

Pershore Times

A free monthly newspaper for Pershore and surrounding villages



Issue 77

November 2022

FREE



November autumn scene near Besford © Jayne Winter FRPS, www.jaynewinterphotography.co.uk

Remembrance Day is a very special day every year. This is the day we remember all the men and women who died fighting for our liberty. A very sad and sombre day, as many will remember the loss of a loved one. Somehow this year seems more poignant with the war in Ukraine; a dreadful conflict, causing destruction and death to so many. A terrible situation with many innocent people, losing loved ones and all their possessions.

Let's hope that peace can be achieved. It is good that a number of families from Ukraine have been made welcome here in Pershore. We have been through a dreadful pandemic which caused thousands of deaths in this country and millions around the world. We have also lost our Queen who has always led most of us in Remembrance.

The musical chairs in Westminster seems to have calmed down for a while but one never knows from one day to the next! Let's hope we can get some stability to enable urgent matters to be dealt with. The mornings are getting darker the daylight shorter. We have had some glorious Autumn days and let's hope they continue. Christmas is around the corner which is

always a special time so we have something really good to look forward to. We also have a number of big sporting events between now and Christmas.



This month we celebrate the seventh anniversary of the Pershore Times. Thanks to all our advertisers, readers and editorial contributors. The paper has grown in many ways during this time and it has been very enjoyable. We have more ideas and plans for the future and we hope you will continue to give us your support.



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Christmas Light Switch On!



Pershore has frequently been voted as one of the best places to live in the country. Its friendly atmosphere, welcoming traders and covered market set it apart from many other towns. With its historic Abbey and surrounding park, to the River Avon and the many nearby walks what is not to love!

Pershore also caters well for its visitors and is not short of cafes, restaurants and pubs as well as small hotels and bed and breakfast establishments. If you think you might like to make more than a day trip why not visit

www.visitpershore.co.uk and see what local accommodation is available? Along with the Christmas lights switch-on in November, Pershore boasts a variety of events in the year from Carnival in May through brass bands, Jazz and the famous Plum Fair at the end of August. You can also visit the Cotswolds with Broadway just up the road and Chipping Camden and Woodstock not

much farther. Christmas brings all this together in Pershore. Nearly all the shops are run by independent traders who are always ready to help you find that perfect gift, perfect outfit or perfect Christmas treat. From craft shops and gift and art shops, to bookshops, clothing and delicatessens, Pershore is a real treat to visit. The festive season in Pershore starts with the switching on of the Christmas lights and this year, it will be taking place on Sunday 27th November. Many of the local shops are going to be setting out their wares on stalls in St Andrews Gardens for the first time since 2019. Santa and his reindeer will join the throng along with some street entertainment, face painting, balloons and much more. The event starts at 2.00pm with the lights being switched on at 4.45pm. Why not come along and see what this lovely town has to offer. You know you will get a warm welcome!

Rich rows the river for Children in Need



Rich Grieh, owner at RSG Fitness Studio in Pershore, is rowing the length of the River Avon to raise funds for BBC Children in Need on 19th November.

Rich says: "I hope to row the length of the River Avon (Warwickshire 137km/85mi) in one day, with the help of a few friends and clients that train with me at my Fitness Studio in Pershore. Our children and young people are the most important people for the future, so I'm trying to raise money to benefit those in need. With the help that BBC Children in Need charity gives, hopefully, many children can seek the help and support they need to change their lives."

Using the rowing machine in the gym at 134 High Street, Pershore, Rich and co are hoping for your help in their fundraising challenge.

Rich continues: "It would be amazing to get support from the local community in Pershore for our fantastic row-a-thon. Please come down and

support the crew at RSG Fitness Studio. My clients aim to help me row 137km – or the length of the River Avon – in a day! It would be great to see the people of Pershore pushing us on!"

Pershore's own Danielle's Cakes will be there to support the rowers and to sell cupcakes – raising more funds for the charity.

The row-a-thon is taking place on Saturday 19th November. You can donate by using the JustGiving link or by popping down on the day to show your support... and maybe buying a cake – or two!

If you'd like to get involved with Rich and the RSG crew, please donate using following the link >>>

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/g/rsgrowthaeon

More about RSG Fitness Studio, and to follow progress on the day, please go to:

www.facebook.com/rsgfunctionaltraining/

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Remembrance Sunday



*Revd Canon Claire A Lording
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Dear Friends

Remembrance Sunday is always a poignant time of the year, when we put to one side the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives and remember those who paid the ultimate price, defending the values that we believe make communities we can be proud of. This year will be even more poignant for a couple of reasons. For the first time, King Charles III, as Sovereign, will lead us in the nation's act of remembrance. In the midst of his own grief, King Charles, will remind us that many will have suffered the loss of a

loved one in the past year and that times of remembering can be hard. So, we not only remember those who gave their lives; we also remember those who came home broken and damaged; we remember those who mourn for someone who died in service, and we remember those who support and care for all our veterans. This year will also be poignant because war rages in Europe in a way that we never thought possible. The war in Ukraine and its consequences are felt by many, not least by those Ukrainians who left their homes and have been welcomed into our communities.

War is always costly, in so many different ways, and so we must remember those who die but we must also pray for peace and an end to all war and conflict.

Wherever you do your remembering - at home or outside or at the service in Abbey (to which you are warmly invited) - please take that precious time to give thanks for those who died hoping that peace would come and that a better world would emerge. And pray for those who put themselves at risk today, still working to build communities of love, justice, and peace.

The Royal British Legion in November



The Pershore and District Branch of the Royal British Legion [RBL] extend their thanks to all of the community who supported the Centenary Celebrations in October. The Centenary Concert on the 1st October was a great success and the special service in Pershore Abbey on the 2nd was well attended by members, past and present, along with Brigadier Roger Brunt .CBE.DL.[Worcestershire County President] and his wife. Moving on :- 'Remembrance' – one of our key objectives, as outlined in previous articles , we particularly embrace in November – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month as dictated at the end of the First World War.

The annual Poppy Appeal officially starts on the 26th October and there will be 'poppy selling' personnel around Pershore and surrounding villages, and collection boxes with 'poppies and memorabilia' are available to support the work of the RBL. The boxes are in shops, pubs

and public places around Pershore and the villages. In addition, on each Saturday in November there will be a RBL gazebo in Chapman Court. Remembrance events:-

- A service at the Cross of Sacrifice by the War Graves in Pershore Cemetery on Friday the 11th November commencing at 1030hrs.
- On Sunday the 13th November a parade will take place along the High Street in Pershore concluding at Pershore Abbey for the Service of Remembrance, personnel are requested to be in their seats by 1030 hrs.
- A service at the Cross of Sacrifice in the cemetery at St.Mary's church in Wick at 1500hrs.

It would be really good for the town and the villages to turn out and support us and also remember our late Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We are steadily making progress with gaining members. We would like to encourage people to join the RBL. To be a member there is no requirement to having served in the armed forces. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Gerald Gregory, Membership Secretary, on mobile no 07802 897088 or email geraldgregory@icloud.com

Harvey Eric Ball

A local family are celebrating the return of their late grandfather's war medals from WWII. They have been discovered as the result of a lady visitor to Pershore Abbey who noticed Harvey Ball's name in the list of those who died during the war. She then heard that his medals were being offered for auction in Maidenhead. Since she did not know the family, she posted on 'Pershore Noticeboard' to try and trace them. Several people responded and she was soon able to contact the family of Harvey's grandson. The family were then able to purchase the medals from the dealer. Harvey's medals had been in the family's possession for many years but had been lost after Harvey Jnr (his son) remarried and took them with

him. Both Harvey and his wife subsequently died and the whereabouts of the medals was unknown. They have now been returned to his grandson (also Harvey!).

The family are aware that Harvey died while working in Gibraltar with the Royal Engineers at the age of twenty-five and that he was buried in the Commonwealth War Graves there. However, they do not know the cause or circumstances of his death. They have tried, unsuccessfully, to visit the grave previously but are hoping to return soon. Meanwhile they are pleased to have Harvey's medals once more and hope that someone (possibly a reader of this paper!) may know more about Harvey.



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A few words from... Harriett Baldwin MP



MP Visits New Training Academy with Green Fingers

Harriett Baldwin MP welcomed the launch of an ambitious county training academy which will offer specialist training to people working in horticulture and landscaping. Task Academy, which has been launched in Birlingham, near Pershore, aims to offer tailored training for people working in the horticultural industry. The academy has been founded by Rupert Keys who has started the venture following 30 years in the industry running a successful landscaping business Keyscape Design and Construction and building many award-winning show gardens at the RHS Chelsea and RHS Malvern and BBC Gardeners' World annual shows.

The MP visited the training centre and saw a demonstration of a dry stone wall building course and she offered her support for the venture. Harriett commented: "Task Academy is a really impressive venture with a clear ambition

to help people improve their skills in the horticulture sector. "Whenever I visit employers, they talk about how difficult it is to recruit people with the right skills and Task Academy has been founded with the intention of helping to fix this problem.

"Some of these skills, like dry stone walling, are in danger of being lost so it is great to see a passionate team working hard to preserve and improve skill levels of people working in horticulture and landscaping. "We have two dedicated schools teaching horticulture and agricultural skills nearby but this seems like a perfect addition to the mix as we help more people to develop fulfilling careers in the vitally important growing and farming sectors."

Founder Rupert Keys added: "At TASK we recognise the importance and need for quality training and our future focus is to work with students and employers to address the industry skills gap by providing a wide range of practical landscaping and land-based courses taught by industry experts.

"We are committed to improving the skills of current and future generations and we hope by providing high quality professional hands-on training courses, students will develop or build on their skills and knowledge to help them further their careers in the landscaping and horticultural industries. "In addition to our industry courses, our courses designed for the general public, include a range of one day courses which are perfectly suited to garden enthusiasts and those wanting to acquire new skills and save money in their DIY garden projects."



100 days left on the Self Assessment clock

With 100 days to go until the deadline for online returns, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is reminding Self Assessment customers that the countdown to complete their tax return has begun. Self Assessment customers have until 31 January 2023 to submit their online return for the 2021 to 2022 tax year. More than 66,000 taxpayers beat the clock and filed their tax return on 6 April – the first day of the new tax year. HMRC is encouraging others to complete their return as soon as they can, so they know what they owe and can budget to

make the payment by 31 January 2023. This also means that if a repayment is due, it can be claimed back sooner.

Completing a tax return using HMRC's online filing service is simple and convenient. Last year, more than 95% of customers filed online with many choosing to start it, save their progress and go back to it as many times as they need before it's ready to submit. Those who submit their returns early still have until 31 January 2023 to pay. More information about Self Assessment can be found on GOV.UK.

Charlton celebrates community hall revamp



Nigel Cates, Chairman of Joseph Baker Charity; Eleanor Sinton; Alex Sinton, Chairman of Wychavon District Council; Tracy Perkins, Communities and Engagement Officer at Wychavon District Council; Cllr Tony Rowley, Executive Board Member for Climate Change, Environmental Policy and Regulatory Services at Wychavon District Council; Vic Allison, Chief Executive of Wychavon District Council.

A village hall has been given a major revamp thanks to funding from Wychavon. Joseph Baker Workman, the charitable trust which runs The Old Schoolroom in Charlton, received more than £113,300 from Wychavon's Community Legacy Grant scheme. The funding was used to add a new extension and improve access to the building. A new, larger kitchen with modern equipment has been built, along with larger accessible disabled and parent and baby toilets. The upgrade will provide residents with an improved, sustainable environment and will reduce energy consumption within the building. Improvements have also been made to the driveway access to the building and parking areas. The preschool has also created a brand-new garden to help support insects and wildlife. The new-look hall

was officially opened on Saturday, 15 October by Cllr Alex Sinton, Chairman of Wychavon District Council. Julian Hawley, Trustee and Treasurer of Joseph Baker Workman Trust, said: "The future of the Old Schoolroom in Charlton, our village hall, had looked bleak for some time. Its facilities were antiquated and limited, its environmental footprint was poor and access for the disabled and elderly was very difficult. The generosity of Wychavon District Council in giving us a substantial Community Legacy Grant has now enabled us to provide an inclusive offering for all users, in a larger, safer, modern and sustainable facility of which the village can be proud and which will serve its needs long into the future. We are very grateful."

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Revill's Christmas range preview

Revill's Farm Shop at Defford is holding a preview of their Christmas range on 12th November from 3-8pm. This is their first preview evening in three years due to the pandemic. Now with life returning to normality and customers keen to shop, Darren Hedges (manager) is hosting this event to show what is available in the shop. Customers will be offered a non-alcoholic drink on arrival and then be able to sample and browse a wide range of products. Revill's offers their usual quality products and produce, sourced locally whenever possible, for their discerning customers. There are also newer additions which will make excellent Christmas gifts. Representatives from some of their suppliers, such as Croome Cuisine Cheeses, Tracklements (chutneys and sauces), Severn Soaps (hand made in Droitwich using Droitwich salt), Smoked Salmon from Droitwich and local Gin, will be providing tastings and answering questions about their products. Personalised hampers can be

ordered for Christmas as well as turkeys, meat, fish etc. Everything to provide a fine Christmas feast. For gifts, there are candles and diffusers with wonderful fragrances, beautiful hand-printed scarves, hand made soaps (including a doggie shampoo bar!) and, of course, a superb range of wines, ciders and spirits (many locally made). Revill's has supported St Richard's Hospice through the years with the sale of its Christmas cards, providing substantial donations for this local charity and continues to do so. A one-stop shop for gifts and your festive food, there is so much to see. Revill's Christmas menu will also be available in their Farmhouse Café from Nov 30th – Dec 24th. If you haven't yet visited Darren's family owned business, now is the time to see what they offer. You will not be disappointed.

For much more information, visit : www.revillsfarmshop.co.uk



Revill's Christmas range preview

Saturday 12th November

Revills Farm Shop, Bourne Road, Defford WR8 9BS
01386 750466

Pershire Crafters presents:

Pershire Christmas Craft Market

10 - 2 Saturday 19th November

St Andrews Centre, Church Walk, WR10 1BL

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Free entry!

PODS hit the Panto mark



Hit the bullseye of festive family fun when PODS (Pershire Operatic and Dramatic Society) perform "Maid Marian and the Merry Men" at Pershire's Number 8. Welcome to Nottingham where Robin Hood isn't all he's cracked up to be, Maid Marian wears the trousers, and the evil Sheriff is intent on squeezing every penny from the townsfolk to live the high life. Time for some girl power from feisty Maid Marian to save the good folk. Get your boos and smiles at the ready for all the madcap capers, mischief and musical hilarity we know and love from panto land with PODS.

"We could all use some light relief after quite torrid times", say Director duo Hannah Burton and Lindsey Kirby, "and our festive family treat hits the mark with a fabulous cast and orchestra, loads of jokes, great costumes and dance routines featuring toe-tapping numbers from ABBA, Michael Jackson, Bonnie Tyler, Mika and more."

Evening performances start at 7.30 p.m. from Monday 5th – Saturday 10th December, with a Matinee also on Saturday 10th at 2.30 p.m. Tickets from Number 8 Box Office, call 01386 555488 or visit www.number8.org




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November Events at community run The Queen Elizabeth Inn

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

FISH & CHIP QUIZ NIGHT

Join our Quizmaster at 19.30 on **Tuesday 8th November**
£10 per head entry fee including Fish & Chips. Max 6 per team

LOCAL GAME NIGHT

Enjoy a selection of locally sourced game. - **Thursday 24th November**
One sitting at 19.30 – early booking recommended

CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN

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that cannot be replicated in a polyester or man-made alternative. Silk, although delicate is also one of the strongest natural fibres. I use GOTS certified, organic silks and peace silk in my collections. We are also very much about

sourcing locally and using what we have around us. We have a silk supplier very close to us that we source our GOTS certified silks from. Our laces are either made in the UK or are made up using recycled yarns. We do use some recycled polyesters for our linings but try to use natural fibres as a priority. We make all our dresses in house and to order so there is very little waste. With our bespoke service we make up a toile for the bride first, which is a mock up or prototype of her final gown in a substitute fabric, for these we use organic cotton Calico. We keep hold of the toiles and use them for future brides looking for a similar shape or fit. Another local talented seamstress and I construct each gown using the bride's

measurements. We carry out all the fittings in house as well so that the bride can feel confident knowing her entire dress is lovingly made from start to finish by the same people. We are based in a small village in Bredon, Tewkesbury. We have a studio that we use as a workspace and an atelier, an intimate space for brides to come along and try on their dream dress. We offer a special experience to all our brides and make them feel very welcome. Our prices for our collection dresses start at around £750 for separates and go up to £2500 for our all over lace gowns. Our bespoke dresses can vary depending on the style of dress the bride is looking for, but as a general rule they start at around £2000.

Flower Club News



On Wednesday 19th October, the members of Pershore Flower Club were very pleased to welcome Bridgette Manton from Clifton-on-Teme to Bishampton Village Hall to give her demonstration which

she had titled "Sunshine and Showers". For sunshine, Bridgette used a tall orange terracotta pot and two handmade representations of the sun in orange wool. She used stems of spotted laurel and tall copper-coloured chrysanthemums, which perfectly matched the pot, then fatsia leaves, peach carnations, stems of solidago and dark phormium leaves looped and stapled. For her second design for "rain", she used a silver-coloured metal container and matching stems of eucalyptus together with sprigs of white gypsophila, "blue moon" roses and lilac lisianthus then stems of bear grass bunched together. Next was "thunder and lightning" with very interesting mechanics and stems of blue delphiniums,

cream chrysanthemums and roses added to stems of elaeagnus and silver-sprayed fatsia leaves. Then came "red sky at night", using two varieties of pittasporum, tall pink snapdragons, dark red roses, light pink lisianthus and pale pink roses inserted into the centre of the design. To represent a "whirlwind", Bridgette used a cone-shaped rush hanging basket hung with items that could have been caught up in a whirlwind. She then worked a hand-tie using solidago, copper chrysanthemums, carnations, stems of eucalyptus and fatsia leaves round the outside. Tied with garden string and the stems trimmed this was placed into the basket. Finally, a pair of green wellies covered with plaster of paris

type of material and a dish of bio-oasis inserted into the top of one welly. The foliage was trailing pieces of eucalyptus and ivy and the flowers used were blue delphiniums, red roses, yellow solidago, orange Chinese lanterns (physalis) and pale pink carnations – all the "colours of the rainbow". Differently coloured medolino sticks tied together went from this welly boot to a second one. It was a most enjoyable evening and all Bridgette's designs were very much appreciated especially by those lucky raffle winners who took them home.

Tickets for our Open Meeting at Number 8 in Pershore on Thursday 17th November are available at £10 each from Jenny Masser on 07704 722433

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Property market *Nigel Poole*

Now I do need a crystal ball! After nearly 50 years in the business I have lived through several boom and busts from flash sports cars to beat up wrecks in the space of a year but the interest rates shot up to 15% and real hardship set in. Selling only a handful of properties a month. This is different, yes it's going to be tough but not a catastrophe, we need to bear in mind the market always goes quiet at this time of year, the political turmoil, price increases and interest rates have combined to shock and perhaps it's not all bad news. By July probably as many properties had traded as would do in a full year. More buyers than ever are from out of area and we still have hundreds of active buyers registered. Buyers are more cautious and slower to make the final move but they are still buying. The number of properties on the internet within a 10 mile

radius has risen to around 1600 and has been as low as 900 this year but pre covid hovered around 2300 so still well down on the past. Buyers may well sit back over the winter but my thoughts are that in the new year, provided the weather is reasonable, they will return hopefully to a steady, solid market. So as corporal Jones said don't panic! All will be well it will settle down.

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A Cotswold Cornucopia



Sean Callery took us on a whirlwind tour of the Cotswolds, the beautiful and historic lands east of Cheltenham. We crossed the rolling green hills to find stories and surprises at scenic sites from Chipping Campden to Burford, via Tetbury. We learned why the Japanese love a scenic row of cottages in Bibury and saw a man has stared into space for 400 years in Winchcombe. His tour guiding company is called Offbeat Cotswolds and it was certainly an offbeat journey! Sally Whyte
 Speaker Coordinator



Christmas Parcel Appeal

Please help us to make Christmas brighter for families and individuals in our area. We are aiming to provide Christmas parcels full of treats for the festive season as well as ingredients for a Christmas meal.

Suggested donations

SWEET TREATS	SAVOURY TREATS	MEAL ITEMS
Biscuits/Shortbread (Tin)	Crisps, Pringles etc.	Gravy granules
Mince pies	Jars of dips for crisps	Tinned vegetables
Selection boxes for children	Cheese Straws Breadsticks	Cranberry/Apple Sauce. Stuffing mix
Chocolate treats: Matchmakers, Mints Chocolate Oranges, Quality Street etc.	Nuts/ Cheese biscuits/ Twiglets/any savoury snacks etc.	Tinned Fruit, Custard, UHT Cream
Christmas cake (sponge)	Crackers for cheese	Christmas Pudding
Christmas cake (fruit)	Chutney	Sponge Pudding
Yule log	Crackers/Serviettes	Fruit Juice
Please check the sell by/use by dates on your donation		Tea/Coffee (small packet/jar)

Donations of money towards the purchase of goods are also welcome. Please bring any donation to: The Baptist Church, Broad Street, Pershore, WR10 1AY.

THANK YOU



The last collection date for items is **Monday 5th December**. If you are unable to bring your donations to the Church, please take them to the collection baskets in the market.

BEST-BUSINESSES NEWSLETTER

SCAN NOW

WIN A MONTBLANC PEN

SCAN NOW



November Monthly Meeting
Tuesday November 15th, 2022, at 2pm.

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

All welcome to hear
"The Gothic Architecture of Worcester Cathedral"
 with Paul Hiron

For more details contact **Sally Whyte**,
Speaker Coordinator: email: u3apershoresally@gmail.com

Rooted in success



Shane Price, Continental Landscapes, with the bedding plant give-away at Abbey Park, Evesham

More than 1,000 bedding plants have been given away to residents as part of a new waste-reduction scheme from Wychavon.

Around 150 people turned up to bag themselves a freebie at the beginning of October. The perennial bedding plants were taken from Lido Park in Droitwich Spa, Abbey Park in Evesham and Abbey Park in Pershore, and offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

In previous years the plants would have been sent for composting, but this new scheme will see Wychavon produce less waste, help the environment and give back to the community.

The plants have spent their summer brightening up our beautiful parks and now they'll be looked after over the winter to be given another lease of life next year.

The bedding plant giveaway has been such a success and we've received such positive feedback from everybody that we will look to do it again next year."

Six of Wychavon's parks and Droitwich Community Woods have recently been awarded Green Flag Award status again – an international sign of quality for parks and open spaces.

Bird nesting boxes for churches and village halls



Pershore based charity, Welcome to our Future (www.wtof.org.uk) has been

running a project for the past 4 years supplying RSPB bird nesting boxes, and in some

cases feeding tables, to many different organisations including churches, hospices, care homes and primary schools in all parts of the country.

The project hopes to help reverse the dramatic decline in bird numbers over recent years. In a study carried out by RSPB and the British Trust for Ornithology in 2012 it was estimated that the UK bird population had declined by some 44 million since 1966. The nest boxes range in size from large ones for Barn Owl, Tawny Owl and Kestrel to small ones for Robin, Sparrow and Blue Tit.

Funding for most of the nest boxes/ tables has come from small charitable trust grants that

WTOF has secured but they also have some funding from Severn Waste Services through the Landfill Communities Fund - and this funding is available to purchase nest boxes for churches and village/ community halls in Worcestershire.

If any local church or village/community hall is interested in having some nest boxes for their churchyard/ grounds they should contact Bill Richardson at Welcome to our Future by emailing – severnwastefund@aol.com. The nest boxes are entirely free of charge but the church/ hall has to agree to put them up and then send some photos to WTOF.

Butterfly Count results revealed



Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation has released data on the number of butterflies and some day-flying moths recorded across the UK during this year's Big Butterfly Count, which ran from 15th July – 7th August.

The Gatekeeper, a species often found along hedgerows and woodland rides, as well as in gardens, in the southern half of Britain, was the most spotted

butterfly during this year's Big Butterfly Count. This is welcome news, as the Gatekeeper experienced its second worst Big Butterfly Count result in summer 2021, and it's the first time since 2017 that this species has had the top spot overall.

It was good news for the blues as well – with both the Common Blue and the Holly Blue species faring well in the 2022 Big Butterfly Count. Having had their worst results in 2021, these species bounced back, with the numbers reported increasing by 154% for the Common Blue and 120% for the Holly Blue.

Another winner for the 2022 Count was the Comma, a popular species often found in gardens, that saw an increase of 95% compared with last year. The Comma has been making a slow comeback from its low point in the 1910s and expanding its range rapidly northwards.

An increase in range – a result of climate change – accounts for many of the sightings of these species in the north of the UK. The Holly Blue butterfly, for example, had only occasionally been recorded in Scotland prior to the 2000s, but after becoming firmly established in Edinburgh from

2006 and in Ayr from 2008 the species has subsequently spread across swathes of Scotland. Overall, the trend for butterflies across the UK remains a declining one, with the results of the Big Butterfly Count 2022 showing an average of just under 9 butterflies seen per Count, which is once again an all-time low in the thirteen years since the citizen science project began.

Species that saw a worrying decline from last year include some well-known favourites, such as Red Admiral, Small White and Meadow Brown.

Sheldon Bosley Knight - *Property professionals*

Over the past three months, you can't fail to have noticed a degree of uncertainty and nervousness in the air. Interest rates, rents, mortgages, inflation and energy bills are all on an upward trajectory and with the markets still jittery after a disastrous mini budget, it's fair to say the cost of living is uppermost in peoples' minds. Despite the current economic uncertainty, however, there is cause for a degree of optimism, not least in the property market. According to property portal, Rightmove, its House Price Index for October shows house prices nationally rose 0.9% in a month, to a new record of £371,158. In the West Midlands, a year-

on-year increase of 9.8% has pushed prices up to £288,808, a monthly upward change of 0.4%. Not only that, the vast majority of transactions are going ahead and typically property is taking just 34 days to sell. Only 3.1% of sales agreed have fallen through in the two weeks since the mini-budget, which is in line with the 3% over the same two weeks during 2019. According to Rightmove's figures, buyer demand is still 20% higher than the normal market of 2019 and it suggests there is also little sign of prices on existing properties for sale going down, with the number of reductions up only 2% on last month to 23% - much

lower than the pre-pandemic five-year average of 32%. And while current mortgage rates and interest rates generally are not the cheapest they've ever been, they are likely to be cheaper now than they will be in six, or even 12 months time. Don't forget, the Bank of England meets in November and the likelihood is rates will climb again. At Sheldon Bosley Knight we continue to see an abundance of buyers looking to purchase and ensure the current mortgage rates they have secured are protected, so now is the ideal time to give some serious thought to selling. Indeed, for those who are thinking of putting their

properties on the market, this report is also encouraging in that it shows house prices are still on an upward curve and it means those selling are still getting a good return on their investment. The positive news continues as we at Sheldon Bosley Knight, have an average asking price achieved of 101.7%. As ever our award-winning teams of sales experts are on hand to offer advice, help and support to those who want to sell or buy. So if you are thinking of selling, or would just like an informal chat, please do pop into the Sheldon Bosley Knight office as I'd be delighted to help you.



Amy Lewis NAEA
Sales Manager

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Worcester Male Voice Choir fights back after COVID pandemic

Over 20 members of Worcester Male Voice Choir failed to return when the choir reconvened after the pandemic. Numbers dropped from 74 to around 50 and a big recruitment campaign is now underway. Rehearsals have revitalised the remaining members and there is a buzz in the air. Everyone is

now focused on two big concerts at Pershore Abbey on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th December and with ticket prices set at just £12 it is anticipated that both nights will be a sell out. Tickets are available from the Civic Offices, Blue and the Library, all in the heart of Pershore. The recruitment campaign has got off to a good start with 4 new members signing up in the last 6 months but many more are needed and anyone interested in singing is encouraged to make contact via the website and come and give

it a go. All you need is a love of singing and the enjoyment and camaraderie of like minded colleagues. The choir is led by a young and dynamic team of top class musicians who bring huge energy and enthusiasm to rehearsals. The Music Director, Scott Woolfenden plays Piano and Trumpet to concert standard as well as leading and conducting the choir. Accompanist, James Jarvis, is a music teacher at a local high school and coaches the choir as well as accompanies them on the

keyboard. The choir raises significant sums of money for various charities including St Richard's hospice and the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals trust charity. At the Pershore Abbey concerts in December there will be bucket collections on both nights for the Mayor of Pershore's charity which this year is the Brain Tumour trust. The choir is bouncing back strongly and now would be the perfect time to join in with the post COVID momentum. Come and give it a go.

A real tree for a real Christmas!



For a true festive experience, visit us at Duckswich Christmas Trees at Callow End in the parish of Powick. Our premium Abies Nordman Firs with their dark green foliage and classic pyramid shape, will bring a warm traditional atmosphere to your home, shed very few needles and stay fresh and vibrant throughout the season. Combine it with a fun evening of wreath making accompanied by a glass of Prosecco and mince pies. For more details contact Julia: T: 07969 101484 E: juliagadams@yahoo.co.uk After several years nursing the growth of our trees we began trading quietly last year, with a very positive reaction. A large proportion of Christmas trees sold in Britain are imported, so buying from us avoids the environmental damage of import transportation and reduces your carbon footprint. We follow best agricultural practices to ensure that our

trees are grown in a manner which sustains both the land and the environment. At the start of this Festive season, as we go into our second year of trading, we are proud to be able to serve the local community and look forward to welcoming you at Callow End. So, if you're looking for a beautiful Christmas tree from a grower committed to reducing and minimising harm to the environment, Come to us! Cut & potted trees available from 3ft -8ft Opening Times 10am-6pm on the W/E of 12th/13th and 19th/20th November and then 10am-6pm every day from Friday 25th November Enquiries: Please contact Matt: T: 07568 717474 Email: mattadams288@gmail.com Duckswich Christmas Trees, Callow End, WR2 4TY

Getting Crafty at Christmas

You will often hear people profess there are many benefits to crafting. Crafting can be relaxing, it can improve self-confidence, and improve cognitive skills. These are all very good reasons to craft. However, perhaps the most favoured benefit at this time of year is when a craft can result in the making of presents! Not only is gifting a handmade present heartfelt and personal, it can also be pretty frugal. So, why not get crafting this Christmas and treat your friends and family to a crafty gift?

A local provider of craft workshops has come up with some great ideas; from making festive candles to creating bespoke cards, gift wrap and even decorative baubles. There is something for everyone. Three Little Pigs, based in the nearby village of Birlingham, offer a variety of workshops all year round and recently celebrated its 15th year of running workshops. This year, their festive workshops promise to add a little sparkle. On Saturday 3rd December Three Little Pigs will be running two Bauble Marbling Workshops, where attendees will have the opportunity to marble at least twelve baubles and will even look at packaging ideas, so they can be made into individual gifts. On Sunday 4th December they will be running a Lino Printed Christmas Card and Wrap

Workshop where everyone will learn how to cut and print with lino and will create a set of cards and wrapping paper. Imagine, all your cards and wrap sorted. And then, to 'wrap' up the festive season, on Sunday 18th December they will be running a Candle Making Workshop where everyone will have the opportunity to make a collection of dipped, poured and rolled candles, adding colours and gorgeous festive fragrances along the way. Of course, as well as making lots of presents, attendees will learn great new skills, so they can go on to make more when they get home. The workshops also make great days out! Three Little Pigs work with experienced tutors and craftspeople to deliver their workshops, and all the workshops are aimed at beginners. Places on each workshop are limited to eight. For more information about the workshops, or to book your place, please visit www.threelittlepigs.net



Women's Hour!

Susan Catford

What a wonderful world!

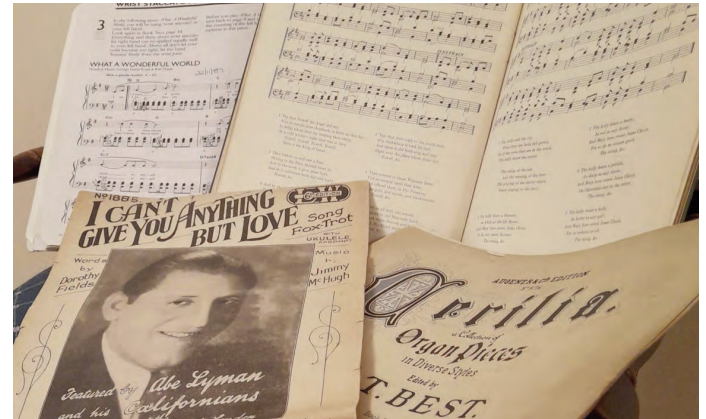


You may have noticed that my writing is often inspired by a song title (or perhaps you haven't!). This is because there is a song for pretty much every aspect of our lives and music and songs can convey so much. As a child, we sang hymns every day in school and they often corresponded to the seasons of the year. We always associate carols with Christmas but I still remember Easter hymns (There is a green hill...) and Harvest songs (We plough the fields and scatter..) which we learned in assemblies. These hymns were Christian based and began the school day. Now this wouldn't be considered politically correct when there are other religions to celebrate. They were beautiful songs though and I can remember discovering new words and meanings together with the message they conveyed, so an important learning experience too. Even

now there are certain hymns which remain popular from 'All things bright and beautiful' – frequently at funerals! – to 'Morning has broken' and 'Jerusalem' – (sung with great gusto and deep voices by rugby fans!).

Music and singing were part of everyday school life and we even had 'singing' as an actual lesson. Many classrooms had their own piano and teachers were often expected to be musicians! It was always a treat when we set aside our books to have a good sing, particularly on dark winter days. The songs were often not what would be classed as children's songs – Greensleeves, The Ash Grove, some rollicking sea shanties and singing in rounds. But they were fun! Things are a bit different now but schools still promote music and singing, hence we have such a wealth of talented young singers and musicians.

Music can create a mood, affect our feelings and carry real messages. Love songs have been popular forever and have been used to woo, rejoice or bewail romantic situations. Weddings now often have a first dance when the new couple dance to a piece of music which is significant to them before they are joined by



their guests with their own gyrations! Songs guaranteed to get people moving are many ABBA favourites, Dancing Queen in particular! As for singing along, everybody (practically) seems to know at least some of the words to Hey Jude. For the older generation classic singers like Frank Sinatra, Shirley Bassey, Nat King Cole etc. remain favourites. My Way and Strangers in the Night will always be around I am sure. Not being a musician myself, I am always impressed by the musical skills of others. We did have a grandfather who played the church organ, an aunt who was a very talented violinist and a brother who sings and plays the guitar. The musical gene seems to have passed me

by but both sons have some musical skills and perhaps it will re-emerge with the next generation! I struggle to remember words to a song (no good at karaoke even with words!) and don't recognise half the new names in the charts. But Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith, George Ezra, Snow Patrol and many others are on my rather eclectic playlist. So on that note (ha!) I will leave you with some lyrics from Louis Armstrong's famous song:

I see skies of blue
And clouds of white,
The bright blessed day,
The dark sacred night
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world!
(So true!)

Bonfire night

Bonfire night, a child's delight

(And fun for grown ups too!)

The prospect of a thrilling sight

With fireworks and a bonfire bright

To fill the sky with dazzling light.

The fire with crackles and a roar

Creates a heat with flames and more,

Illuminating happy faces,

Shedding light in darkened places.

Fireworks burst with sparks and sound,

Some flying high, some on the ground.

The sky is full of colourful flowers,

Bursting petals fall like showers.

And rockets race across the sky,

Exploding brightly way up high.

A night that dazzles, full of sound,

Echoes bouncing round and round.

At last the spectacle is done

So time to go for everyone.

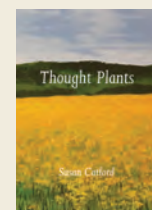
But heading home into the night

They will recall that splendid sight

And know that they must wait a year

Until next Bonfire Night is here.

Susan Catford



'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.

120 pages A5 full colour illustrated by Susan Catford

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Garden Watch



This is the time of year when the garden looks its least tidy! The trees are dropping their leaves in earnest and the lawn is smattered with them. The grass resembles a field again and is quite treacherous where the mole left its maze of tunnels not far below the surface.

We have flashes of colour from autumnal foliage with reds, golds and coppery browns. The Virginia creeper is gradually turning crimson but it does not last long. Most things are closing down though and soon it will be time to move plants to the greenhouse for the Winter. Some of the fuchsias have lasted and even come into bud again. And the alstromerias keep going!

Having had a few blustery days and some heavy rain (at last!), we have had a major pear drop but this means most of the fruit is damaged. Sophie doesn't seem to mind what state they are in and continues to sneak them into the house. Even the top of the tree is bare of fruit now. The apple tree has been a great success with our new grandson who, at one year old, is delighted with the shape and feel of the apples and has to go and pick one on each visit. A friend's children also discovered our baby tomatoes and were so pleased to be able to pick and eat them.

We have been given two beautiful anniversary roses which need to be planted. Choosing the right spot for

them to thrive and for us to appreciate them is taking some consideration. Plants are always a lovely gift as they add a personal, lasting touch to the garden.

We are still visited by our regular birds and a squirrel has been busy unearthing some of its winter store. It doesn't go near the birdfeeders which is good. The countryside around us seems to be full of squirrels just now but they do not have any road sense and there are many fatalities. No sign of the hedgehog though which is a relief. Hopefully it has found a safe place to spend the colder days ahead.

I have just noticed that there is a fine clump of fungi growing on the trunk of a tree at the bottom of the garden!

By next month we will have changed the clocks and the colder weather may have arrived. It has been unseasonably mild so far which is a bonus. No doubt the trees will be bare and perhaps we will have had our first frosts in the weeks ahead. It is a time of change and there will be yet another different aspect to the garden yet again, but I will keep watching.

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Country file



Reeves's pheasant and Waxwings

There are many birds in the countryside that are quite common but sometimes we are lucky to see those which are more rare. One of these is the Reeves's pheasant which has been sighted recently in our locality.

Reeves's pheasants originate from China but have been introduced in the UK for sport and ornamental purposes. It is an attractive bird, the male having brightly scaled plumage, a black and white head and a very long silvery white tail barred with chestnut brown. Not often seen, these birds can be aggressive towards humans, animals and other pheasants, particularly during the breeding season. Another less common bird can

be the Waxwing. They are regular visitors to the UK but numbers vary considerably from year to year. They are more likely to appear in large numbers when the berry crop in Scandinavia is poor. Some Winters only a hundred or so appear but in other years they can be in their thousands – called an irruption when in large numbers!

Waxwings are pinkish-brown and pale grey with distinctive smooth plumage. It has a crested head and square-cut tail. It is a plump bird, slightly smaller than a starling. They feed on berries and can be seen in gardens as well as the countryside. They have already been spotted in the UK this Autumn so it may be a good year for them.

Amber Hair Salon

*Christmas booking now being taken
Gift Vouchers available*

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

Church Street, Pershore WR10 1BH

Call Wendy on 01386 561311

Cooking for fun! *Ailsa Craddock*

As the nights draw in, and we are also looking to draw in our purses, I thought we should look at potatoes this month. Cheap and plentiful; the ultimate comfort food.

You can do so much with them - boil them, roast them, bake them, mash them - even make cakes with them, both savoury and sweet! In addition to being budget-friendly, there are many health benefits to potatoes. They're rich in energy, fibre, vitamins, and minerals. In addition to starch, potatoes contain vitamins (particularly C), minerals, and fibre (in the skin) which is important for digestive health so try to leave it on when cooking them. Another major nutrient in potatoes is potassium, an electrolyte which aids in the workings of our heart, muscles, and nervous system.

Black Pudding and Cheese Hash Browns – makes 4

500g potatoes
1 teaspoon chopped chives
1 teaspoon chopped parsley
1 egg white
4 slices black pudding
125g cheese

Boil potatoes in their skins till just soft. Grate them into a bowl and mix in the chopped herbs.

Add a pinch of salt to the egg white, beat lightly with a fork to loosen and mix with the grated potato. Divide mixture into four. Pat out each one into a circle slight larger than the pudding.

Put a slice of pudding in the middle, topped with a slice of



cheese. Fold and shape the potatoes over the stuffing so it is fully enclosed. Deep or shallow fry until golden. Top with a poached egg to serve.

Baked Potato with Smoked Haddock and Mustard - per person

1 large baking potato
150g smoked haddock
100 ml double cream
1 tablespoon grain mustard
chopped parsley

Put the smoked haddock in a shallow baking dish. Season the cream with mustard, parsley and a little salt and pepper and pour over the haddock.

Bake in the same oven as the

potato – for about 20 mins. Break open the potato and scrape into a bowl and return the empty skins to the oven to crisp. Mash potato with the cream from the haddock. Flake the fish and stir into the creamed potato. Pile back into the skins and place briefly under the grill to brown.

Warm potato, spinach and parmesan salad

500g potatoes
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
juice of a lemon
1 heaped tablespoon Dijon mustard
6 tablespoons olive oil
parmesan cheese
streaky bacon
3 - 4 handfuls of spinach leaves



Lower the potatoes into boiling water and cook till tender. Drain and slice thickly. Whizz the

vinegar, lemon juice and olive oil with 2 heaped tablespoons of grated parmesan. Fry the bacon till crisp and cut into small strips. Put the spinach in a bowl and the warm potatoes and bacon and toss lightly in the dressing.

Milly Molly Mandy Potatoes –

Milly Molly Mandy was a series of books written in the late 1920's about a little girl who lived with her parents, her grandparents and uncle and aunt in a little house with a white picket fence. She had lots of adventures with her friends Billy and Susan - and her mother used to make for dinner baked potatoes with cheese. Bake a potato (you can actually do this in the microwave as it will go under the grill or into an oven to finish). Scoop out the middle and mash with LOTS of butter and cheese and season and pile back into the skins. Grill or put back into the oven till golden. Serve with absolutely anything!

Jazz News *Peter Farrall*

The guitar may be found all through the colourful and ever evolving jazz scene from the early 20th century onwards. Music for dances, parties and social occasions in New Orleans around the turn of the last century, was provided mainly by string combinations. Piano, violin, mandolin and guitar were common but gradually being augmented and replaced by cornet, trombone, clarinet or saxophone to form the embryonic jazz band. The heavyweight brass front line together with the addition of double bass and drums tended to overwhelm the acoustic guitar and so the more plangent banjo was adopted instead. The guitar did not completely disappear, great blues guitarist Robert Johnson appeared on a couple of recordings by Louis Armstrong and Eddie Lang played guitar with Red McKenzie's band (quirkily called the Mound City Blue Blowers) around the mid-

twenties.

The guitar came back into its own as the jazz boom travelled northwards to Chicago and further when young white musicians adopted the style but favouring guitar over the banjo. Eddie Condon, possibly the best known of these, used a four string tenor guitar with an arched top and f- holes. This type of guitar, more usually with the normal six strings, popularly became known as the "jazz guitar" and found a place in the larger dance orchestras of the time and into the bands of the swing era of the nineteen-thirties.

Guitars were still acoustic and seldom featured as solo instruments in jazz except with some rare exceptions such as the gypsy jazz styles of Django Rheinhardt and contemporaries. In 1939 when largely thanks to one musician, Charlie Christian, the electrically amplified instrument hit the scene and



changed the concept of jazz guitar for ever. Since then, the guitar has played a powerful part in the evolution of jazz through all its stages and idiosyncrasies. Bebop, latin, fusion, funk are all represented and there are many musicians playing their personal version of solid, straight ahead mainstream jazz, some re-exploring the acoustic instrument. Many aspects of the guitar's characterful journey through jazz will be presented in this

month's session when guitar wizard Remi Harris brings his band to Pershore Jazz Club.

The Remi Harris Jazz & Blues Trio
Wednesday, 30th November
in the Function Room,
Pershore Football Club
Doors open at 7pm, music at 8
Admission £10 to include a raffle ticket. Book in advance and pay on arrival
pershorejazz.org.uk
tel: 01527 66692/07487 606964
find us on Facebook

Create a Christmas-ready garden? *Nikki Hollier - Border In A Box*



Decorating the home and garden for Christmas is always joyful. So here are some festive ideas to decorate the patio, front garden and balcony to welcome your friends and family.

The most obvious place to start is with a real fir tree – there are plenty of varieties to choose from and a ready-potted one makes it easier to manoeuvre. Make sure there is plenty of drainage, keep it watered (but not over watered) and place it somewhere free from frost and can't blow over.

Decorations can be inspired and support nature such as adding dried fruit and fatballs as decorations so the birds can enjoy a feast. Collect pinecones from your walk and fill them with the fatball recipe and hang

from the tree using twine.

Fatball Recipe

Suet or lard

(can be vegan suet, but not turkey, butter or oil)

Bird seed containing sunflower hearts, oats, millet and Peanuts (unsalted, grounded, not whole)

Dried fruit such as cranberries
Use one part lard to two parts dried ingredients.

Melt the lard/suet in a pan.

Add the dried ingredients and mix well. Leave to cool.

Once the fat has solidified, fork it over and using your hands make the ball shapes.

Place on a tray or plate and place in the fridge to ensure they are completely solid before adding to your bird feeders.

Lighting always adds to the atmosphere and there are plenty



of battery operated and solar power options available now. Hang them on the tree, or along fences and rooflines to add an extra bit of sparkle.

Patio tablescaping – this is where you can add loads of colour and texture to your table. Use seasonal plants such as Skimmia Japonica with its big red berries. Hellebores planted in individual pots, add in some trailing ivy, dot pinecones around and add an eye-catching focal point such as a large lantern and candle.

Door wreaths are very traditional and can be easily made from items found in your garden. Dried hydrangea flower heads, decorative twigs, pinecones, nuts and seedheads. Make the wreath yourself from



Nikki Hollier

nikki@borderinabox.com

[@borderinabox](https://www.borderinabox.com)

www.borderinabox.com

*Royal Horticultural Society
Silver Medal Winner &
Peoples Choice Award Winner*

willow (or any long and thin branches that can be twisted into shape). Use gorgeous co-ordinated velvet ribbon to hang it up on your door or walls. If you would prefer something a bit more fun and a break from the norm, how about creating a Christmas pudding shaped wreath from dried flowers? This one by The Letter Loft not far from Ledbury is offering a workshop so you can make your own. Which are super cute! *Book via:* www.theletterloft.co.uk

November gardening tips

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester

Early In November

Try to finish off bulb planting soon. In fact this is a great time to be planting tulips but if your soil is heavy put some coarse grit into the planting holes. Mounded, fleshy leafed alpines benefit from protection against getting too wet. Cover with a small cloche.

Plant trees, shrubs, fruiting plants and roses of all kinds. They will be able to settle themselves in before the spring. Sow Aquadulce Claudia broad beans and round seeded peas, like Feltham First, in sheltered spots for cropping in June. Christmas roses (*Helleborus niger*) flower better and earlier with a little protection from a cloche.

Hellebores hate being disturbed but if you must move one this is the best time. Lift it with a good large ball of soil around the roots.

Mid November

Check tree stakes and ties before winter winds cause damage. Plant Paperwhite narcissi for

Christmas flowers.

Clean the glass and insulate your greenhouse using bubble polythene.

Pinch out the tips of autumn sown sweet peas when they are 10cm (4in) tall.

Plant garlic by the end of this month, it enjoys a well-drained position. If in doubt plant cloves 10cm (4in) deep in mounded rows 15cm (6in) high.

Take hardwood cuttings of soft fruit bushes and shrubs.

Plant bare root hedging plants. Keep greenhouses and frames ventilated on bright days.

Grass growth generally slows down a little this month, so only give your lawn a light mowing if the grass is dry.

If you have not already done so, treat the lawn to a dose of autumn lawn fertiliser and aerate it. This treatment will pay dividends in the spring.

Some herbaceous plants – e.g. *Dicentra spectabilis* and *Primula denticulata* can be brought indoors for early flowers.

If your garden is lacking colour

plant some winter flowering shrubs now.

Sow fast maturing carrots, radishes, winter hardy salad onions etc in the greenhouse for April harvest.

Plant a container with winter flowering heathers to brighten up your patio.

Trim over summer heathers to remove the old flower stems. Slugs find greenhouse conditions ideal, so they will still be very active in there. Take some steps towards controlling them. Clean patios and concrete paths to remove potentially slippery moss and algae. Patio Magic, or Algon are some of the best treatments to use.

Late November

Feed flowering houseplants weekly but foliage ones once a month.

Pot up pieces of chives, parsley and mint to bring indoors for fresh foliage all winter.

Begin pruning grapes as soon as the leaves have fallen.

Garden birds benefit from extra feeding all year round, but it is



especially important in the winter months. Try to put out appropriate food for the species living in your garden and make sure that water is readily available too. Prune free standing apple and pear trees after leaf fall. Place houseplants on wide saucers of moist gravel to provide extra humidity. Grouping them together on trays of moist gravel helps even more, as central heating is very dry. Only begin washing pots and trays in disinfectant ready for the new sowing season if you have had trouble with seedlings rotting off last year. Otherwise they can benefit from micro-organisms remaining in the containers.

Wellbeing hub

A volunteer's first day at the Hub



So what was your first day like? How many times in a life do we get asked this question: first day at school, starting a new job? This was my first morning as a trainee volunteer at Pershore Wellbeing Hub. Following an interview and DBS check, I was now embarked on several weeks of shadowing experienced volunteers as part of my training.

My first impression is of a welcoming place: colourful chairs, pot plants in the window, posters and leaflets dotted about. My mentor for the day showed me around: where useful forms and documents are kept, the rooms at the back for private conversations, the crucial kettle for cups of tea. I observed her helping the first visitor with an allowance claim form. "Don't worry, you'll soon pick it all up," she said afterwards. Had my furrowed look of concentration been that obvious? "And there's always someone here who will help you out."

The second visitor wanted advice on meeting people. They weren't new to the area, just wanted a change of direction. This was something I could help with and spent a few minutes with them on the Hub's website exploring possible interest groups. Towards the end of the morning, someone came in just wanting a chat. I was sent off to make tea - one thing I don't need training in, my tea-bag-dunking skills are second to none - and we sat and talked about whatever came to mind. It struck me how just a few moments to chat and share thoughts can be so precious to our sense of wellbeing. So will you go back? Funny how no-one asked this on my first day at school. Definitely! I have a lot to learn but enjoyed my first experience and am looking forward to the challenge.

*Paul Morris
Trainee Volunteer at Pershore Wellbeing Hub*

Parts of Me

Angela Johns



Part of me is fine. Part of me is under pressure to complete my to-do list. Part of me is super excited. Part of me is feeling lazy. I can be all of these things at once and be perfectly normal. And so can you. The same is true for those self-imposed labels limiting the description of your gifts or, worse, only your biggest frailty which doesn't do justice to your whole self. Our strengths and frailties change with mood and circumstance. We are complex multidimensional beings and we are in constant flux. Thank goodness! Because that also means many potentialities exist. We don't have to be stuck.

I recognise that my day, my week, my year ebbs and flows between states. Nothing stays quite the same because the world of which I am part is continually changing and will influence me. More complex is the awareness of the parts of me that seem to contradict. If my introverted self is being quiet just wait till my 10% extrovert elbows its way to the front! But if I can accept that parts are not perfect then I can accept the truth of those parts in you. One can be a kind person and still be selfish. They may well love you to the moon and back but that doesn't mean they won't tell you a fib. This reminds me of the Cherokee legend of the two wolves inside us continually fighting, one bad one good. The one that wins is the one you feed. Google it, it's a beautiful conversation between a man and his grandson. My favourite Lesson 13 of Guan Yin puts it another

way: when you want to fight, be love. When a client comes to me for a treatment, part of them will be looking forward to it but part of them may well be feeling guilty about spending time or money on themselves. Part of my job is to help make that guilt smaller and an important part of theirs is to allow healing to take place. Tending to your own mental or physical health pays dividends larger than the rate of inflation! Your family, friends, your workmates, even your future self, reap the benefits.

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

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It hurts!

Karen Harris

Lets have another myth busting session shall we, there's plenty of them!

Injuries are from overuse. Overuse injuries should be called 'improper use' injuries. If we consider tennis elbow, runners knee, achilles tendinitis, rotator cuff tendonitis etc, these are mainly sport oriented issues and mainly effect people more on one side than the other. If for instance you have left leg 'runners knee,' isn't the right leg doing the same amount of miles, why doesn't the 'overuse' affect that side?

Often the unidentified factor that is contributing to the injury showing up on one side of the body is posture imbalance.

A common imbalance that can cause one-sided running injuries is having a slightly stronger and more stable hip compared to the other. This will cause slight changes in stride length, stance time and subsequent imbalanced forces on muscles and connective tissues. This extra loading of the dominant hip/leg can also lead to stress fractures of the foot. In this instance you will also try to unload your weaker left hip quicker which could mean you are pushing off with your left foot harder leading to achilles tendonitis on your left side. Correcting your posture and muscle imbalances will help you prevent 'overuse' injuries. Your knee hurts so it must be a knee problem. Knee injuries are almost never caused by a knee problem, just as back injuries are almost never caused by a back problem. Knee injuries and back injuries are related to your ankles, hips, spine and shoulders because your body is

a unit and everything works together. If you injure your right knee it could very well be because your left hip is weak and causing you to overload your right knee. If you injure your lower back it is probably because your hips and upper back have lost mobility and function, putting increased stress on your lower back. Again the key is finding the underlying cause of your injury, not just treating the injury itself. Surgery will fix the problem. I'm prepared for arguments on this one as people have had successful surgeries to get them out of pain, what the surgery hasn't done is fix why the need for surgery happened in the first place. I've lost count of the clients I've seen that have, post surgery, decreased mobility, more pain, pain in the joint above or below; and one of the most obviously problematic types of surgery, fusing vertebrae. Usually L3/4, only for L2 or L5 to herniate or bulge later on. Well of course it's going to! If the spine has lost it's curves, it has lost its mobility and function, how is fixing it into its current position going to solve the problem?

The forces that created the herniation are still there! If a door is falling off its hinges, do you fix the hinges, or find out why the hinges have failed and fix that?

If this all makes sense and you feel that your aches and pains are not being dealt with correctly please get in touch. 07954 544595

Energy is everywhere. Everything is energy!

Feel good in the knowledge that Energy changes all the time and is not static. We might feel energy when we walk into a room, this feeling might be from the room itself, our energy as we enter the room or a feeling of the energy of something or someone in that room.

I help people change their energy from negative to positive all the time.

• This might be done from a perspective of a massage therapist encouraging someone to have the understanding of the cause of pain in their neck or shoulders for instance, with the opportunity of how it can be eased.

• It might be from an energy healing perspective of 'letting go' of what caused a trauma from an event or an emotion, again in the understanding and perspective to enable a moving forward.

• It might be from my first app, igniting intention, when people use it allowing that change in emotion to a more balanced place.

• It might be from listening to someone's Truth about a negative relationship, highlighting the positive



Emily Papimik

aspects and the Truth from another perspective. From this place that enables and allows a change to that negative energy that has been holding the person back in moving forward.

Understanding energy and using it to help you in your everyday living will be available within a new app that I am creating. An app which will enable the user to start realising that they have the ability to break change in how they experience negative energy, finding inspiration, finding understanding and finding freedom without waiting for their environment to change.

Be the change you want and allow yourself to shine.



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Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church - A Special Stained Glass Window

Holy Redeemer Church in Pershore has a very special stained glass window. It is not the subject matter of this west window that makes it unusual but the method of construction. A traditional stained glass window is composed of a mosaic of coloured, painted glass, about three millimetres thick, that is held in grooved leading. In the case of the Holy Redeemer window the glass is about 2.5 centimetres thick and is set in concrete. This method of creating stained glass windows was devised in France in the 1930s and flourished following the Second World War. The technique is called Dalle-de-Verre or 'Slab Glass'. The thick pieces of coloured glass usually have their edges chipped. This creates facets which enhance light refraction. The Holy Redeemer window was made at Buckfast Abbey in Devon by Father Charles Norris (1909-2004) a Benedictine monk. He studied at the Royal College of Art before joining

the Benedictine Community at Buckfast in 1930. In 1933 Father Charles set up a studio making both traditional and dalle-de-verre stained glass windows. Perhaps his best known Dalle-de-Verre window is at the east end of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Buckfast Abbey. Most of his 'slab glass' windows are to be found in Roman Catholic churches.

There is a large window of this type, made by Goddard and Gibbs, in St Andrew's Methodist Church, Pump Street, Worcester.

The Holy Redeemer window was made in 1985, the main donor being Bernard Bennett. Dalle-de-Verre window designs tend to be semi-abstract. The central light depicts the Descent of the Holy Spirit while the side-lights, surely, depict the heads and raised arms of twelve Evangelists at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon them.

We are fortunate to have a rich heritage of stained glass windows in our area, from medieval times through to the 21st century, made in the traditional manner which has been in use for over a thousand years. This window in Holy



Holy Redeemer Church west window



Detail of the centre light

Redeemer Church is significant in being the only one in the Pershore area that was created

using a new technique devised in the first half of the twentieth century.
Roy Albutt



VETERINARY ADVICE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!



Fireworks and Your Pets

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

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

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

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

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

Above all keep your pets safe and enjoy the celebrations!

Best wishes *Eliza*



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Another Pioneer at RAF Defford Tim Hickson

Today, the skies above the North Atlantic are full of airliners flying to and from the USA. In the 1930s, before World War 2, were you to embark on such a journey you would be a passenger in a flying boat. That was because the weather above that ocean is often bad and aircraft then did not fly high enough to be above it, few major cities had airports with runways strong enough for heavy transatlantic aircraft but they were generally near water. Also, in case of emergencies, being able to land on water was felt to be safer.

so they could be attacked. Because of the curvature of the Earth's surface, radar sets in Britain, even on tall towers, could not see very far across the sea. The only way to see further was to mount a radar on an aircraft. The first such device can be seen, at RAF Defford, on the top of a Wellington bomber. It was a simple device, much like the ones we use to receive TV signals, but it could rotate and any echoes it received were displayed on a screen so the operators could see in what direction was the target and how far away it was.



Wellington bomber with the aerial in its roof



A Short Caledonia



A CAM ship

However, the German manufacturer, Focke-Wulf designed an airliner with very long wings to enable it to fly high enough to be above the storms. (It was called the Condor after the South American bird that also had long wings.) Once the War began and we desperately needed food, fuel and other supplies to cross the Atlantic, the Germans immediately began to use U-boats to sink our ships. These were often guided to our convoys by the long-range Condors. The Battle of the Atlantic was one which had we lost would have meant we could no longer defend ourselves and the world would now be a very different place. Churchill, always concerned about our shipping losses, instructed the scientists at Malvern and Defford to find a way of detecting the Condors



A Condor aircraft and bird

However, it took time to develop, test and perfect these radar aircraft and, in the meantime, other ways of dealing with the Condor threat had been found. These were CAM ships (Catapult Aircraft Merchant ships) from which single fighter aircraft, usually Hurricanes, were launched by rockets to

In the meantime, with what was called Air Controlled Interception Radar, the Wellington bombers were used over the English Channel, directing RAF fighters against German aircraft launching V1s (when the ground-based launching ramps had been destroyed), E-boats setting out to lay mines, and E-boats carrying torpedoes to use against our ships on D-Day. So useful was this type of aircraft that the idea was developed and, today, we have AEWAC (Airborne Early



An RAF Sentry, AEWAC



E-boat, a small, fast motor boat

attack the slow-flying Condors. Once the job had been done, the pilot had to return the convoy, bale out, land in the sea and hope to be picked up! In spite of the bravery required, these pilots, usually from the RAF, were so successful that the Germans stopped using the Condors.

Warning and Control) aircraft. These are used for surveillance and to detect enemy aircraft, missiles, ships and even vehicles and then to direct countermeasures, often fighters or drones. Thus, out of the shade of the trees of wartime Croome Park emerged yet another pioneer.

Feeling festive yet?

Brian Johnson-Thomas



Well, I confess that I'm starting to.....mind you, I've just survived Covid (along with what seems like half of the town...) and, outside, the sun is still shining and it's unseasonably warm. So there!. We may have lots of woes, both national and international, but there's still a lot to look forward to, starting on the 22nd of this month at the Three Counties Showground with a new and exciting adventure Light Trail, as part of Winter Glow's seasonal offering there. There will be a Light Trail, a personalised Santa experience, an Ice Rink, a 120 foot Observation Wheel and a Christmas market, plus fairground rides and a food quarter with a licensed bar. This year's light trail is based on Homer's epic poem 'The Odyssey' and the organisers tell me that it will "transport visitors to a magical wonderland on an adventure from the depths of ancient Atlantis to the fanciful shores of festive islands" See www.winterglow.co.uk for details.

Staying with an 'icy' theme, I've just been told of a rather splendid opportunity this Winter in Iceland. Two new glass igloos frozen into a secluded lagoon are just about to open their doors there. Located far away from any light pollution and with panoramic glass walls and uninterrupted views north, they are intended to increase guests' chances of experiencing the Northern Lights. They are each about nine square metres inside, warmed by central

heating and have a large double bed, bathroom and a facility for hot drinks. Available through Off the Map Travel as part of a five night Glacier Lagoon Adventure, the holiday includes 4X4 car hire, hotels in Reykjavik and somewhere called Myrdalsjokull – but it isn't cheap, starting at around £2499, not including flights. Certainly the trip of a lifetime, though?

See www.offthemaptravel/glacier-lagoon-adventure for more details.

On a rather warmer note I've been contacted by a new-ish company called Byway who specialise in flight-free trips to various European destinations. You know the arguments about carbon footprint off by heart by now, of course. (Facts such as giving up meat for a year saves 2.7 tonnes of carbon but giving up one return flight to Bangkok saves 3.3. tonnes..) Talk about the law of Unintended Consequences! When the European Union decided to free up the rules on aviation, thus enabling low cost airlines, it was designed as a means of knotting together an ever-expanding Europe, doubtless a laudable aim in itself. But, gone are the days when we used to vie with each other to get an airlines' Gold Card – now we're seen as villains almost, for junking the environment with all those emissions for all those flights. Train travel, by contrast, is much more environmentally friendly – you can make five or six trips to Edinburgh and back by train for the same amount of carbon as one flight – and, actually, you get to see a lot more.

There is a resurgence in train travel generally– helped along in Europe especially by the advent of high speed rail links which really do shrink travel times. For a while it looked as if the advent of these high speed trains would signal the end of the line for traditional sleeping cars but in fact they're also making a bit of a comeback. There's something quite nice, after all, in going to

bed in one place and waking up somewhere a few hundred miles away in the morning . Also the more modern sleeping cars can offer up-to-date facilities like en suite toilets and showers (which you don't get – much to some folks chagrin- on the so –called 'heritage' luxury trains). So people are beginning to cotton on to the opportunities offered. Like high speed rail London to Paris and on to Turin then picking up the overnight sleeper service all the way to Palermo in Sicily. Anyone can book such a trip, of course, but if you don't fancy the effort involved, then Byway will get you to your dose of Sicilian winter sun from £1,830 for fifteen days away. They also have cheaper and shorter offers such as Brussels Christmas markets, four days for £544. See www.byway.travel for details.

More on Christmas Markets and other festive frolics next month – meanwhile, stay well and (hopefully) Covid free



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Teenage Focus

Romy Kemp (17)

Brisk autumn days:

As the seasons come and go each year, it reminds me of how valuable life really is. Each season lasts about three months but this can feel like an eternity. However time goes by quickly without even realising. I have just sent my applications off to universities. This is a terrifying yet exciting time. By the time you're reading this article, I will hopefully have found out if I have been accepted or not into my five university choices. I am extremely nervous and keep checking my emails to see if I have any offers yet. Depending on what happens with the offers will depend on whether I update you next month. Over the past couple of weeks, I haven't really been feeling myself. This is for a wide range of reasons, from school to my social life, and it has been quite draining. As well as this, I turn 18 in November and that is also quite crazy. I have been trying to distract myself from this by doing school work. Although I am just trying to forget about it, it hasn't helped that much. So I keep trying to remind myself of fun upcoming events - like Halloween, birthdays, Christmas and New Year. This is where I'm going to lead off to next. Since the season has changed, so can our perspectives. I'm trying to build myself a better and healthier life, so by the time I'll be doing my A-level's next year I shall be thriving, and so can you. We are about half way through Autumn already and



soon it will be winter, the two best seasons in my opinion. A lot changes outside in autumn: the leaves on the trees change colour and fall; pumpkins and outfits for Halloween; chilly mornings. As well as this, there has been seasonal change indoors. From blankets, hot chocolate, scented cinnamon candles to the seasonal excitement and sweatshirts in the lead up to Christmas. I think and hope that the seasonal spirit will be shared far and wide this year. As the colder weather has begun, some of the wildlife has become increasingly active in the garden. Robins as well as squirrels have been spotted more recently. Conkers and acorns are a great part of the season changing. The world has looked scenic and picturesque even during the foggy and dewy mornings we've been having.

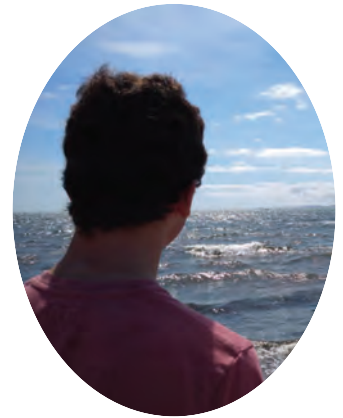
Gregory's world!

Gregory Sidaway (18)

One month in

Didn't see you there, fellow reader, how have you been? If this was the opening of an apocalypse film, it might begin with a caption saying: "DAYTHIRTY", followed by edgy and ominous music. I'm pleased to say that my first month at uni has been nothing of the sort. Consider this my message in a bottle to you in Pershore (or Upton) from the city of dreaming spires. I'm excited to be writing about a month that has been positively turgid with material and experience - I hope I do it the justice it deserves.

So here I am in Exeter College, the fourth oldest college in Oxford, established by Bishop Walter de Stapledon in 1314 (just over ten years before he was rudely bludgeoned to death by a London mob), and boasting notable alumni including J.R.R. Tolkien, Roger Bannister, and Matt Hancock. We're right in the centre of town, flanked by Lincoln College and staring down Jesus College on the opposite side of the street; together with Brasenose, All Souls, and Hertford College, we form a sort of disjointed north-south-east-west compass point arrangement around the Radcliffe Camera - which resides next to the Bodleian Library in the middle. My room is on staircase nine, which is effectively a multi-story car park of rooms with me on the very top floor, overlooking Broad Street and granting twenty-four hour surveillance of Blackwell's down below. It's here where I have become a part-time recluse, engrossed (sometimes engulfed) in reading for my English course. Last week, I was battling my way through a 2700-paged behemoth of a book with Bible-thin pages and a microscopic font, but with the aid of a cookie and a hot chocolate, I prevailed. Last weekend was action-packed on account of matriculation, which required an academic gown, shiny shoes and a 6:30am alarm. A year group photo was taken in the front quad outside the chapel (hopefully, I didn't blink), after which we filed out of the college and proceeded to the Sheldonian Theatre. The roads were clear and tourists were crouching on the pavement, taking pictures of us as though we were cyclists in the Tour de France. Inside



the Theatre, we had to look like we knew what was going on as a man carrying a gold staff and wearing a funny hat strode down the aisle; a rector then asked a more supreme person in a more supreme hat whether we could all be matriculated. This was done in Latin, of course. We were then encouraged (in less discombobulating English) to make the most of our three years here, to learn from others and stand up for what we believed in. The formalities finished, we were free to go out into the world as officially matriculated students. A clubbing opportunity was also arranged ("Matricu-lash"), but Oxford tends to struggle with any activity past eleven o'clock at night. (One of our clubs has its own quirky and distinct feature: it has developed its own indoor water cycle; on a really crowded night on the dance floor, sweat condenses on the ceiling and rains down on you.) With regards to the work - yes, there's quite a lot - but the way we approach it is very different to how we approached things at school. Here, they encourage what many writers have referred to as "liberal education", which is effectively the process of learning for the enjoyment of learning, expanding our horizons of knowledge and understanding not for a grade or mark (that comes later), but precisely because we want to, because it's fun. The plan is for us to cultivate ourselves into better people. I've become more of a sponge than ever before - and I intend to become spongier still. I'm determined to use this time well. I will soak up every droplet of what this city has to offer: in its books, its buildings, and its people.



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Sorting out your lasting power of attorney gives you complete peace of mind that should you become unable to look after your own affairs, someone you trust can. Without a lasting power of attorney in place even your spouse, partner or children will find it difficult and expensive to be granted permission to handle your affairs. We can make sure that the person taking charge over decisions regarding your health, welfare, property, and finances is the person you want and trust.
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Whether you're an athlete, team, or club, Resolve Law Group can help anyone involved with the sports sector on legal issues. We help individuals and their representatives negotiate terms and terminations, and help them understand laws and regulations. We also help teams and clubs with negotiations, regulations, insurance, and compensation.
- **Contracts & agreements**
We can provide businesses and sole traders expert advice with their contracts and agreements as well as helping with drafts and negotiations. It's not just about getting the job done, it's also about helping you understand and use your documentation.
- **Debt collection & enforcement**
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Handling property chain uncertainty

Economic events of recent months have prompted housing market to-ing and fro-ing; some buyers and sellers considering their situations, others trying to get deals completed swiftly.

While flurries of activity make national newspaper headlines, it's important to remember that property chain uncertainty is nothing new. Over recent years, the average number of sales failing before completion hovers around the 30% mark.

Chains come under pressure for various reasons, such as survey issues, one party having second thoughts or changes in circumstances (e.g. divorce or bereavement).

The best strategy to keep your chain moving is to use an experienced agent (now is not the time to be taking the do-it-yourself route or relying on chancers new to the game).

Good agents will have coaxed multiple chains over the line in good and challenging times.

Good agents:

- Communicate with the right people to progress the sale. Given the current market mood, you must know where everyone stands. Radio silence is never a good thing.
- Think laterally, making constructive suggestions to help overcome issues slowing the transaction.
- Are savvy negotiators.
- Don't shy away from difficult conversations and speak candidly.
- Have back-up plans if things change.
- Don't panic

The most frustrating thing being part of a chain is relying on other people – over whom you have little influence – to get their act together.

The best way through is focusing on things within your control. As well as choosing a good agent, it's important to:

- Be organised, providing requested information or paperwork promptly.
- Have realistic expectations.
- Stay level-headed.

We are always doing everything we can to keep deals going through. If you need advice or feel worried about your situation, get in touch. We'd be happy to speak with you.



Tom Tarver BSc Est. Man. MNAEA MARLA

01386 761515

email: tom.tarver@

johnsons-property.co.uk



Paying Self-Assessment tax

Carol Draper

If you are registered for Self-Assessment, you are probably familiar with the system HMRC adopts to collect tax. However, if you are new to Self-Assessment the process can feel overwhelming and the tax payment system can be very confusing.

Payment of Self-Assessment tax due must be made by 31 January following the end of the tax year. However, HMRC also adopts the system of making payments on account towards next year's tax bill. These payments are a way of paying your tax in advance and are based on your previous year's tax bill. HMRC assume you will earn the same this year as you did last and will demand payments on account if your tax bill was £1000 or more. Payments are due at the end of January and July and are calculated as 50% of the tax due in the previous year. An example may help to

explain. Jo submits his return for 2022. He has a tax liability of £1200, which must be paid by 31 January 2023. Because the tax due is more than £1000 he must also make payments on account towards his 2023 return. These payments will be £600 each in January and July 2023. Total payment due in January 2023 will therefore be £1800 and £600 in July. If Jo's tax liability in 2023 is also £1200, it will be covered by the payments he has made but he will still be due to make payments on account of £600 each towards his tax for 2024.

Once your Self-Assessment return is completed, if it works out the payments on account were not enough then the remainder of the tax due must be paid in the following January. If the payments on account were too much a refund will be issued. If you believe you will owe less tax next year than you did this, you

can elect to reduce your payments on account to a more appropriate level. To help with planning your finances submit your Self-Assessment return early and if you don't understand the tax calculated speak to your accountant.



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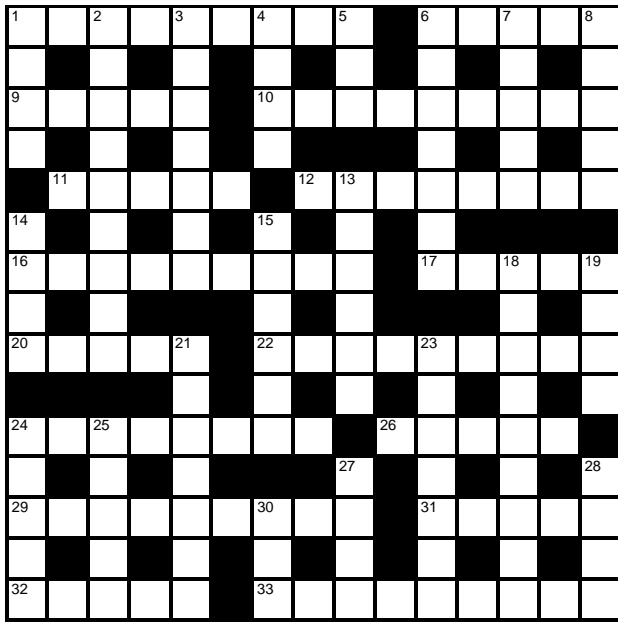
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Email: mail@clifton-crick.co.uk

www.accountantsworcestershire.co.uk

Coffee Break

Crossword



Across

- 1 Masked (9)
- 6 Mexican money (5)
- 9 Diving bird (5)
- 10 Life story (9)
- 11 Yorkshire town on the Wharfe (5)
- 12 Commonplace (8)
- 16 Hard-shelled pupa (9)
- 17 Pilsner (5)
- 20 Swellings (5)
- 22 Fit for publication (9)
- 24 Fashion industry (3,5)
- 26 Effluent carrier (5)
- 29 Apiarist (9)
- 31 Strong thread (5)
- 32 Trials (5)
- 33 Necessary to get to Mars (9)

Down

- 1 Stalks (4)
- 2 Protected from the weather (9)
- 3 No good (7)
- 4 Weeps (4)
- 5 Pair (3)
- 6 Incomplete (7)
- 7 Above (5)
- 8 Cunningly (5)
- 13 Rural (6)
- 14 Scrutinize (4)
- 15 Inclined (6)
- 18 Nonsense (9)
- 19 Regretted (4)
- 21 Wave riders (7)
- 23 Stage (7)
- 24 Capital of Morocco (5)
- 25 Valleys (5)
- 27 Extent of space (4)
- 28 Quick sharp bark (4)
- 30 Step in ballet (3)

Sudoku

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

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

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

Spot & Shop - October Winners

- 1) Jeanette Young
- 2) Sally Stevens
- 3) Phil Thomas
- 4) Kate Manchester
- 5) Fiona Hodgkiss
- 6) Claire Brant
- 7) Jenna Lienerth

Last month's answer:
Tech Teacher

Wordsearch

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

ALBATROSS

- APPS
- BAD
- BIN
- BLOW
- BOLIVIAN
- BREWS
- BUS
- CLIMBS
- C'MON
- DEEMS
- DEW
- E T A S
- ELITIST
- ELL
- ERIN
- EXITS
- IDLE

IRE

- ISIS
- IVE
- LIB
- LINK
- LOB
- LTD
- MEL
- MIL
- NEAR
- NEXT
- ONES
- PLATE
- SIDE
- TOE
- TRAM
- WENT IN

October Answers

1	N	A	S	A	5	B	A	S	K	E	6	T	B	7	A	L	8	L
	A	W		B	P	N	E	D	I									
10	T	H	E	R	E	F	O	R	E	11	Q	U	E	E	N			
	I	E	G	S	E	U	P	T										
12	O	U	T	L	A	S	T	13	S	K	I	T	T	L	E			
	N	E	N	O		L												
14	A	C	N	E	15	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	16	S			
	L	E				I	O											
19	P	R	O	S	E	C	U	T	E	21	F	R	A	U				
22	N				C					P	23	A	R					
24	E	X	C	E	R	P	T	27	O	X	S	H	O	T	T			
	V	A	A	U		A	U	C	R	R								
28	A	S	P	E	N	29	H	A	R	M	O	N	I	C	A			
	D	R	C	O	R	T	Z	C										
30	A	R	I	T	H	M	E	T	I	C	31	N	E	A	T			

Poets' Corner

A Shropshire Lad

Reveille v

Oh see how thick the goldcup flowers
 Are lying in field and lane,
 With dandelions to tell the hours
 That never are told again.
 Oh may I squire you round the meads
 And pick you posies gay?
 -'Twill do no harm to take my arm.
 "You may, young man, you may."
 Ah, spring was sent for lass and lad,
 'Tis now the blood runs gold,
 And man and maid had best be glad
 Before the world is old.
 What flowers to-day may flower to-morrow,
 But never as good as new.
 -Suppose I wound my arm right round-
 "'Tis true, young man, 'tis true."
 Some lads there are, 'tis shame to say,
 That only court to thieve,
 And once they bear the bloom away
 'Tis little enough they leave.
 Then keep your heart for men like me
 And safe from trustless chaps.
 My love is true and all for you.
 "Perhaps, young man, perhaps."
 Oh, look in my eyes, then, can you doubt?
 -Why, 'tis a mile from town.
 How green the grass is all about!
 We might as well sit down.
 -Ah, life, what is it but a flower?
 Why must true lovers sigh?
 Be kind, have pity, my own, my pretty,-
 "Good-bye, young man, good-bye."

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

November/December contain reminders of bereavements we have experienced. Churches hold All Souls and Remembrance Services and we may be reluctant to start planning Christmas festivities. Mourning a loved one, and perhaps still mourning the Queen's death, we realise their absences are changing our lives. Christians hope in the resurrected life and in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 20 this week Jesus explains how it will be. No social laws will govern us, no marriages nor births, under God all will be equal, his children for eternity - death will be no more. That is our hope, may you find it comforting.

Angela Gerrard LLM Pershore Benefice

Fun Quiz!



- Which actress, married eight times to seven different husbands, had the nickname 'the Sweater Girl'?
- Patented in 1979, which fruit is a cross between a blackberry and a red raspberry, and is named after a Scottish river?
- Which two countries fought the Football War in 1969?
- Who asks the quiz questions in the TV series 'Only Connect'?
- Which organization has the motto: 'Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity'?
- Which food brand name is a French term for a large covered earthenware or metal cooking pot?
- What was first known as the 'Pluto Platter'?
- What does the last 'A' in the acronym BAFTA stand for?
- Which 2016 film stars Ryan Gosling as a jazz pianist and Emma Stone as an aspiring actress?
- What country did Arthur C. Clark emigrate to in 1956, largely to pursue his interest in scuba diving?
- How old was John Lennon when he died?
- Which former Manchester United footballer is a presenter on the BBC daytime show Homes Under the Hammer?
- Where is Queen Maud Land?
- In which country of the UK are the bog snorkelling championships held?
- What word can be a practically unplayable delivery in cricket and also the oldest part of an ancient port city in Israel?
- What name is given to the legendary phantom wild cat that has never been caught, but is associated with Cornwall?
- Which two countries have names beginning with the letter 'A' but not ending with the letter 'A'?
- How many pieces does each player have in backgammon?
- Who was leader of the Labour party before Tony Blair?
- Which burger chain took its name from a Popeye cartoon character?

Answers: 1. Lana Turner 2. Tayberry 3. El Salvador and Honduras 4. Victoria Coren Mitchell 5. The Land 10. Sir Lancelot 11. John Lennon was 40 12. Dion Dublin 13. Antarctica 14. Wales (in a village called Llanyrwod Wells) 15. Jaffa 16. The Beast of Bodmin 17. Azerbaijan, Afghanistan 18. 15 19. John Smith 20. Wimpy



COMPETITION TIME!

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



This month's prizes!

1st - £25 cash
 donated by Pershore Times

2nd - £20 Food Voucher
 at Benvenuti Belle House, Pershore

3rd - £20 Food Voucher
 at The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley

4th - Revills £10 Voucher

5th Masons Arms £10 Guest Voucher

6th - Reg Moule's Gardening Diary

7th - Pat's Pantry -
 Jar of home-made marmalade

Complete and return this form or email:
news@pershoretimes.co.uk for your chance to win!

Pershore Times closing date: 27th November 2022

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Telephone/email: _____

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

In memoriam

Attwood. Maurice Andrew

Passed away peacefully at his home on 11th October 2022, aged 78 years. Much loved husband of the late Sandra, devoted dad to Scott, Kirsti and Dean, a loving grandad to Molly, Harry, Freddie, Molly and Phoebe. Maurice will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at Pershore Abbey on Thursday November 3rd at 1pm. Followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Campden Home Nursing CIO may be sent to E Hill & Son Funeral

Stark. Gwendoline Rose (Gwen)

Passed away peacefully at St Richard's Hospice on September 22nd 2022, aged 85 years. Beloved wife of Kenneth, loving mum to Richard and Christopher, mother in law to Beverly and Sally and a devoted Grandma to her five grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by all her family and friends. Gwen loved the Vale of Evesham and in particular village life in North Littleton. She made lasting friendships in the village and worked hard to be part of the community. She joined the WVI, volunteered for meals on wheels and assistance for Prisoner Visitors to Long Lartin. Gwen made lasting memories that she cherished and often recounted. Funeral service took place at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on 12th October, if desired, to St Richard's Hospice may be sent to E Hill & Son Funeral Directors.

Rose. Hazel Rosemary

Passed away peacefully on October 22nd 2022, aged 98 years. Beloved wife of the late Arthur, much loved mum to Grenville and Karen, Mother in law to Amanda and Keith. Loving grandma to Simon, Matthew, Lucy, Ellie, Harry, and Becci and a great grandmother. Funeral service will take place at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Tuesday November 29th at 1pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the RSPCA may be sent to E Hill & Son Funeral Directors, Pershore WR10 1HZ.

Buchan. Candida (Candy) Nee Blizard.

Sadly passed away at St Richard's Hospice on October 17th 2022, aged 72 years. Best friend and loving wife to Ian. Candy will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Wednesday November 2nd at 3pm. All welcome. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, in memory of Candy to Parkinsons UK may be sent to E Hill & Son Funeral Directors, Pershore WR10 1HZ.

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Tel: 01386 552141

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

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December Issue - 21st November 2022

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
Seen but not heard!

Not reporting crime is like not voting – some people believe it won't make a difference. But if the talk around Pershore is true, anti-social behaviour in the town is under-reported. As the saying goes, 'If you can't measure it, you can't manage it.' so if you see things untoward, let the police know. With their resources stretched, West Mercia Police prioritises its personnel to crime hot spots. As a Town Councillor, I get to meet the authorities; they say that Pershore is not a priority as it's a low-crime area, which is why there are fewer

police officers around – they are assigned elsewhere. So if you see a public order offence, call 101 to report a crime that does not need an emergency response. If you've access to the internet, you can sign-up for West Mercia Police Neighbourhood Matters alerts that will keep you updated with the latest scams and con tricks. It's also a place where you can inform the authorities of suspicious activity in your area. If this all sounds like a snitch's charter, remember that it's only villains who believe there's honour amongst thieves.

Michael Chapman Pincher

Can you play Bridge?

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

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

If you would like to know more, or simply look in at one of our games then contact us via the website at

www.bridgewebs.com/pershore

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Kidderminster Male Choir

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What's On?



Cinema Listings

The Lost King (12A)

Fri 11 Nov - 7.30pm; Mon 14
Nov - 11.00am & 7.30pm (ST);
Tue 15 Nov - 7.30pm
Dir: Stephen Frears, 1hr 48 mins
Tickets: £8.50, Daytime £7.00

The Forgiven (cert tbc)

Sat 12 Nov - 7.30pm
Dir: John Michael McDonagh,
running time tbc Tickets: £8.50

Emily (cert tbc)

Fri 18 Nov - 7.30pm;
Mon 21 Nov - 11.00am & 7.30pm
Dir: Frances O'Connor, running
time tbc
Tickets: £8.50, Daytime £7.00
Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker!
Sunday 20 November - 3.00pm
Tickets: £16, 16 & under
£10 (plus £1 if booked online)
1hr 30mins

Both Sides of the Blade (cert tbc)

Thu 24 Nov - 7.30pm
Dir: Claire Denis,
running time tbc, French with
subtitles. Tickets: £8.50

Three Thousand Years of Longing (cert tbc)

Fri 25 & Sat 26 Nov - 7.30pm
Dir: George Miller, running
time tbc
Tickets: £8.50

Events Listings

National Theatre Live:

The Seagull

Thu 3 Nov - 7.00pm
Tickets: £15, Students £10,
16 & under £10

Exhibition on Screen:

Hopper

Tue 8 Nov - 7.00pm
Tickets: £12, Students £10
1hr 30 mins

Foyer Folk: Steve Tilston

Sat 12 Nov - 8.00pm
Tickets: £10

Simon Goodall & the

Bourne Again Shadows:

Celebrating Six Decades of

Cliff & the Shadows

Sat 19 Nov - 7.30pm
Tickets: £19, Friends £18
2hrs 20 mins (inc interval)

The Royal Ballet: A

Diamond Celebration

Tue 22 Nov - 7.15pm
Tickets: £17, Seniors £16,
16 & under £10

Pershore Operatic &

Dramatic Society:

Maid Marian & the

Merry Men

Mon 5 - Fri 9 Dec, 7.30pm;
Sat 10 Dec, 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Tickets: Mon £12,
Tue - Thu £13.50, Fri £15, Sat
matinee £12, Sat evening £15

The Royal Ballet: The

Nutcracker

Sun 18 Dec - 2.00pm;
Tue 20 Dec - 7.15pm
Tickets: £17, Seniors £16,
16 & under £10
2hrs 45 mins (inc interval)

GreenMatthews' Gaudete!

Fri 23 Dec - 7.30pm
Tickets: £14, 16 & under £10
1hr 50 mins (inc interval)

Confess, Fletch (15)

Thursday 29 December -
7.30pm; Tuesday 3 January -
7.30pm

Dir: Greg Mottola

Tickets: £8.50 (£8.00) (plus
80p per ticket if booked
online)



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from 6pm on performance evenings

Telephone Bookings: Mon - Sat 4pm - 6pm



With so much 'politics' in the news, readers might well ask if anyone would want to go to a local 'Question Time' event. Well, yes they would and we had a full house for our charity QT at the West Mercia Police HQ on 7 October. An excellent list of panellists included Dr Helen Whitwell (inspiration for the tv series 'Silent Witness'), Paul McMaster (former President of Médecins Sans Frontières), Lt General (Rtd) Robin Brims (distinguished senior British Army Officer), Tim Curtis (former England cricketer) and Jerry Reakes-Williams (street pastor in Worcester). Our distinguished panel took part in a lively Q&A session and the evening raised nearly £2,500 for the Alzheimer's Society. Looking forward to November,

we are working with the Riverside Centre to run a digital café for those who want to be more computer confident. Aimed at helping complete novices, subjects to be covered include emailing, online shopping and internet searching. The emphasis being on keeping users safe when online. The digital café will be open at the Riverside Centre on Thursdays in November from 10.00am to 11.30am. Participants can bring their own laptop/iPad if they wish. For more information, follow Pershore Rotary on Facebook or see what we do on www.pershorerotary.club and it may inspire you to help us at times with our local community projects.

Reg Moule

In addition to his award winning media work Reg is also available to speak at Gardening Societies and other organisations something that he has been doing regularly since 1972.

If you would like Reg to visit your group please email reg.moule@gmail.com for further details and to check availability.

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PERSHORE ROTARY TREE OF REMEMBRANCE APPEAL 2022



"Remember a Loved One"

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



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

www.pershoretreeofremembrance.com.

Your Name: _____

First line of your address: _____

Postcode: _____ Email: _____

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

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

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

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

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Bowling Club - 2022 Ladies Section



2022 has proved one of the most successful seasons for the Ladies section at Pershore Bowling Club. The club, based in Abbey Park, has improved on last years second place finish in the Concorde triples league, only losing two games in the entire season, as well as winning two inter-county competitions.

The Ladies also had success at county level, not only representing Worcestershire at regional level in competitions such as the John's Trophy and the Walker Cup, but by also winning the U25 County Pairs and qualifying for the Amy Rose Bowl (Beth Morgan), the County Triples (Jenny Page,

Carole Ellesmore and Alison Cartwright) and County Fours competitions (Sylvia Fletcher, Lesley Wood, Carol Sorrell and Carole Ellesmore).

Outgoing Ladies Captain, Carol Sorrell, says that she is over the moon with the results that the club has received this year, that it is even better to see new members joining the club, and is excited to see what the next season has in store for the Ladies.

If you are interested in joining Pershore Bowling Club, then please visit our website, www.pershorebowlingclub.co.uk to find out more information about training and taster sessions.

Thoughts from the Snug . . .

Birthdays and knowing

Birthday celebrations in the Snug inevitably provoke discussion on age and, reflecting upon the event can produce some useful observation and advice. George Carlin (American comic, author and philosopher) provides the following: When you're young, you know you don't know, but you don't know you don't know. So you take chances - because you are a risk taker. In your 20s and 30s you know you don't know, and you know you don't know, so that freezes you- less risk taking. In your 40s you know, but you don't know you know you know, so that still makes you a little cautious and tentative. But then, as you pass 50, if you have been paying attention, you know, and you know you know! Time to have fun!

Driving

The new (revised) Highway Code became a topic of discussion after questions at the pub quiz did not elicit 100% of correct responses from our team. The general consensus was this new edition of the code is unlikely to become a best seller. In discussing the short comings of this revision members of the Snug think the Department of Transport fails to address such issues as: Perhaps the policy should not be to reduce the speed of the motorist, but to increase the speed of pedestrians and cyclists.

Should electric car drivers be forced to play their radios loudly so you can hear them coming.

Support for Third Age Touch's UK ambition



Nigel Huddleston (centre) plays Third Age Touch with Pershore 3AT players and (L-R) David James, Cllr Richard Grantham, Chris Simon and Bill Hurley.

Mid Worcestershire MP, Nigel Huddleston had a taste of Pershore Rugby's unique 'Third Age Touch' when he, Cllr Richard Grantham, the Deputy Mayor of Pershore and England Touch Association executives, including CEO, Chris Simon, played in a friendly, non-contact Touch match with Pershore 3AT players, the eldest of whom was 82.

It was all to spread the word, that retired folk, women as well as men, and those with limited fitness can enjoy many benefits of playing the adapted, running (not walking) version of Touch that Pershore Rugby has developed.

Nigel Huddleston confirmed that he will happily help Pershore Rugby and the ETA to roll out the game across the county and the UK, and he will get his successor in the department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport involved. "Sport is very good for physical and mental health," he said. "And I am all in favour of Touch for all the fun and camaraderie that it provides. I am a sports fan and nut and it is great to see this version of Touch for retired people taking hold in Worcestershire, where rugby is very popular. I can see that it has tremendous potential to spread across the rest of the UK."

Chris Simon, ETA CEO said: "The work that the team here at Pershore have done is tremendous and the ETA is delighted to be involved, supporting the Third Age Touch initiative, and we look forward to doing that with DCMS' help and any other interested parties. We're working to expand the initiative to other rugby and

non-rugby clubs, so that, through Touch, as at Pershore, former rugby players can keep playing much longer and new players, who have never picked up an oval ball before, can do so for the first time.

Importantly, they can all play together, regardless of age, gender, or ability."

Bill Hurley, 82, Chair of Pershore Rugby and a 3AT player said, "Many retired folk don't realise that all the benefits of running and playing a team sport are still open to them. Even if they have significant physical challenges, the version of Touch that we've developed means they can run at their own pace, pass a ball and have a lot of fun with others out in the fresh air. The social benefits of 3AT are tremendous too, helping combat loneliness and social isolation. We are hoping that with the ETA, Nigel Huddleston and the Mayor of Pershore's office on our side, 3AT will catch on in a big way!"

Already, since 3AT started at Pershore Rugby last September, 18 men and women now enjoy training and playing together at the club's Piddle Park grounds every Wednesday at 11am for an hour.

David James, 78, who is the founder of 3AT at Pershore said: "Anyone, whether new or experienced, is welcome to come along. Whatever your age, Pershore's the place now to play non-contact Touch. There is a tremendous atmosphere amongst the players - we all enjoy a run-around together and have a coffee in the clubhouse afterwards. The first three tasters are free, after which it is £3.00 a month."

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Women's contact returns to Pershore after 20 years



Back row L-R - Andy Walters (Coach), Kiri Gallagher, Heather Pullin, Jess Mason, Donna Trendall, Kerri Shone, Claire Hodges, Rose Willmott, Paula Carey, Vicia Hauser, Gav Roberts (Coach) and Molly Smith (Manager)
Front row L-R - Amy Rice, Rach Coughtrie, Izzy Walters, Nadia White, Sam Smedley, Karus Robinson, Evie Woodfield, and Olly Pike (Head coach)

After 20 years, without a 15-a-side Ladies' Rugby Union team, Sunday 23rd October saw the return to Pershore Rugby of competitive 'Ladies Contact,' when the Pershore

Phoenix, hosted Fairford Vixens on a glorious, sunny afternoon. From the kick-off it was clear that the hard work and commitment of many months

of training by the Pershore Phoenix was paying off. Captained by Nadia White, the side showed from the start that they meant business, and it wasn't obvious that the team had 13 rugby debuts playing. Keeping the ball for long periods of possession, carrying hard and with excellent support-play, the first try of the game for Pershore came from scrum-half Karus Robinson. A hard-fought game continued and a second try came for hooker Donna Trendall, to be converted by fly half, Evie Woodfield.

Fairford were not to be outdone and came back for a score to bring it to 12-5. Much support-play continued from Pershore, hard carries by the whole team and some well-placed kicks by the fly half brought Pershore into Fairford's 25. From a tap-

and-go penalty, second row Rose Willmott crashed over the line for her first try, which was successfully converted. Fairford came back for one last try for a final score of 19-10. Cheered on by a crowd from all sections of the club, as well as family and friends, and members of the original Ladies Contact team from 30 years ago, there was a great atmosphere at Piddle Park, and several women in the crowd say they have been inspired by the match to come and give Ladies XV Rugby Union a go. Ladies contact training is open to all new-comers at Pershore Rugby every Monday and Wednesday from 18:30-19:30. Men's XV training -Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting at 7pm; Touch for women and men - Wednesdays 7.30pm.

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