheapest electricity costs, plus £10 million in funding for companies to test new technologies and tariffs with their customers, to make

the most of cheap, low-carbon power. Over half of British homes already use a smart meter, meaning they can access cheaper, off-peak energy tariffs. These deals can save households around £900 a year by charging an electric car, for example, at off-peak times such as during the night – with 63 per cent of people saying they would be likely to switch to a flexible tariff to help them save money. The government is also putting out a call for evidence on standard energy tariffs, which customers are rolled onto at the end of fixed-term contracts, resulting in the vast majority paying a flat rate throughout the day and a potentially higher price than they need to. The government is seeking views on making these tariffs more flexible, so families pay less if using electricity at a time of day when prices are lower while protecting those who aren't suited to a flexible tariff.



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Some years ago there was a man whose wife loved going to Croome. So when she died he decided to donate a large sum of money to Croome each year so that flowers could be put in the Court each week in her memory. That generosity enabled a team of volunteer flower arrangers to be set up who, each Wednesday, make and place their work all over the building - just as he wanted. That source of funding

eventually stopped. Now another benefactor has come forward, just because he has been so impressed by the displays he had seen. He, too, will give a donation each year to help the flower ladies, sufficient to keep the work going.

*The pictures show recent displays.*



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# Women's Hour! Picture This

Susan Catford



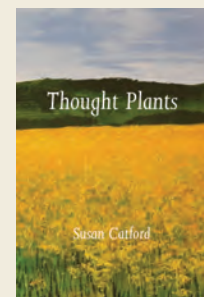
For better or worse, we live in an age when photographs are an everyday part of our lives. The changes over the years that have enabled us to capture and record events now on our mobile phones are quite remarkable. As a child, my parents had a box camera. It only came out for holidays and special occasions and required a degree of skill in producing a successful photograph. My father was not too good at this and photographs were either out of focus or people were headless! They were, of course, black and white (often very grey!) and the process of placing a film in the camera and removing it was a risky operation. Exposing the film to light destroyed the photographs so it had to be done very carefully. Neither was it cheap to have films developed, usually at a chemist taking days before they were ready. Things did move on with the introduction of instamatic cameras. These were much easier to operate with lenses that took pictures easily and with much better results. We still seemed to have a lot of headless ones though, particularly when my mother was the photographer! For my 21st birthday I requested a camera (rather like getting a mobile phone these days) as it was something I wanted to own for myself. As was the case at that time, it took slides which were lovely photographs but had to be viewed through a special gadget with a magnifying lens or using a projector. The latter led to the delight of evenings spent viewing the (many!!) photos of friends and family projected onto a screen or the sitting room wall. TV channels were

limited in those days!! I never liked having my photo taken and can't understand those who seem to need to have their image recorded at every opportunity. At school, we had the school photographer visit annually. I remember one year my mother told me to tell them that I didn't want it done. This was because there were six of us children and having to pay for all of them was not part of the family budget. Needless to say my photo was taken and when I took it home my mother bought it. Those stiff, posed photos of a very serious me are still around somewhere and perhaps account for me not wanting to have my picture taken! Over the years I have remained camera shy. I never like photos of myself. When it came to getting married there was no option. Wedding photos are compulsory!! At least then they kept to a formula – bride and groom, bride and groom with bridesmaids, parents, relatives, friends etc. It didn't take too long and there was a limited quantity produced. Now it is a lengthy, costly procedure with the photographers- usually more than one!- dictating the timing on the wedding day. There have been times when, as guests, we have had to wait an hour or more for the reception to begin. This inevitably means drinking while you wait and being slightly intoxicated before you eat. The average wedding seems to generate photographs by the hundreds at great cost. It is then a mammoth task selecting the best ones to keep. Sadly most of them remain in 'albums' on smart phones; the paper versions are relatively few. A wedding is a very special event though which should be

recorded and the quality of photos today are generally superb. For once, I didn't mind having my photo taken for our sons' weddings. They show a very happy, proud Mum!!! This brings me to the subject of 'selfies'. There is obviously a skill in taking a photo of yourself which makes you look youthful, attractive and permanently smiling. My efforts fail miserably and require the delete button. If you go to London people spend more time (it seems) taking selfies with backdrops of tourist attractions rather than looking at said attractions. You practically fall over these people holding phones at arm's length with posed faces. What's more, if you don't like your image you can change it using filters and other devices. Perhaps I ought to give it a try!!! My phone is full of pictures I have taken and many that have been sent to me. Unfortunately that's where they stay. I have boxes of photos that I have promised myself, one day, to sort into albums for future generations. It will happen I hope! Meanwhile, my husband has placed random photos in drawers around the house and



every so often one pops up and instantly brings back memories. It seems a pity that most will remain in that mysterious place 'the cloud' and will probably just disappear at some point. Photos do give us great pleasure and sharing videos can be a way of keeping in touch with those who are distant but there are also drawbacks which we are all aware of. A final thought. Why is it that the passport photo you took ten years ago and thought was awful somehow doesn't look nearly so bad ten years on???? I'm off now with my phone to have a go at a selfie - you never know, you may see a new youthful, attractive, smiling me at the top of the page!



***'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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On 24th February 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine. We've seen the news reports on the conflict and the devastation inflicted on the Ukrainian people, their families, homes and livelihoods. With the 2nd anniversary of the invasion in mind, Pershore Rotary hosted an evening at the Queen Elizabeth Inn, Elmley Castle to hear about aid being sent to Ukraine by two local organisations, the Ukraine Freedom Company (UFC) and Hereford Elgar Rotary Club. The Ukraine Freedom Company is a not-for-profit, charitable organisation, whose purpose is to support and sustain the people of Ukraine by providing humanitarian aid and supplies. Medical supplies, generators, cold weather clothing, footwear, ambulances and 4x4 vehicles are urgently required for delivery to trusted Ukrainian civilians in the country. UFC are committed for the duration of hostilities and beyond and are actively looking for contributions now. UFC was set up by retired members of the armed forces. Leading the presentation was Major David Seeney, who has had a long and active career with the Parachute Regiment. David said, "we were grateful to

the Worcestershire Rotary Clubs for giving us the opportunity to spread the word on aid required for the Ukraine people at war". He was joined by David Gaston, a retired head teacher who has made over 30 humanitarian journeys to Ukraine, Alla Savchenko, a refugee active in bringing the suffering of her people to our attention, Brian Watkins, Worcestershire supporter, and Will Jackson a member of Hereford Elgar Rotary and a regular transporter of supplies to Ukraine. The needs of Ukrainians resisting the invasion are extensive. Comfort boxes containing personal items for men and women are always popular and a raffle on the night raised £220 which was donated to UFC for comfort boxes. The Rotary event was supported by District Governor, Anne Bartholomew, and members of the Colwall, Evesham, Malvern, Pershore, Rotary in the Vale, Tewkesbury, Worcester Vigornia Rotary Clubs and other guests. *For more information on how you can help UFC support the people of Ukraine, please contact Pershore based, Brian Watkins at [lovelacewatkins@uwclub.net](mailto:lovelacewatkins@uwclub.net)*



# How to choose the right greenhouse

Nikki Hollier



If you've been contemplating buying a greenhouse, but unsure where to start, here's my top five tips to consider. Firstly, do you need a greenhouse at all? The main purpose of a greenhouse is to extend the growing season, by protecting seedlings and plants from the weather (and pesky rabbits!). So, if you plan on 'growing your own' this year, a greenhouse is a valuable addition to your garden. Choosing the right greenhouse for your growing needs, and available space can be tricky with so much to choose from. So, I've had a chat with local experts Keder Greenhouses in Evesham for some advice.

**Size –**  
This really depends on the space available and what you're planning to grow but bear in

mind the height ideally needs to be 1.8m tall so you can...  
- work comfortably inside,  
- there's space for staging (growing your plants) and  
- it allows easy access to the door to enable you to use a wheelbarrow to help with heavy loads such as bags of compost

**Insulation –**  
Good insulation is key to reducing the need for heating whilst still protecting your tender crops. All Keder greenhouses are covered with Polydress LP-Keder Air Bubble Film which provides an insulating effect that retains up to 95% of heat radiation. When compared to glass this offers over twice the insulation properties.

**Ventilation –**  
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greenhouse is properly ventilated to keep humidity levels down and prevent disease. It is essential that any greenhouse is supplied with at least one roof or side vent, and a rear window opposite the main entrance is ideal.

**Orientation –**  
When deciding where to put your greenhouse, you may be looking for the best orientation to make the most of any available light. Unlike traditional glass greenhouses, a Keder can be placed facing whichever direction best suits your plot, due to the bubbles taking in the light and distributing that light evenly throughout the structure. Because the unique design of the greenhouse cover, perfectly diffuses the light, you will not have shady spots or sun scorching, therefore achieving a higher yield of upright crops.

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## February gardening tips Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester

### Early March

Lift and divide herbaceous plants. Plant alpine and herbaceous plants. Lightly mow over the lawn. Prepare sites for new lawns. Prune rose bushes soon if not already done. Plant onion, garlic and shallot sets. Start Begonia and Gloxinia tubers into growth indoors. Buy seedlings or baby bedding plants to grow on at home.

### Mid Month

Support all tall growing herbaceous plants from early in the season. Try growing some ornamental vegetables in the flower garden, e.g. red leafed lettuce and runner beans. Prune Blueberries. Sow hardy annual flowers like Eschscholzia, Godetia, Clary, Mignonette etc. direct in the garden borders. Treat moss, scarify and aerate lawns as well as feeding the grass, you can now get moss killers that digest dead moss,

so no raking or use traditional Lawn Sand. Prune late summer flowering shrubs, like Buddleia and Caryopteris, as well as Hydrangea paniculate varieties and Hydrangea arborescens Annabelle. Prune down hard shrubs with coloured stems like Cornus, as well as hardy Fuchsias. Trim over winter flowering heathers cutting to the base of the flower clusters. Buy and plant pots of herbs. Sow seeds of hardy herbs in the garden, like parsley. Plant seed potatoes – but beware of frost once the shoots emerge from the soil. Vegetable seeds to sow now include: broad beans, lettuce, leeks, parsnips, peas, radish, salad onions, spinach, Swiss chard and spinach beet. Sow summer bedding under glass: dahlias, impatiens, petunias, phlox drummondii, salvias, asters, tagetes, mesembryanthemums, alyssum,

nicotiana, marigolds and zinnias. Plant lilies outdoors in borders and tubs. Lay out growing bags in the greenhouse to warm up the compost before planting. Sow fruit and vegetable plants for growing on in a heated greenhouse, e.g. tomatoes, aubergines, peppers, cucumbers, etc. or you could decide to buy plants later.

**Late March**  
Plant less robust hardy evergreen shrubs e.g. Hebe and Ceanothus. Lay turf or sow lawn seed. Start feeding pond fish more frequently as the water temperature rises. Vegetables to sow now include: Brussels sprouts, red cabbage, summer cabbage and summer cauliflower. Dwarf French beans can be sown under cloches. Watch out for the build up of pests and diseases. Treat pots against vine weevil attacks using Bug Clear Vine



Weevil Killer. It protects your plants for three months. An organic answer is a half inch deep layer of horticultural grit over the compost surface to deter egg laying. Marginal plants in ponds can be divided if overcrowded, but watch out for frog spawn.

**Remember!**  
You can't race the seasons and seeds do not have to be sown exactly when the packet tells you. My advice with outdoor sowings is watch the weather not the calendar, as seed sown later when conditions are right usually catches up and surpasses crops put in earlier that had to suffer during bad weather.

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# Farming *Mike Page*



*Picture from the farmhouse here (looking out directly West), but showing surface flooding from natural saturation of the soil profile following continuously heavy rainfall in October-November-December and now into January-February. That is the reason the field is still stubble from the 2023 harvested crop, and has not, even yet, been planted with a crop for 2024 harvest.*

I had hoped by now that the wet weather of recent months might have eased off a bit and we could be thinking in terms of the 2024 growing season and harvest. But as this month's picture (very similar to last month's) shows, the land (ie the soil profile) is still saturated, with water lying on the surface and there is no way of

cultivating or establishing a crop for 2024 harvest just yet. Every year the agricultural goods produced around the world extract billions of tonnes of Carbon Dioxide from the atmosphere, but all of that is released back when the produce is consumed; Agriculture, as was pointed out at last year's COP28 in Dubai, is responsible

for some 30% of global emissions. Everyone is familiar with baked beans and here in the UK they are consumed in the many millions of cans per year. All coming in from abroad (mostly from the American Prairies) so they start their journey from farm to fork with 1000 miles by train, followed by 2000 miles by ship; even if the Carbon cost of growing them is fairly low, the Carbon cost of transporting them here is high. The UK is right on the climatic extreme for growing the Haricot Beans that become 'baked beans' and plant breeders have been looking into breeding varieties that can be grown in the UK. A single commercial crop was grown successfully in Lincolnshire and processed into canned beans for the first time in 2023. One problem still to overcome is that one of the more suitable varieties that might be grown here at scale is black-skinned and it is doubtful if consumers would accept readily a can of beans if when opened the contents were black rather than the pale

colour they expect. More work to do yet for the plant breeders. The vast majority of farm grazing animals are ruminants, their complex digestive process designed to extract the maximum amount of nutrition from consumption of large quantities of low-nutritional-value foodstuffs such as grasses. One result of that complex digestive process is they produce a lot of Methane, which is belched out. Methane has a far higher climate warming impact than Carbon Dioxide and it seems that, as some types of cattle/sheep produce far less Methane than others, animal breeders in the UK are looking into ways in which this feature of digestion can be bred into commercial breeds. At least if this happens it will not be immediately obvious on the dinner plate in a way that will put anyone off the meal, but again more work yet to do for the geneticists. De-carbonising agriculture is rather more than just designing tractors, having engines that use less Diesel or run on Hydrogen!

## Country Watch

February has proved to be another very wet month with fields and rivers flooding as well as flash floods on the roads. Difficult times for drivers as well as farmers needing to sow their crops. Lots of standing water and saturated ground is not good for livestock either. Rural footpaths and woodlands make for very muddy walks; not good for those needing some outdoor exercise or for dog-walkers. Floodwaters do attract different waterfowl though which is good for bird-watchers. It is quite fun to see swans apparently enjoying riding the strong currents going downstream then battling their way back upstream. This is also the time of year when frogs and toads are on the move, migrating back to their breeding grounds. During the winter months they may stay in fields, woodlands or even gardens seeking warmth and shelter. However, their journeys often take them into and across roads which is very hazardous. They begin to do this as the weather warms up.

They usually move at night, often in large numbers. It is difficult for drivers to see them before it is too late so there are often many casualties. This happened recently in a nearby village lane but concerned locals used WhatsApp to warn us. Some roads where this occurs annually have signs warning motorists. It will be interesting to see if we have better weather in March but at the moment, the first week looks set to be cold and damp. At least we have daffodils out now and over the month we will see primroses, wild garlic, various blossoms and, hopefully later, bluebells. Spring will be here and colour will return to our countryside.



## A Sunday in Pinvin long ago



When I moved to Sussex over fifty years ago my grandmother wrote every week (as did my mother and my two brothers - all of whom had to be answered individually!) and some of my grandmother's letters contained snippets of her early life amongst all the usual daily occurrences. A few of these I have kept and the following was one. The events would have occurred around 1900 when she was at school in Pinvin. Her grandfather was living at Fern Cottage, which was demolished when Pinvin crossroad was changed around 1970. 'When I was a girl Dad used to go down the garden and dig a piece of horseradish, scrub it white and bring it to me. "Girlie, scrape some please for dinner when you have done veg, ready for mother to cook

and you can beat the eggs for her for the Yorkshire pud. There is nothing nicer on a Sunday mid-day meal." "No Father. I do know that Granny Allard wants some with her beef." (As she said to me) "When your father comes up to see me let him know, Fanny, he will be going up to church" (St. Nicholas) "with Grandad. He stokes the fires and tolls the bell for 11 o'clock service." (When you have been to) "afternoon Sunday School come back to Grandad and me for tea and go to church tonight with us. Tell your mother so she will not worry if she knows in case she don't come to church with us. Your father will come as it is the Reverend Cotton who is a splendid clergyman and he takes such an interest in all the villagers and families."

## Cooking for fun! *Ailsa Craddock*

The rhubarb in my garden is growing really well so I thought this month we would look at that. It's such a relatively short season that we really ought to make the most of it! Botanically, rhubarb is a vegetable (it's related to sorrel and dock) but its thick, fleshy stalks are treated as a fruit, despite their tart flavour. It grows in two crops. The first, which arrives early in the year, is forced and grown under pots. Its stalks are watermelon pink, with pale lime green leaves, and it is the more tender and delicately flavoured of the two. The second, called maincrop rhubarb, is grown outdoors, and arrives in spring. Its stalks are a deeper red, tinged with green, and its leaves a brighter green. It has a more intense flavour and a more robust texture than forced.

I love mine lightly poached with my porridge in the morning or with custard or in a crumble. It also marries beautifully with ginger and strawberries (obviously not altogether). And did you know, it goes really well with savoury dishes, particularly strong fish like mackerel?

### Mackerel with rhubarb chutney

75g / 3oz castor sugar

25g/1oz sultanas

Few sprigs fresh rosemary

2cm/¾in piece root ginger peeled and finely chopped

1 shallot, peeled and finely chopped

3 sticks rhubarb

5 tbs cider vinegar

1 orange, juice only

Salt and black pepper

1 mackerel - 2 fillets - use more as you need

#### For the chutney

In a heavy-based pan melt the sugar until a golden-brown caramel forms. Remove from the heat and stir in the sultanas, rosemary sprigs, ginger, shallot and rhubarb. Stir in the cider vinegar and orange juice. Bring back to the boil and cook gently



for 8-10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper and set aside to cool.

#### For the mackerel

Place the mackerel fillet skin-side up on an oven tray. Brush with rapeseed oil and place the fillets under a hot grill. Season with salt and pepper. Serve a spoonful of chutney with the cooked mackerel fillets, new potatoes and a crisp salad.



completely mushy (technical term!). Put a piece of muslin over a large bowl (I secure mine with an elastic band) and pour the liquid and fruit into it. Leave it to drip through overnight. Bottle and keep in the fridge (I have no idea how long it will last as it seems to go as fast as I can make it, but I would think about one week to ten days). Serve with hot or cold, still or sparkling water - even with your Easter prosecco!

### Rhubarb Cordial

450g rhubarb, chopped

225g sugar (I know it seems a lot, but remember you are going to dilute it and don't need a lot)

300ml water

1 orange, zest and juice

1 lemon, zest and juice

Put the sugar and water into a large saucepan. Add the rhubarb, zests and juices and bring to the boil. Cook until the rhubarb is

PS.

If you want to make more, I work on a ration of half sugar to weight of rhubarb and up the water slightly.

## Thoughts from the Snug . . .

### A cricket story

Whilst watching a test match two cricket fans were sharing their enthusiasm and love of the game and one said to the other, "I wonder if they play cricket in heaven? It surely can't be as good as this."

"I don't know. It's possible," replied the other, "but I guess we won't know until we get there."

"Absolutely!" confirmed the other, "but if I get there before you I'll let you know."

Sadly a few weeks later this whimsical remark turned into a self-fulfilled prophecy; suffering a sudden heart attack he died whilst watching another thrilling match.

At his funeral his friend thoughtfully reflected upon the possibility of a celestial cricket pitch. Unsurprisingly, later that night, his old friend reappeared in a ghostly dream.

"Any cricket pitches in heaven?" he enquired of his dear friend.

"Oh, yes!" came the reply. "I've got good news and bad news about cricket here in heaven. What do you want first?"

"The good news, obviously," he replied rather impatiently.

"Well..... there is a splendid pitch up here, a superb wicket and the standard of play is excellent. The bad news is that you are opening the bowling this Wednesday!"

*Buddy Bach*

## Do you have a cherished book that is in need of restoration or repair?



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# Our local hospitals in WW2

Tim Hickson



*Evesham Community Hospital shows two of the WW2 buildings linked by a newer bit*



*Wonkswood Hospital, Worcester*

As elsewhere in Britain, all Worcestershire pre-War hospitals were expected to prepare to receive both military and civilian casualties. However, realising that they would not be able to cope with the numbers expected, new hospitals were built. One example was Ronkswood, on Newtown Road in Worcester. This was built in 1941 on part of the old Tolladine Golf Course. It had 600 beds in 14 wards. During the War it treated both military casualties and civilian ones, mainly from the air raids on Birmingham. It was meant to last ten years but after War ended, the celebrating soldiers, sailors and airmen returning to their wives and girlfriends caused a large growth of the birthrate. So Ronkswood became a partner of the old Worcester Royal Infirmary, in the heart of the city, its purpose being to deal with this new problem. It was extended to contain a new maternity unit and no more midwifery took place in the old Castle Street hospital. As we know, Ronkswood only closed in 2002 as the Worcestershire

Royal Hospital, opened in 2002, then took over. In Evesham, a hospital was built particularly to deal with casualties expected from training accidents at RAF Pershore and, later, RAF Defford. (Regular readers of this paper may recall an earlier article in which I mentioned the case of a secretary at RAF Defford's Sick Quarters who injured her leg in a cycling accident and should have gone to the Evesham hospital. However, the Medical Officer needed her so he curtained off a corner of the Airmen's Ward - now Croome's Canteen - and put her in there.) All the local RAF Stations had their own Sick Quarters for minor injuries, ambulance garages and mortuaries. The Evesham military hospital, enlarged, is still in use as the community hospital. The Asylum at Powick, with its sister at Barnsley Hall near Birmingham, was integrated into the WW2 Emergency Medical Services. However, although a hutted hospital was built in the grounds of Barnsley, Powick was never

needed. (Incidentally, whilst researching the history of Powick I learnt that Edward Elgar, as a 22-year-old became the Bandmaster at the Asylum and went on to write The Powick Asylum Music - for those inmates and staff who could play instruments.) When the Americans came to Britain, starting in 1942, the first were the US Army Air Force to join the RAF in bombing, and later the US Army itself in preparation for the invasion of France. Whilst some British civilian hospitals were transformed for their use, they needed buildings that would house the incoming troops before being used as

hospitals to treat casualties after the D-Day. So they built five hospitals, in 1943, to the south-east of Malvern. Although these were used for a while after the war ended, mainly as accommodation for returning British troops, refugees and prisoners of war, they have nearly all been demolished. A few of the roads survive together with a large pair of emergency water towers. The Americans also made provision for their forces to have a rest from combat and, for example, Spetchley Court was used by their aircrews to enjoy a week's leave.. They called it The Flack Shack!



## A Guide to accountant speak for P&L Statements *Carol Draper*

All industries have their own jargon and accountancy is no exception. It is easy to forget that not everyone is familiar with standard words and phrases so hopefully this article will shed some light on some commonly used words and expressions.

Profit and Loss statement or Income Statement. This is a financial report that shows how much your business has spent and earned over a specified period, usually a year. It aims to show whether your business is making or losing money.

Turnover - this is sales made or fees charged for goods and services your business supplies before any other costs or expenses have been deducted. It is Turnover that is used to work out if your business should register for VAT.

Cost of Sales or Direct Costs – these are costs that relate directly to the sales you make. For example, if you run a shop, it would be the cost of the stock that you sell and the wages you pay to staff who work in the shop.

Gross profit = turnover less direct costs. Gross profit is often expressed as a percentage of turnover to calculate if sales prices are being set at the right level and to enable direct comparisons to be made with other periods.

Expenses or overheads – the



other costs of running your business. Amongst others these can include rent, motor expenses, light and heat, advertising, telephone, and accountancy fees.

Net profit/net loss – this is the amount that remains once all the business costs are deducted from the business income. If the number is positive this is a profit. If the number is negative this is a loss.

Taxable profit – this is profit on which you have to pay tax. Taxable profit may be different to net profit as there are expenses such as entertainment and depreciation that are not allowable by HM Revenue & Customs but there are some additional allowances that can be included.

Next month I will look at the Balance Sheet but as always if you have any queries speak to your accountant for an explanation.

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

"There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so"

*Hamlet quote (Act II, Sc. II).*

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## Discoveries

*Angela Johns*



We were due to go down to Devon for a long weekend, my partner and I, for wintery walks on the beach and brisk bike rides between the villages around Westward Ho!. While I dodged flu followed by a chest infection, he did not, so I ventured to one of my favourite counties alone.

It was too short notice for any of my favourites to join me but still, I was excited to go. This is because Me Time is important. This is when I can balance the giving I do and the responsibilities I have with the receiving I need and the freedom I want. It means I can give without resentment and hold responsibility with more ease. But Me Alone Time\* is essential. This is when I can discover if I'm getting the balance right. In Me Alone Time I have an opportunity to make my own decisions from the simple to the complex. It's a chance to self-discover what I really want and what changes are required to get there, if any (there usually is!).

I had a great Me Time/Me Alone Time on the Devonshire coast blowing the cobwebs away and getting some Vitamin Sea. And I also made some discoveries:

Firstly, that after several miles along my walk kicking through the surf, I have a small hole in my left welly. Secondly, that after cycling nine freezing miles to a recommended café, I'd forgotten my bike lock and had to sit outside in the cold to enjoy their amazing coffee and cake. I thought I might cry on the return journey into the head wind as I could no longer feel my fingers. That night I thought I deserved to take myself out to a favourite restaurant and enjoy a cocktail after all that exercise, but my third discovery was that it was closed for January. I did however buy a bottle of bubbly from Tesco Express and got the best fish and chips from the

chippy next door. I only discovered the curry sauce I thought they had forgotten to give me the next morning hiding under a tea towel. For a couple of hours on day 3 I discovered that for the first time in a long time I felt lonely. I am so incredibly blessed that I rarely feel lonely (in writing this I have discovered a newfound sense of gratitude for this). I discovered that I had had enough of Me Alone Time but still had 24 hours left.

There was no way I was going home early as I still wanted a bit more Me Time! So I stayed, the feeling passed as feelings are apt to do, and the sun came out. I rediscovered a little spark inside of me and that's all it needed.

Sometimes when we are circling around in our lives and it feels like we are not going anywhere, it's the rediscoveries that hold the power. \*Me Time is nothing new, but coining the phrase Me Alone Time, in her book *A Practical Guide to Realising Your True Worth*, Lynda Field hits the nail on the head.

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

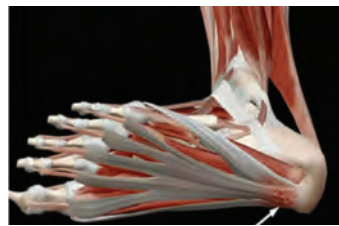
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# Store it, double it, release it.

Karen Harris

I'm talking about energy of course. The title refers to what should happen as our bodies propel us forward in locomotion. If you regularly read my column you will know I often mention feet, there is good reason for that, they are blummin' important! The energetics of movement begins with the perception of the ground, proper foot posture and intrinsic foot strength. Ground reaction forces are perceived as energy; we should release as much energy as we bring in, but it should be 2-2.5x more. Just in our 'simple' (not that 'simple' at all!) gait process, our body enables us to store energy, quickly double it, and then release it. It's pretty amazing really. We just need to optimise the biomechanical and structural foundation to do it. The picture gives vivid detail of the spring mechanisms on the bottom of the foot; the roll through the arches in the feet plus the lever from the toes, all transfer into the achilles tendon for the energy to be released into the muscles of the calf up the leg into the 'glutes' (bum muscles). The forefoot should widen - which brings stability and balance - and the system is repeated on push-off. Orthotics stops/blocks the mechanism that makes this energy transfer work. If we talk about posture as body alignment, that must also apply to the feet; yes feet have posture! Weakness or/and atrophy of the foot intrinsics alters your weight distribution (corns and callouses appear) toes start to curl in (hammertoes) your balance is impaired, the arches will be lost, forefoot

pressure will be increased (pain and neuroma) and there will be a loss of power on push-off. Your gait pattern will shorten, the ankle loses its flexing ability which stops the foot moving effectively, this tightens the muscles on the back of the leg, the leg gets restricted in the hip, the hips stiffen which affects the way that the pelvis moves, which affects the lumbar spine; you get back ache wondering why pain killers don't help, all the time not even considering that your poor old feet are part of the problem! So I'll ask a few questions..... Do your shoes allow your forefoot to spread? Are your feet out of shoes for a good proportion of the day? Do your 'glute' muscles activate when you squeeze and release them? Can you do a single heel raise, (barefoot) with the other foot off the floor, and it feels stable? Do you have one or both arches still in place? We want a 'yes' to each of those questions, if not I can guarantee you there will be problems elsewhere. Foot health is crucial to your stability and longevity, whatever age you are please think about using them fully and how your footwear affects them, you REALLY will benefit in the long term.



# Embracing Inspiration:

Emily Papirnik

## The Fuel for Creativity and Growth

What inspires you? Take a moment to ponder this question. The answer may not always be readily apparent, but within it lies the key to unlocking your potential and fuelling your creativity. Inspiration has a remarkable power to propel us forward, to ignite our passions and guide us on paths we never imagined possible. Picture that moment when inspiration strikes. It's a sensation unlike any other – a sudden surge of energy, a flash of insight, a feeling of clarity that washes over you. Whether it's sparked by a person, a piece of art, a poem or simply a walk in nature, inspiration has the amazing ability to stir something deep within us. At its core, inspiration is about more than just fleeting moments of motivation. It's about tapping into something fundamental – something that connects us to our deepest desires, our most profound truths, and our highest aspirations. It's about finding meaning and purpose in the world around us and allowing that sense of wonder and possibility to guide our actions. When we are inspired, we are moved to action. We feel compelled to create, to explore, to innovate. It's as if a door has been opened, revealing a world of endless possibilities. Suddenly, the barriers that once seemed insurmountable fade away and we are filled with a sense of limitless potential. Inspiration is not just about grand gestures or ground-breaking discoveries. It's about



finding beauty and significance in the ordinary moments of life. It's about noticing the small miracles that surround us each day – the laughter of a loved one, the colours of a sunset, the gentle rustle of leaves in the wind. In a world that often seems chaotic and uncertain, inspiration serves as a guiding light and reminds us of the beauty and wonder that still exists. It encourages us to embrace change, to welcome new ideas that we ourselves are creating. So, take a moment to reflect on what inspires you. Is it the beauty of nature, the wisdom of a mentor or the resilience of the human spirit? Whatever it may be, cherish it, cultivate it and allow it to fuel your creativity, your passion and your growth. For in the end, inspiration is not just a fleeting feeling – it is a transformative force that has the power to shape our lives and our world in ways we never thought possible. So, embrace it, celebrate it, and let it guide you to your journey of self-discovery and fulfilment.

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

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Karen Harris, Posture Alignment Specialist, Fitness Trainer  
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## Romy's Uni Life *Romy Kemp*

Liverpool University

### Halfway:

The first year of university is halfway up! Semester 2 has begun at an alarming rate, with assignments flying around to be completed. The workload has increased, as expected, and yet it is still extremely interesting to read. However, the seminars are progressively becoming more deeply analysed and the necessity for louder judgements has arisen. I can honestly say that it's all really enjoyable material!

The past few months have been tough. The weather has been abysmal - the flooding, the dull sky, the miserable days. Motivation has been hard to maintain and energy has been running low. The longing for summer has begun engraining into my brain too early this year! The need for a holiday has emerged, as well as the vibes of summer: games, beach days, sun. The wind and rain of Liverpool has been horrendous throughout the past few months - every single day. My only inclination that winter is nearly at an end is through nature. Snowdrops - purple and white - are blooming, and the birds are louder than ever. Squirrels are hopping about and the wind is becoming less bitter.

#### Manchester:

After getting the bus, from my accommodation, I made my way to the train station. On the walk up to the station, I bumped into one of my friends (on my course) who was also getting the train to Manchester - how amusing. The first hour on the train flew by, as we were just chatting about home life and



the course. After a short wait for my second train, I was in Glossop - being met by my mum, which was an unexpected surprise. A weekend with family and friends was a lovely getaway from the students routine of university life. Shopping, a meal, and a pub crawl - all one could ask for on a weekend! Glossop was such a wonderful place for me to return to - having gone back after a good few years. The memories of it not wavering even once I arrived. It was a charming weekend to spend with my mum, aunty and family friends - seeing how everyone has grown since the previous interaction! On arrival back from Manchester, the sun was shining in Liverpool (which makes a change) and the wind was breezy. This makes me hopeful for a pleasant summer in the city. I was greeted back by my flatmate who I spent the rest of the Sunday with, before focusing back on university work on the Monday.

## International Happiness Day 2024



It seems as if every day is the International Day of Something or Other. In the next few weeks, we have World Bicycle Day, International Tea Day (that's every day in my house) and World Asteroid Day to look forward to. (Remind me to stay indoors and wear a crash helmet for that last one.) Wednesday 20th March has been designated by the United Nations as this year's International Happiness Day. Given that this annual event was inaugurated back in 2013 and the subsequent course of world history, we might be forgiven for rolling our eyes and mumbling, "Well, that's gone well, hasn't it!" To be fair, however, the aims of the day are clearly worth striving for: the UN sees the promotion of happiness and wellbeing as a fundamental human right, and the path to this includes ending poverty, reducing inequality and protecting the planet. We are all invited to join in with our own ways of marking the day. So what will YOU do? How could you make the lives of your family, friends and colleagues happier that day? Is there something you could do for your community? Or the environment? It's well known that doing things for others and with others can make us happier. If you are stuck for ideas, have a look at the Pershore Wellbeing Hub website (below) which lists all sorts of community groups and projects you could get involved in - or pop in and chat with us. Living in the Pershore area, we may (statistically, at least) have a head start when it comes to wellbeing. In a recent survey, one third of the top twenty happiest places in the UK were

small market towns - due, it was claimed, to a greater chance of friendly locals and a sense of community. The same survey also said being near the coast made for happier places - which doesn't help us much. Although the past few weeks of flooded fields and closed bridges might suggest that becoming a coastal town is nearer than we think.

But what about improving our own personal happiness? One idea is to create good habits - things proven to make you happier that you know you will do regularly. What about these?

#### Smile:

the physical act of smiling creates dopamine in the brain - and that stimulates feelings of happiness. Give it a go... it may work!

#### Exercise:

do whatever is manageable for you (however small) every day.

#### Improve a skill:

choose something you love doing (singing, a sport, knitting) and set aside time every week to getting better at it. You will love yourself better for it.

By the way, March 20th also happens to be International French Language Day. So... Bonne Journée Internationale du Bonheur... et soyez heureux!

*Paul Morris*

*Pershore Wellbeing Hub*

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# Gregory's World!

Gregory Sidaway Exeter College, Oxford

## The Next Stage

There's something about a theatre when the crew scurry into the wings, give you the thumbs up – 'Okay, guys, we're ready.' – before helming the tech desk at the back of the room, and sliding the first switch on the control panel to begin our journey. The audience hubbub lulls. People finish shimmying out of their coats and remember at the last minute to put their phones on silent. Sound speakers buzz faintly with the promise of much to say. Dawn breaks in a warm wash over the stage. Meanwhile, I'm waiting in the wings, waiting for my cue, waiting ... My stomach has worked itself into a Constrictor knot. Our group of actors jitters with anxiety, excitement and Red Bull. The grace period for tricky tongue twisters and uneasily reciting our lines to the opposite wall is over. Here we go again! Back in December, fresh out of the oven from performing in an adaptation of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*, I remember declaring I was 'officially baptised into the world of Oxford drama' and I wouldn't be leaving anytime soon. Performing onstage is a jump start for confidence, you give something back to the uni, and it allows you to break out of

your college bubble by meeting a small group of new people and working with them on a shared project over a length of time. It flavours everyday studies to remember that – as you take notes in lectures – later on, you'll be messing around with silly voices and sillier walks to the (we can only hope!) laughter and applause of an audience. So, of course, I would have another go – and fortune twinkled on me after I successfully auditioned for a role in *Vanitas*, written by the hugely-talented James Whitney and Danny Doyle-Vidaurre. *Vanitas* was an original comedy about a cult initiation gone wrong, filled with seances, subterfuge and spooky face paint. My character was Shirley Shrine (the casting was gender-blind, but the instances of 'she' in the script gave me the funny feeling I was not who they'd originally imagined for the role). With the directors' suggestions, Shirley transformed into a dishevelled hybrid of David Mitchell and Richard Ayoade's character, 'Moss', from *The IT Crowd*. With as much suppleness as a plank of kiln-dried hardwood, he snoops through most of the show, trying to disentangle the web of secrecy woven by the charismatic cult leader, Augustus Chalmers.

Unlike *An Enemy of the People* (which clocked in at two to two and a half hours long, depending on how many lines we remembered), *Vanitas* clocked in at a punchy sixty minutes and we only rehearsed for about two weeks beforehand. It was a crash-course in showbiz, during which I got to know a handful of really great people – a favourite memory already is of us gathering at the Turf Tavern on the night before our first performance to go over lines with the assistance of a Guinness. The next morning, I woke up, made some toast (I'd carelessly rammed a loaf into the freezer, only for the loaf to set into sheets of corrugated bread too warped to fit in the toaster – so I entrusted Fry with the job) and prepared for a day of last-minute notes and technical checks, conscious that my friends would be coming to see me that very night. And not just friends, it turned out, but reviewers too. Adding to the brilliant, but nerve-racking, news that we'd sold out on our final night, was the buzz around respected Oxford theatre critic, Peter Kessler, being a member of that packed audience. After a terrific closing show, there was much nail-biting and teethchattering and phone-

refreshing at our after-party as we awaited an update to his blog: *The President's Husband's Drama Reviews*. The review was unsurprisingly and fashionably scathing in places – 'Vanitas Latin means "an empty or worthless activity" – a refreshingly honest title' – and he ultimately considered the play 'Very interesting. But stupid', giving it two stars. His individual actor-based summaries were a little more forgiving and I seem to have fared quite well: 'Gregory Sidaway as Shirley, a visitor with the deductive powers of Inspector Gadget, delivers some punchy physical comedy, shaking hands with impossibly awkward stiffness and keeping his pen clipped to his spectacles.' Regardless, there is something about a theatre which excites, terrifies and has always stayed with me. It was with me back when I was a (granted, reluctant) narrator in my primary school nativity in December 2009 and it was with me in Oxford in February 2024 as I jumped onstage with a silly voice and – naturally – an even sillier walk. And, what's more, I've now had my first review! Not too shabby, I think you'll agree, fellow reader?

## VETERINARY ADVICE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!



### The Importance of Vaccination

Vaccinations are an important part of our pets' healthcare requirements. They are there to protect our pets from potentially deadly diseases, such as canine parvovirus, feline enteritis and rabbit haemorrhagic disease. As well as stopping the potential spread of diseases like leptospirosis to humans.

Unfortunately, there has been a worrying trend of a reduction in the numbers of both pets and humans being vaccinated in recent years. This has led to regional outbreaks of serious diseases that have not been seen in large numbers for some time. Up to a third of pets are not kept up to date with their routine vaccinations. Vaccination, in part, works by 'herd immunity' – the more animals that are vaccinated the less likely those vulnerable to the disease will become infected. With fewer animals being vaccinated the more at risk our animals are, even those that are routinely vaccinated.

### Recommended vaccinations:

#### Dogs

- Core vaccinations (those recommended for any domestic dog worldwide) are for canine parvovirus, canine adenovirus (hepatitis) and distemper, after the initial vaccination course these are needed every 3 years.
- In the UK countryside leptospirosis is not only a potentially fatal condition but can also be spread to humans, this vaccine is needed every 12 months.
- Kennel cough can lead to a debilitating cough and is very contagious, it is recommended for dogs in any setting where there are multiple dogs present e.g. kennelling or training classes, or for dogs that are particularly sociable and enjoy greeting every dog. It is a 12 monthly vaccine usually given up the nose.

#### Cats

- Core vaccinations are for feline enteritis, feline herpesvirus and feline calicivirus (cat flu). Enteritis is given 3 yearly and the flu viruses are needed yearly.
- Feline leukaemia virus vaccine is given 3 yearly and is recommended for any outdoor cats.

#### Rabbits

- Rabbits have a single combined vaccination yearly which covers for rabbit haemorrhagic disease 1 and 2 and myxomatosis.

Most vaccination appointments will include a general health check to catch other conditions early, such as dental disease and heart disease. Contact your vet to make sure your pet is up to date with their vaccinations.

Best wishes *Eliza*

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



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& Partners**  
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Located in a picturesque riverside village.  
Tenure: Freehold Council Tax Band: C EPC: C  
Asking Price: £325,000



### Desjardins Way, Pershore

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SOUGHT-AFTER RESIDENTIAL LOCATION  
Tenure: Freehold Council Tax Band: C EPC: C  
Asking Price: £275,000



# Slow horses and fast women

Brian Johnson-Thomas



My childhood memories contain many references to my Great Aunt, an individual for whom the term ‘parsimonious’ could have been coined. On one occasion I was dragooned into digging her potato plot for the, even then, niggardly sum of half-a-crown. When I then blew the lot on ice creams for my cousin and myself, this drew the observation that, if indeed I succeeded in making my fortune, I would doubtless blow it all on slow horses and fast women. Every March, with the Cheltenham Gold Cup looming, I think of her even though I have yet to make my fortune, let alone blow it all away. One of the best ways to get to Cheltenham Racecourse has to be by steam train (as the crates and crates of empty champagne bottles at Toddington Station testify) and, this year, the Gloucester and Warwickshire Steam Railway have put out advice saying that, if you haven’t pre-booked your ticket, then please use Toddington Station only as there’s a big car park there without the security issues at the racecourse itself.

Also, even though the season starts tomorrow, the Stanway Viaduct is still closed for repairs and so Broadway Station is also closed until sometime next month. See [www.gwsr.com](http://www.gwsr.com) for details. It’s also Mothering Sunday next weekend, so I thought that we’d spend a few moments looking for something nice, but different, for Mum. Frankly I don’t know a lot about Spas, wellness and all that but I did find out that nearby Hilton Hotel at Puckrup, just north of Tewkesbury has a Schmoo Spa offering a range of Spa treatments and that you can combine a visit there with the use of the Living Well Health Club adjacent. They’re open from ten till six on six days a week. Call 01684 271 518 or email [puckrup@schmooskincare.com](mailto:puckrup@schmooskincare.com). The above bit of research prompted me to dig a little deeper and this has given rise to a few more suggestions:- how about a wine tasting break at the Three Choirs Vineyards, also in Gloucestershire, for a treat? see [www.three-choirs-vineyards.co.uk](http://www.three-choirs-vineyards.co.uk)

Then my research really got going and I found two rather exciting presents. There’s a drink made by a company called Clean Co which has produced a range of non alcoholic equivalents to full strength spirits – and which taste exactly like the real thing. The portfolio includes Gin, Tequila, Rum, Vodka and Whisky. See [www.clean.co](http://www.clean.co). Later I was really impressed by, of all things, a gourmet popcorn company. Joe & Seph’s offer a range of upmarket and innovative takes on the humble popcorn, such as their Prosecco Popcorn and their White Chocolate and Strawberry Popcorn. If you really are looking for an unusual gift then the Pamper Night Gift Box and £25 looks good value. See [www.joehandsephs.co.uk](http://www.joehandsephs.co.uk). Otherwise, if you fancy treating Mum to a night out then you could do worse that head for the bright lights of the City and Birmingham’s Alexandra Theatre which, next weekend, is hosting a touring solo dance theatre show called 40/40

featuring dancer Katherina Radeva in a show about turning the age of 40. I should perhaps add that there’s a ‘Content warning’ which says:- “Nudity, heavy breathing, middle aged woman dancing with much joy”. Well, it certainly sounds a different night out.... This leads me neatly on to our Cotswolds neighbours, the Longborough Festival Opera who this year will be the only opera house in England to stage the whole of Wagner’s Ring Cycle. Since watching the whole cycle takes place across a whole week – and they’re doing it three times - they have also added another Wagner opera “Die Walkure” plus Puccini’s “La Boheme” and, for good measure, their touring company will stage Donizetti’s “The Implausible Potions of Dr Dulcarama” in the Cidermill Theatre at Chipping Campden. Whilst, the Ring Cycle is already sold out, tickets for the others go on sale next week. See [www.lfo.org.uk](http://www.lfo.org.uk). Looks like an exciting month to come and then, wow! it’s Easter and Spring at last....





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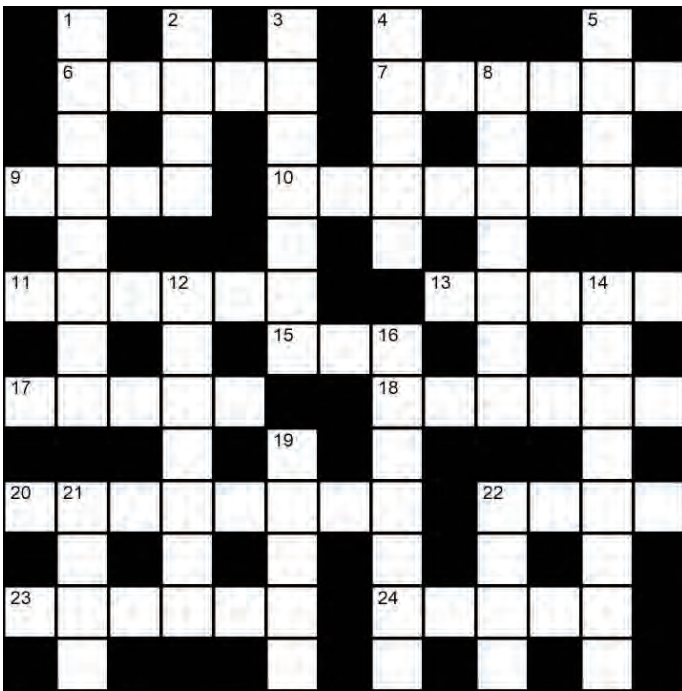
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# Coffee Break

## Crossword



## Across

- 6 In --- fertilization (5)
- 7 Roof edging (6)
- 9 Advertise (4)
- 10 Utterly downcast (8)
- 11 Multicoloured cat (6)
- 13 Scrub around controls (5)
- 15 100 mph (3)
- 17 Sounds made by almost everything electronic these days (5)
- 18 Readied for print (6)
- 20 Like many babies (8)
- 22 Stick in the microwave (4)
- 23 Conforms (4,2)
- 24 Go into (5)

## Down

- 1 Assess (8)
- 2 Male deer (4)
- 3 Number one position (3,4)
- 4 Attach (5)
- 5 Actress Lollobrigida (4)
- 8 Response provokers (7)
- 12 Driving force tips emu out (7)
- 14 CB radio users (8)
- 16 Provokes (7)
- 19 Lightning byproduct (5)
- 21 Related by blood (4)
- 22 Bananas (4)

## Sudoku

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

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

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

## Crosswords

## Sudoku

## Wordsearches Jigsaw puzzles

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## General Wordsearch

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

- BOX
- DAM
- DEL
- EAT
- FAR TOO
- MANY
- FIN
- G N P
- GALA
- GENT
- GIVE
- GRAM
- GUIDE
- LEIPZIG
- LOON
- NATURAL LAW
- NOR
- ORGAN
- P T S D
- PH DS
- POKED
- POUT
- SEMI
- SIN
- STROLL
- SWAG
- TAD
- TOFU
- TOME
- U R L
- UPDATES
- UPPER
- VGA
- WAD
- WET
- YAWNS

## February Answers



# Poets' Corner

## A Shropshire Lad

XXIV

Say, lad, have you things to do?  
 Quick then, while your day's at prime.  
 Quick, and if 'tis work for two,  
 Here am I, man: now's your time.  
 Send me now, and I shall go;  
 Call me, I shall hear you call;  
 Use me ere they lay me low  
 Where a man's no use at all;  
 Ere the wholesome flesh decay,  
 And the willing nerve be numb,  
 And the lips lack breath to say,  
 "No, my lad, I cannot come."

XXV

This time of year a twelvemonth past,  
 When Fred and I would meet,  
 We needs must jangle, till at last  
 We fought and I was beat.  
 So then the summer fields about,  
 Till rainy days began,  
 Rose Harland on her Sundays out  
 Walked with the better man.  
 The better man she walks with still,  
 Though now 'tis not with Fred:  
 A lad that lives and has his will  
 Is worth a dozen dead.  
 Fred keeps the house all kinds of weather,  
 And clay's the house he keeps;  
 When Rose and I walk out together  
 Stock-still lies Fred and sleeps.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

## Spot & Shop - February Winners

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1) Pam McAdam    | 2) John Edgar    |
| 3) Paul Felton   | 4) Kelsey Coward |
| 5) Maisy Thorley | 6) Rod Orr       |
| 7) Philly Walker |                  |

**Last month's answer:**  
**Dance at Eight**

# Fun Quiz!

1. On a standard UK keyboard, which symbol shares the same key as the number 3?
2. What word beginning with the letter D describes a persons double or apparition of a living person.
3. What was Ludwig van Beethoven's musical instrument of choice?
4. Where would a doctor place an otoscope when examining a patient?
5. When buying electrical goods and other items from discount websites you may see OEM as part of the description. What does OEM stand for?
6. What was the first James Bond film to star Daniel Craig, which was released in 2006?
7. What is the main town and port of the Shetland Islands off the northern coast of Scotland?
8. In the UK what creature appears on a road sign directing you to a zoo?
9. Which girl group consisted of Frankie, Rochelle, Una, Mollie and Vanessa?
10. What is the only city in the continental United States where you can drive south across the Ambassador Bridge to enter Canada?
11. Which comedian joins Amanda Holden as they renovate a dilapidated house in Sicily for their BBC TV show?
12. Bradley and Barney Walsh enjoyed some epic adventures around the world in what TV serie.
13. Mark Durden Smith hosted the TV programme, 'Wish You Were Here...? Now and Then' in 2008, but who presented the original TV show first aired in 1974.
14. Who is the British comedian who travels around popular cities with a celebrity guest in ITV's 'Travel Man'?
15. On Netflix, which A-list actor was paired with wellness guru, Darin Olien, as they focused on the ability to travel sustainably in the 'Down To Earth' series?

Answers: 1. £ 2. Doppelganger 3. Piano 4. Ear 5. Original Equipment Manufacturer 6. Casino Royale 7. Lewwick 8. Elephant 9. The Saturdays 10. Detroit 11. Alan Carr 12. Breaking Dad 13. Judith Chalmers 14. Richard Ayoade 15. Zac Efron

**SPOT & SHOP!**

## COMPETITION TIME!

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

This month's prizes!

**1st - £25 cash**  
 donated by Royal Oak, Kinnersley

**2nd £20 Food Voucher**  
 at The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley

**3rd £10 Voucher**  
 at Revills Farm Shop, Defford

**4th £10 Voucher**  
 at Craftypro, Bakers Arcade, Pershore

**5th Reg Moule Gardening Book**

**6th Pat's Pantry -**  
 Jar of home-made marmalade/jam

This month's anagram  
**ALTON CUTS**  
**JOHNNY SPORTS**  
**PERSON**

Complete and return this form or email:  
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**Pershore Times closing date: 28th March 2024**

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

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

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

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

# Jazz News

Peter Farrall



“Persore Jazz on a Summer’s Day”, our bonanza of Classic Jazz at Number 8 on 10th August, opened for ticket booking on 1st February. To date there are more than a hundred sold, so if jazz and swing from the 1920s to 50s is your delight, make haste and contact the box office at Number 8 (01386 555488) to secure the seat of your choice! The March club meeting will be an “Italian” night when we present the quirkily titled Hot Teapots. They began as street performers in northern Italy playing dance music from early twentieth century America and have developed into a popular touring band with a distinctive repertoire including blues, ragtime, waltzes and folk. Their unusual line up has no drums or trumpet but features just violin and reeds on the front line, probably creating a more authentic sound of those early bands. Italy has a connection with jazz from way back; the first jazz record ever made, Livery Stable Blues 1917, was by the Original Dixieland Jass (Jazz) Band led by trumpeter Nick La Rocca, the son of immigrants from Sicily. Their home village of

Salaparuta in Sicily claims, rather tongue in cheek, to be the real birthplace of jazz and the Nick La Rocca Research Centre there hosts jazz lectures and festivals to that effect. The first instance of a jazz band in Italy was probably Arturo Agazzi’s group playing regularly at the Mirador Club in 1918 and, on into the twenties, “the jazz age” really took hold in Italy as in most European countries. After the rise of Mussolini’s fascist government in 1922, there was a somewhat half hearted attempt to ban jazz and other perceived American cultures but it never succeeded to the same extent as Hitler’s harsh Nazi regime. In fact, it was known that Benito himself was quite partial to the music, especially the emergent swing style of the thirties USA, much emulated by Italian dance bands of the time. And so, the Italian jazz scene survived, grew and is now thriving in all aspects of the music, infused with the artistry, enthusiasm and jubilation that Italians do so well. We’ll experience some at Pershore Jazz Club in March.

## The Hot Teapots (Italy)

Wednesday 27th March

Function Room, Pershore Football Club

Doors open at 7pm, music at 8

Admission £12.50 to include a raffle ticket.

Book in advance and pay on arrival

club@pershorejazz.org.uk tel: 01527 66692 find us on Facebook

# Christadelphians

## Evolution or Creation?

How can we, with limited scientific knowledge, decide what to believe? Firstly, remember, evolution is still only a theory, not a fact. To be accepted as fact, a theory needs to be observed or replicated. A creature adapting to its environment can be observed. But the origin of life on earth as we know it today cannot be tested or proved. Life started a long time ago and no-one was there to observe how it happened. Neither can we reproduce the same conditions that existed before life was formed to experiment, because we simply don’t know what they were. So, we need to be careful before accepting evolution as a proven fact. It isn’t.

The record of God creating life on earth is found in the Bible and is very definite.

‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth’ (Genesis 1 v 1)

‘Thus says the Lord...I have made the earth and created man upon it’. (Isaiah 45 v12) Can we believe it?

The apostle Paul wrote to Christians that simply observing the world around us confirms the existence of God and supports creation. Just the complexities of the human body with its dependency on air, food, water and gravity all suggest life on earth is no accident. It was designed by a being far more complex than us.

We believe God created the heavens and the earth.

Visit [www.pershore.bible](http://www.pershore.bible) for more information.

## Interested in learning more about the Bible?

Pershore Christadelphians invite you to a talk explaining why

**‘We believe God created the heavens and the earth’**

On: 3<sup>rd</sup> March @ 10am, God willing

and why

**‘We believe God has a purpose with humans’**

On: 7<sup>th</sup> April @ 10am, God willing

Both talks will be held at:  
The Christadelphian Hall  
40 Paddock Close  
Persore WR10 1HJ



"To be, or not to be: that is the question"

Hamlet quote (Act III, Sc. 1).

# u3a

March 2024 Meeting

Tuesday 19th March at 2pm

**The Time Travelling  
Medicine Man  
“Medieval Medicine”**



All welcome, no need to book

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

For more details, contact Sally Whyte, Speaker Coordinator on [u3apershoresally@gmail.com](mailto:u3apershoresally@gmail.com) [www.u3asites.org.uk/pershore/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/pershore/home)

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

## Copy Deadline

April Issue - 18th March 2024

# What's On?

## Events Listings

### Havisham

Friday 9 February - 7.30pm

1hr 35 mins (inc. interval)

Tickets: £14

### Foyer Folk: Johnny Coppin

Saturday 10 February - 8.00pm

Tickets: £10

### The Royal Ballet: Manon

Sunday 11 February - 2.00pm

3hrs 15 mins (inc. intervals)

Tickets: £17, Seniors £16,  
16 & under £10

### National Theatre Live:

#### Vanya

Thursday 22 February - 7.00pm;

Wednesday 28 February - 2.00pm

1hr 50 mins (no interval),

cert 15 tbc Tickets: £16,  
Seniors £15, Students £10,  
16 & under £10

### Exhibition on Screen:

#### Painting the Modern

Garden - Monet to Matisse

Tuesday 27 February - 7.00pm

1hr 33 mins

Tickets: £12, Students £10

### Lipstick On Your Collar Ltd

presents:

#### Lipstick On Your Collar

Saturday 2 March - 7.30pm

2hrs 30 mins (inc. interval)

Tickets: £25

### Tin Cat Entertainment

presents Jo Caulfield -

#### Here Comes Trouble!

Friday 8 March - 7.30pm

1hr 55 mins (inc. interval)

Tickets: £18

## Cinema Listings

### Priscilla (15)

Saturday 10 February - 7.30pm;

Monday 12 February - 11.00am

& 7.30pm (ST);

Tuesday 13 February - 7.30pm

Tickets: £9.00 1hr 53 mins,

### Trolls Band Together (U)

Tuesday 13 February - 2.00pm;

Wednesday 14 February -

11.00am

Tickets: £4 1hr 31 mins

### Typist Artist Pirate King (12A)

Monday 19 February - 11.00am

& 7.30pm;

Tuesday 20 February - 7.30pm

Tickets: £9.00 1hr 48 mins

### Oppenheimer (15)

Wednesday 21 February -

7.30pm;

Thursday 22 February - 2.00pm

Tickets: £9.00, Daytime £8.00

3hrs

### One Life (12A)

Friday 23 & Saturday 24

February - 7.30pm;

Monday 26 February - 11.00am

& 7.30pm

Tickets: £9.00, Daytime £8.00

1hr 49mins

### The Three Musketeers:

#### Milady (12A)

Thursday 29 February - 7.30pm

Tickets: £9.00 1hr 54 mins,

French with subtitles



### Box Office Opening Hours

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[www.number8.org](http://www.number8.org)



**PERSHORE RIVERSIDE CENTRE**

**CRAFT FAYRE**

When:  
**9<sup>th</sup> March 10am-1pm**

Where:  
**Pershore Riverside Centre**

For more information or to have a stall email:  
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[www.pershoreriversidecentre.org.uk](http://www.pershoreriversidecentre.org.uk) or call us on 01386 554713

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## In memoriam

### Brookes. Peter John

Passed away peacefully at home, on 26th January 2024, aged 80. Much loved husband of Hazel, dad to Kate and Dan, brother to Pauline, father - in - law to Mark and very proud grandpa to Coby, Josh, Charlie, Aaliyah, Lucy, Harry and Kayden. Will be missed by all. Funeral service took place at the Vale Crematorium on 14th February. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Campden Home Nursing CIO may be sent to E Hill & Son Funeral Directors.

### Vaughan. Gwendolyn "Gwen"

Passed away peacefully on 1st February 2024, aged 97 years. Beloved wife of the late Stan, dearly loved mother to Helen and Elizabeth. She will be sadly missed by all her family & friends. A service took place at The Vale Crematorium on 20th February. Family flowers only. Donations in Gwen's memory are invited for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and Versus Arthritis. These may be sent to E Hill & Son Funeral Directors.

### Heeks. Raymond John "Ray"

Passed away peacefully at home on 5th February 2024, aged 78 years. Beloved husband of Sylvia, loving dad to Ian and Andrew, stepdad to Mark, grandad to Emily, Dominic, Chloe, Ollie, Patrick, James and Josh, great grandad to Florence and Idalyn. Ray will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service took place at The Vale Crematorium on 28th February. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired for Campden Home Nursing CIO or St Richards Hospice may be sent to E Hill & Son Funeral Directors.

### Sanders. Geoffrey Russell

Passed away peacefully on February 13th 2024, aged 91 years. Beloved husband of Maureen and a loving father, stepfather and grandfather. Geoffrey will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at Pershore Cemetery Chapel on Thursday 7th March at 2pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, are invited for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. These may be sent to E Hill & Son Funeral Directors.

Donations may be sent to:

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



## ELMLEY CASTLE

*The Harold Salisbury Film Archive*

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See 'The Big House' gradually fall into disrepair or the Old Mill as a backdrop to a cricket match. See old friends or maybe family and if you have recently arrived witness the quiet roads where cyclists were the main traffic.

**Friday 19th April**

*Elmley Castle Village Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm*

*Price £7.50, interval tea/coffee and biscuits*

*A pay bar with wine and soft drinks*

Booking and tickets from:

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or email: [linda@birlingham.plus.com](mailto:linda@birlingham.plus.com)

## Situations Vacant

**Gardener wanted for weeding,  
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Phone Marie Thomas on 07932 328450

## Farm Shop Assistant Required

*4 days per week -Weekend availability  
Permanent - Driving licence required*

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## Worcester Philharmonic ORCHESTRA

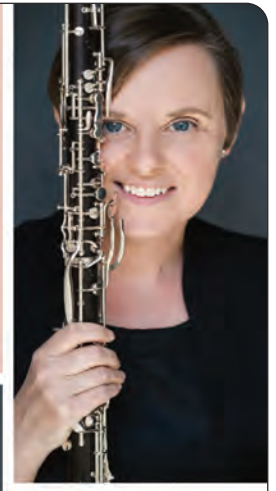
**Cor Anglais –**

**Louise Braithwaite**

**Conductor –**

**Dexter Drown**

**Leader – Graham Longfils**



**Saturday 9th March 2024**

**2:30pm**

**Pershore Abbey WR10 1BL**

**Delius – Two Pieces for Small Orchestra**

**Watkins – Out of the Stillness for Cor Anglais**

**Debussy – Rhapsody for Cor Anglais**

**Dvořák – New World Symphony**

**Tickets £15 (under 16s free)**

- Pershore Town Hall  
cash only, no card payments)
  - Ticket Secretary: 01905 353013
  - Online at: [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk)  
(booking fees apply online)
- Registered Charity Number 512073



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# An Evening with Allan Lamb



England cricketing legend Allan Lamb will be the guest speaker at a dinner in Worcester later this year. The dinner will be part of Worcestershire fast bowler Joe Leach's Testimonial Season and will also support grass roots cricket projects in South Africa. The dinner, which is kindly sponsored by The Lamb & Flag Worcester, takes place at Worcestershire County Cricket Club on Friday 28th June and along with Joe Leach and

Lamb the evening will feature:  
 - A 3 course dinner  
 - Live music  
 - An auction  
 - Competitions, inc Lamb or Mutton Dressed as Lamb.  
 The evening will be compered by BBC H&W's Frank Watson with tickets costing just £60 per person.

*Tickets can be obtained by contacting Mark - Email: ma004g2691@gmail.com or tel: 07506 747619*

### Allan Lamb

Allan Lamb, also known as Lamby – had an impressive international cricketing career. Spanning the decade 1982-92, Allan's cricketing career included 79 test matches for England and 128 one day internationals. He captained England three times against the West Indies and Australia, and captained Northampton CC from 1989 to 1994. Allan scored 4654 test runs with 14 centuries and 33502 first class runs, scoring 89 first class hundreds.

He won the accolade 'Cricketer of the Year' in 1980. As well as having a famous sporting image, Allan is a popular persona and is indisputably witty and entertaining. One thing is for certain there is no shortage of stories of his journey to sporting greatness. With an abundance of good humour and his unquenchable drive to live life to the full, this passionate business leader brings a completely fresh perspective.

# The River of Dreams



That's the theme for this year's Pershore River Festival, to be held on Saturday July 20th 2024. It's inspired by Billy Joel's 1990s hit song River of Dreams. So come on folks – tell us how the Avon is your River of Dreams! There may be a prize for the best idea! The Festival is now only five months away and the Committee is starting this year's events with a River Quiz in April. Call 01386 462441 for details. Other events will follow leading up to the festival in July. Everything depends of course on the river - after the floods in January and February, it has returned to normal levels and our resident swans can once

more cruise by King George's Field. The floods swamped their feeding grounds – you may have seen them up by the road clamouring for food! Other wildlife is also back to normal – here's an otter footprint! (Mark assures me that's what it is!) These two lovely photos were taken by wildlife photographer Mark Everett, our "Photographer in Residence". Pershore is often said to turn its back on the river, so we plan to keep showing just what people are missing! Mark Everett is taking photos of river life every month, and we'll post them on our Facebook page and the Festival website and in the Pershore Times.

# 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 Downton, Clive Woodward, Trevor Fruitral, Barry Woodward  
 Ten of the players were local Lads. Picture supplied by Malcolm Walford

## Pershore Times

### Collection Points:

Hughes & Co - CO-OP store - Tesco Express

Acorns - Fruit Salad - Upper Crust Bakery

Pershore Library

Riverside Fish Bar - St Richards Hospice Shop

Drakes Broughton Village Shop - Eckington Village Shop

Elmley Castle, The Queen Elizabeth

Peopleton Village Shop

Upton Snodsbury Post Office & Shop - Wick Club

# Hughes & Company

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# Pershore Times



## Dragon Boat Club - Fire and Ice



Pershore Dragon Boat Club had two crews travel to Le Grand-Bornand in the Alps to take part in a competition featuring Dragon Boats on skis. The teams ("Ice" and "Fire")

managed second and third place in the competition as well as enjoying a weekend in France. Pershore Dragon Boat Club are now training on the River Avon in preparation for the forthcoming season starting in May. The Club, based in Defford, competes in the National League and has a pre-season warm up against Soaring Dragons on 7th April. Dragon Boat racing originated in China over two thousand years ago. In the UK, Dragon Boat racing first featured competitively in September 1980, and is now becoming one of the most popular watersports. There are races for men's, ladies' and mixed crews and after a successful 2023 season, the club is optimistic about its prospects. With drumming, shouting and decorated dragon boats, the races and events are



colourful and energetic, requiring strength, endurance and teamwork. The club train and race hard but our priority is to have fun and enjoy ourselves. We are looking

for new people (particularly men)

Please email us to have a go! [hello@pershorephoenix.com](mailto:hello@pershorephoenix.com)

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Daughter of resident  
- February 2023



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