

Powick Times



A free monthly newspaper for Powick, Callow End and surrounding villages

Issue 5

August 2023

FREE



Has Summer been, gone or still to come? The weather has been even more unpredictable than usual. Let's hope we have a late Summer and a long Autumn. The weather in Europe has been very different with incredibly hot temperatures. We all hope it does not come here! Global warming, which has been a subject debated for years, is happening. Ice caps melting, flooding, the highest temperatures ever known causing forest fires all over the world; it is alarming. The suffering it has caused for so many people and the wildlife is catastrophic.

Our sympathy goes to them all. Many schemes to reduce green house gas are in operation and they are being increased all the time in the UK but some countries

are lagging behind regarding the use of fossilised fuel. We are again at the forefront and, in some ways, apparently leading the world in this battle. It is a very

difficult challenge and certainly not an easy one to solve. This all seems a long way from us here in Powick. We are so fortunate to be surrounded by gorgeous scenery and an abundance of wildlife. A wonderful place to live and work. We have a full paper and our team is recovering very well from their various setbacks. Thank you so much for your kind words, cards and emails, very much appreciated. Enjoy August, the summer must be just around the corner!

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The Reverend Gary Crellin

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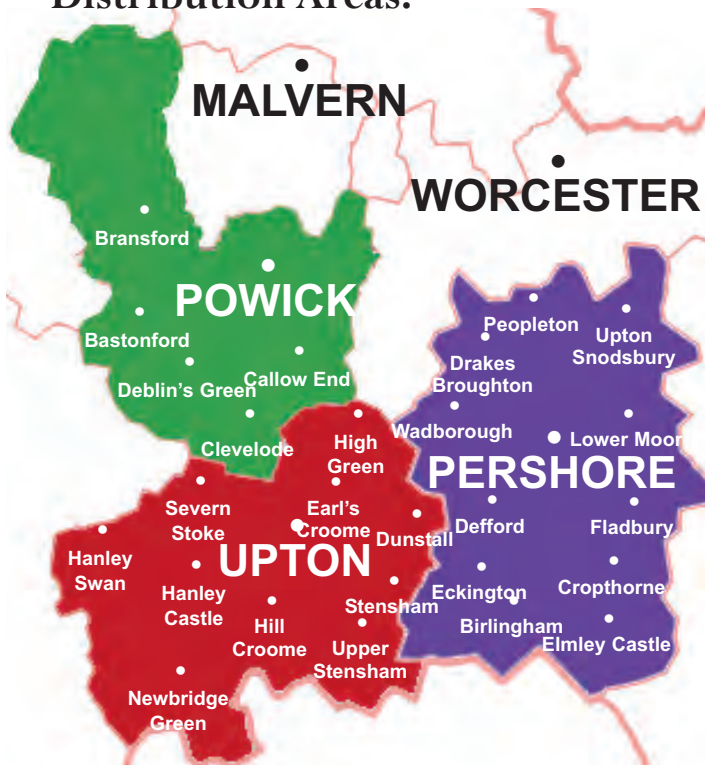
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Don't lose your vote –

Residents in Malvern Hills urged to check voter registration details

Malvern Hills residents are being urged to check their electoral registration details or risk losing their chance to vote on decisions that affect them. The annual canvass allows Malvern Hills District Council to keep the electoral register up to date, to identify who risks losing their voice at elections, and to encourage them to register before it's too late. Recent home movers in particular are urged to check their details. Electoral Commission research has found that recent home movers are less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time.

In Great Britain, 92% of those who have lived in their home for 16 years will be registered, compared with 36% of people who have lived at an address for less than a year. *Information on registering to vote is available on the Electoral Commission website, visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter* Residents with questions about their registration status can contact the Malvern Hills District Council Electoral Services Team on 01684 862200 or elections@malvernhillsgov.uk

Three Peaks in three days for six year olds



Worcester City six-year-olds, Ffion and Tiegian have their sights set firmly high this summer as they are set to take on the Three Peaks Challenge in just three days. Earlier this year the friends, who attend King's Worcester Prep Schools, set themselves the New Year's resolution to climb Pen y Fan, which they successfully achieved in April. Following on from this and inspired by recent school assemblies about charity Project Gambia, Tiegian (Year 1, King's St Alban's) and Ffion (Year 2, King's Hawford) set themselves the challenge to raise enough money to fund the building of a new classroom, £4,000 in total.

Supported by their parents, the girls will take on the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales over three days this summer. Scaling the heights of the three peaks of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, Snowdon they will cover an impressive ascent of 3,064 meters, 37km of walking, and 462 driving miles all to raise money for charity Project Gambia. Project Gambia has, since 2007, established a range of projects in schools, villages, and farms to provide education, support, and funding to enable people to find a sustainable solution to poverty. The King's Worcester, Foundation is one of the 30 local schools and community groups who support the work of Project Gambia. Bev Hodt from Project Gambia added, "This is an incredible challenge the girls are set to take on. A classroom will change education opportunities, and therefore futures, of not just the children of today, but for countless generations to come. We wish them all the best for their training and the forthcoming challenge too." Tom Butt, Headmaster of King's Hawford said, "Three mountains in three days is a lot for anyone - but especially for such little legs! We are so very proud of their determination, kindness, and generosity to support this wonderful charity."

Message from

Rev Gary Crellin



Be still, Be Present, turn off the Gmail (don't forget the Speedo's)

I remember, when I was a child, the school summer holidays seemed incredibly endless – amazingly, the days seemed to stretch out and to go on and on – a time of lazing around and enjoying not having particularly much to do. Now, as an adult, father and Vicar, with the schools closed for the summer after the fun and farewells associated with the end of the school year, the six week stretch will seem to just fly by and will be almost over as soon as it's begun. Thankfully the Deanery and Diocese slow down too over the summer. Perhaps they are enjoying a break too! However, I am fortunate in that I will be having some time off with my family and the chance to go on holiday and to get away from it all. These opportunities are really important – to be able to spend quality moments with Alison, Jessica and Issy (Harriet might come along too): for us all to be able to relax away from all the pressures of work and of school; and to be able to enjoy one another's company without the demands of work and study hanging over all the time. The weather may not be great but it's still a change of scene and routine. That said, we need to be back for A level results day... Whether we go away on holiday or simply enjoy time relaxing at home, it is important for our mental and physical health to have times of rest and relaxation. It is also, I believe, important for

our spiritual health as well. On a recent Deanery walk around Guarlford, we have talked a lot about the important of making time to be still and to reflect, and of making space for God and listening for God's voice. In the busyness of our daily lives, the still, small voice of God can often be drowned out; and it is often when we are on holiday or just enjoying a break from our daily routine, that God is finally able to get a word in edgeways and we can benefit from more time to pray and read the Bible and to focus on God's love and desire for us to experience life in all its fullness. During his earthly ministry, Jesus made it a priority to escape the demands of the crowds – even the demands of his own disciples – and sought out places of quiet where he could pray and be alone with God. The Gospels are full of verses describing Jesus doing this; and if he, the Son of God, needed opportunities for prayer and rest, how much more do we! So, whatever you are doing this Summer – whether you are going away or enjoying time at home or even giving thanks for the lack of emails from me; let us pray that each one of us will be able to find moments to be still, to be peaceful and to listen to God's voice of love speaking to us and surrounding us with kindness, mercy and grace. Every blessing - Gary

Community choir perform at Windsor Castle

On Saturday 22nd July 2023 Powick Community Choir was fortunate to be able to perform choral Evensong at St Georges Chapel, Windsor Castle. During the summer, when the Chapel choir is on school holidays, other choirs can apply to provide the music for services. After a lengthy application and approval process which started back in April 2022, we were delighted to be accepted to perform. A choir of 48 singers performed the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis composed by our own

Tom Wells, responses by Charles Pavey and our anthem, I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, again composed by Tom along with the Psalm of the day and a hymn. We took at least 50 family and friends to share this special event with us. It was very well received by both the congregation and Chapel staff, and we have already been invited to return. It was a magical day that we will remember for a very long time, despite the continual rain!

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A few words from... Harriett Baldwin MP



'Sadness' after College Court Ruling

Harriett Baldwin MP has expressed her sadness that the High Court has refused to enforce a covenant protecting continued teaching at the historic Malvern Hills College. Warwickshire College Group, which announced plans to close the college in 2020, took Malvern Hills District Council to court to challenge the legality of the covenant. The Group wants to sell the site without the covenant, meaning a housing developer could pull down the old college building and build houses in its place. Although a rescue bid was

pulled together to buy the site from Warwickshire College Group, negotiations stalled, and a deal could not be reached before the court hearing. Harriett commented: "The council expressed a clear view that it wished to protect teaching at Malvern Hills College, and at the last full council meeting, councillors also reinforced their unanimous support. My reading of the judgment is that the courts want to ignore the wishes of the democratically elected councillors and I would support the council if they chose to appeal this ruling. It brings me great sadness that it has come to this, where an educational body is willing and able to sue a council to profit from selling off one of our community assets. I understand that Warwickshire College Group's chief executive, who has led this asset-stripping exercise, will soon be moving on and I hope that wiser heads will prevail, even at this late stage, to allow a deal to be done to ensure teaching is returned to Malvern Hills College."

Harriett backs Midlands Rail Strategy

Harriett Baldwin MP has backed a strategy to deliver a faster, more frequent, more reliable service for county rail users and highlighted the potential for more ambition. Harriett met with Midlands Connect chief executive Maria Machancoses to talk about plans to deliver better services to and from Birmingham. The MP welcomed the plans but urged the transport authority to adopt a wider ambition to improve services for rail users travelling from Malvern and Pershore. Midlands Connect has published a plan which will see extra trains running between Birmingham and Hereford but Harriett asked them to enhance their planning to include

dualling of the North Cotswold Line towards Oxford and London. Harriett said: "I have always been a supporter of an improved rail service to allow more people to use public transport for their commuter and leisure journeys. It has long been an ambition of mine to see more dualling of the North Cotswold Line to allow faster, more frequent, more reliable services. I'm also eager to see more made of Pershore's station and to see the progression of plans to build a larger car park at the station. I've therefore asked Midlands Connect to widen its ambition and ensure that the needs of West Worcestershire commuters are further reflected in their strategy."

MP urges children to become Summer Bookworms

Harriett Baldwin MP urged local children to enjoy the summer holidays with a book and join a national initiative to encourage primary school pupils to read more.

The Summer Reading Challenge, which began on 14th July, is aimed at every child aged between four and 11 years encouraging them to read six books of their choice from their local library during the summer holidays. Children earn stickers along the way, and they will be given a certificate or medal when they complete the challenge. Each child can sign up for the challenge at their local library where they can borrow and read books, eBooks and audiobooks of their choice. Over 20 popular children's authors are supporting the campaign including children's

laureate Julia Donaldson and fellow award-winning writers Malorie Blackman, Charlie Higson, Anthony Horowitz, Michael Morpurgo, Michael Rosen and Jacqueline Wilson. Harriett said: "Reading is a fun activity, whether it is indoors or outdoors, and I was delighted to join MPs from all over the country helping to promote this important campaign. Reading during the summer is vital to help young people build their confidence and keep them engaged and mentally active during the summer break from school. I love reading books to my grandchildren and there are so many amazing books available. I hope that many local parents will encourage their children to sign up for this challenge at their local library."

Alcohol duty change

On 1 August 2023, the Alcohol Duty system will become much simpler, taxing all alcoholic drinks based on their alcohol by volume (ABV).

This replaces the current Alcohol Duty system, which consists of four separate taxes covering beer, cider, spirits, wine and made-wine. This will make the system fairer and responsive to new products entering the market as consumer tastes evolve. Small producers, including pubs and restaurants, will benefit from reduced rates on qualifying products, such as draught beer and cider. The new system reflects the government's commitment to tax simplification, helping to foster the right conditions for businesses to prosper and the economy to grow – one of the Prime Minister's five priorities.

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury Gareth Davies said: "Because we left the EU we can make sure our alcohol duty system works for us. From next month the whole system will be simpler – the duty will reflect the strength of the drink. "We will also protect pubs and brewers with our Brexit Pubs Guarantee keeping Draught Duty down, and a new Small Producer Relief." To support the hospitality

industry, and recognising the vital role played by pubs in our communities, there will also be a reduced rate for draught products – known as Draught Relief. This will reduce Alcohol Duty on qualifying beer and cider by 9.2%, and by 23% on qualifying wine-based, spirits-based and other fermented products, sold in on-trade premises such as pubs and restaurants.

The reforms will mean that every pint in every pub across the UK will pay less duty than their supermarket equivalent, in line with the government's Brexit Pubs Guarantee.

To support wine producers and importers in moving to the new method of calculating duty on their products, temporary arrangements will be in place for 18 months from 1 August 2023 until 1 February 2025.

To support innovation and responsible drinking, low strength drinks below 3.5% ABV will be charged at a new lower rate of duty. In making these changes, the government aims to encourage product innovation and ensure the Alcohol Duty system works for business and consumers.

More information on the new Alcohol Duty rates and reliefs can be found on GOV.UK.

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Thoughts from the Snug...

Giving advice

There is no shortage of advice between those who inhabit The Snug. It is generally the case that advice is well received and recipients are grateful. Wisdom is often delivered with the help of a proverb or perhaps even a cliché. The modern term is 'a meme', but there is nothing modern about these sage phrases. We were brought up on them and we passed them onto our children. This came to light when one of our group described, with some pride, how his son had sent him a Father's Day card that acknowledged, with gratitude, the maxims he had learned as a boy. As a father himself now he found them comforting and reassuring. Here are a few quoted a few from the card:

- You make your own luck.
- Feint hearts won no fair ladies

- Keep your powder dry
- To be loved you have to be loveable. Work on it!

There were other phrases and Snug members added their own well worn maxims and words of wisdom. Familiar as they were conversation ground to a halt when someone offered, "Experience is a comb which nature gives us when we are bald." Puzzlement all round.

"It must be Chinese." Said one.

"Baffles me," said another. "What could it mean? How can it be applied?"

Any explanations of this (or other examples of maxims to live by) will be gratefully received by the editor. In the meanwhile, "Don't worry, be happy"

Buddy Bach

Contact the Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Council

Ms Michelle Alexander, 'Guestwick', Suckley WR6 5EH
Tel: 01886 884195 or Mobile: 07841 862277
Email: clerk@powick-pc.org.uk
Website: www.powick-pc.org.uk

Chairman of the Parish Council

Andy Lamb, 9 Old Rectory Close, Powick WR2 4QU
Tel: 01905 830737 or Mobile: 07973 679774
Email: alamb@powick-pc.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held on the first Weds of each month, except during August when there is no meeting held. Planning Committee Meetings start at 7.00 pm
Parish Council meetings start at 7.30 pm

District and County Councillor

Tom Wells
Tel: 01905 831752 or Email: talwells@btinternet.com

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Women's Hour! Tea Time

Susan Catford



Drinking tea has been part of most of our lives probably since childhood. In the UK a staggering hundred million tea bags are used every day. This is based on the average consumption of four or five tea bags per person a day. That equates to 61 billion tea bags a year- a lot of cups of tea!! As children we drank tea all the time with meals. Our very kind father brought us tea each morning, possibly to make sure we got up. This was accompanied by a jug of 'pigeon's milk' – cold water which was added to the tea to make it the right temperature to drink. We didn't

have tea bags then, just a large earthenware pot with loose leaves and hot water (always adorned with a hand-knitted tea cosy). It was a trick to avoid getting a mouthful of tea leaves-ugh!!! We did enjoy 'reading' the tea leaves like fortune -tellers, looking for imaginary pictures in the bottom of our cups. It was the way it was. Households drank tea throughout the day and visitors expected to be offered a nice cup of tea. There was a variety of strengths from the pale and milky to the rich brown 'builders' tea. Tea is supposed to be good for you as

long as we don't add too many spoonfuls of sugar! It is a warmer in Winter, a refreshing drink in Summer and definitely required in times of crisis as a source of comfort. 'Put the kettle on' is a regular request to face life's many dramas. Our tea drinking habits haven't really changed much over the years. We still love our tea, especially accompanied by cakes, scones and lashings of strawberry jam and clotted cream. In fact, afternoon tea has become popular again, particularly for celebrating special events. Neat little sandwiches, a variety of mini cakes and the almost obligatory Prosecco, are presented on vintage floral China, much of which has been rescued from charity shops and given a new lease of life. Nevertheless, for most a mug of tea provides the most suitable vessel in terms of quantity and practicality. Despite the ever increasing range of alternative teas, black tea is still the most popular. Earl Grey tea is considered to be for the more discerning palate though, personally, I find it tastes like perfume! Having drunk ordinary tea for years, I graduated



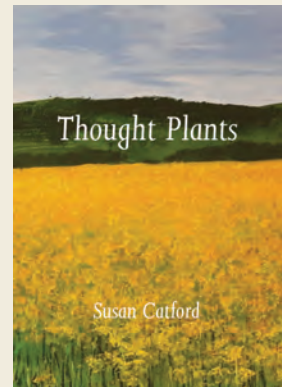
to black tea after following a particular diet. I used to think this was horrid and a good way to scald your mouth! From there I discovered lemon green tea and became converted. It is also worth noting that chilled cold tea is an excellent, non-alcoholic refreshing drink for the Summer. Apparently during Lockdown we drank even more tea, allegedly because it was a comforting drink. No doubt we will continue to consume gallons of tea in the years to come. A good old cuppa starts our day, sustains us in our workplace and can send us to bed relaxed and ready for sleep. Brought up on tea, we Britons are unlikely to change our habits anytime soon. There is however the question of G&T!!!

Tea Time

Time for a cuppa,
Time for a brew.
Put on the kettle,
We'll have tea for two.
A mug do you think you
If you need a big drink
Or a nice China cup
If you just want to sup.
Before we had bags
It was leaves and a pot
With a nice knitted cosy
To keep the tea hot.
But now we have choices
With black tea or green,
Some herbal, some fruity
And lots more between.
From lemon to rhubarb

There's such a good range
With some combinations
That might seem quite
strange.
Whatever the flavours,
Whatever we take,
It often is best
With a nice piece of cake.
So put on the kettle
And fill up your cup
It's time now for tea
And to put your feet up!

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.

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Country Watch

' If the 24 th August be fair and clear.

Then hope for a prosperous Autumn that year.'

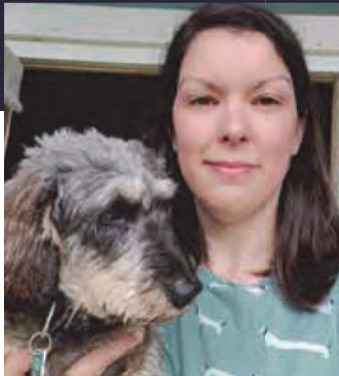
We may not have had our full quota of rain since St Swithins Day but the end of July has proved to be a disappointing start to the summer holidays. The sunny weather has deserted us temporarily but Nature carries on regardless. The crops are continuing to ripen, bearing heavy heads of grain. It is still early for hay-making but no doubt the combine harvesters will also be trundling out before long. It is an awesome thought that so much used to be done manually before the invention of these sophisticated machines.

The fields are full of tall grasses populated by a profusion of butterflies enjoying their brief life. The Common White has been joined by their more colourful friends busying themselves amongst the wild flowers. Look out for Marbled Whites, Holly Blues, Painted Ladies and, of

course, the beautiful Peacocks and Red Admirals.

In the meadows and woodlands you will see a variety of thistles, delicate harebells, Giant Campanula with its long stems and pink flowers, as well as the vivid red Lords and Ladies (also known as cuckoospit but we called them Ladies in Waiting as children). At this time the songbirds are mostly silent as they moult to replace feathers worn out by the demands of raising chicks! There is still plenty of activity above us though, with darting swallows, magpies, jackdaws, buzzards drifting on the thermals and, if you are lucky, the sight of beautiful kites gliding high above the fields and woodlands.

Nature seems to have pressed 'pause' as we wait hopefully for the summer sun to reappear but there is still much to be seen and enjoyed in the countryside.



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Parasite Control When Travelling Abroad

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

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

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

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

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

Best wishes *Eliza*

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Have a Plum Festival in your garden

Nikki Hollier



Nikki Hollier
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It's the annual Pershore Plum Festival in August, so join in and create a plum-coloured flower border or container garden at home. There are beautiful plum coloured flower choices for your garden in August, and here are some examples that you can enjoy in this month and into Autumn:

or 'Chat Noir'. Dahlias need a sunny spot and well-drained soil, and you can lift the tubers in autumn or protect them with mulch. If your dahlias get earwigs, get an upturned flowerpot, fill it with straw and place it on a stick (you might need to do several), and place throughout your borders. You can then release them back in to the wild.

summer. Purple-flowered salvias like Salvia 'Amistad' and 'Ostfriesland' look fantastic growing in a mixed border with other bright coloured flowers such as Cannas. Salvias prefer a sunny, well drained spot and you can cut them back after flowering to encourage new growth. They will need protecting from frost during the winter months – simply cut them back and apply a mulch over the top and they should start growing again in the spring.

Lilies are showy perennials that look great in pots or borders - but they also make fabulous and long-lasting cut flowers. Be aware that all parts of the plant are toxic to cats, so they're best avoided if you're a

cat owner. You can find lilies with plum-coloured flowers, such as 'Black Beauty' or 'Purple Eye'. Lilies need a sunny or partially shaded spot and moist but well-drained soil.



Zinnias are colourful, easy to grow annuals that combine beautifully with other 'hot' coloured plants such as sunflowers and rudbeckias, in borders and in pots. They also do well in a vase along with Cosmos. Choose plum-coloured flowers, such as 'Queen Red Lime' or 'Purple Prince'. Zinnias love a sunny, well drained spot and you can sow them directly in the ground in May or buy them in a pot ready-grown from your local garden centre. Salvias are attractive perennials with fragrant foliage, bearing masses of nectar-rich flowers in



Dahlias are a must for the summer border and make excellent, dramatic cut flowers. They come in a huge array of colours and shapes, including cactus types like 'Rev P Holian', which has spiky crimson blooms. You can also find dahlias with plum-coloured petals and yellow centres, such as 'Purple Flame'

August gardening tips Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester



Early in the Month

Keep dead-heading flowering plants and picking beans to maintain production. Liquid feed bedding plants in tubs and baskets but switch to high Nitrogen feed which stimulates new growth for flowering later. If carrot fly bothers you, grow the crop under garden fleece or insect barrier mesh for excellent control. Thin out overcrowded water lily foliage on ponds. Start preparing the soil for laying new lawns next month. Vine Weevils will be laying eggs in tubs and containers now. One sure remedy is to water the compost with Bug Clear Ultra Vine Weevil Killer which makes the compost vine weevil proof for two months. For natural control use nematodes or put a half inch deep layer of horticultural grit on the surface of the compost

to deter successful egg laying and larvae development.

Mid-month

Take cuttings from Geraniums, Fuchsias, Penstemons and other semi-hardy plants. Keep Azaleas, Camellias, Hydrangeas, Magnolias, Pieris, and Rhododendrons well watered to prevent bud drop later. Semi-ripe cuttings can be taken from a wide range of shrubs. Pot some strawberry runners into 18cm (7in) pots. Leave them outside until January then put them in the greenhouse for an early crop. Trim over lavender, Santolina (cotton lavender), Helichrysum (curry plant) lightly after flowering. Sow last outdoor carrots, lettuce, radish and spinach beet in the vegetable garden. Sow Japanese onion seeds soon or buy autumn planting onion sets next month.

Summer prune Wisteria – cut back all new growth to five leaves up from where it arises from main branch, unless it is required to extend the plant. Sow Browallia, Schizanthus and Calceolaria in the greenhouse for winter pot plants. Plant young strawberry runners for cropping next year. Take Hydrangea cuttings – they could make a flowering pot plant for next year. Try collecting some seed from your own garden plants – you could get a new variety. Take cuttings from heathers. Use 2.5 cm (1in) long shoot tips. Root in gritty compost. Look out for specially stored early seed potatoes, plant soon for new potatoes for Christmas dinner.

Later this Month

Spring flowering bulbs will be around now. Buy Colchicums, Madonna lilies and Autumn

flowering crocus soon. Gather up and dispose of diseased rose leaves as they fall. Prune rambler roses. Summer prune trained forms of fruit trees. Clean and check over greenhouse heaters. Pot up some herbs dug from the garden ready to bring indoors in October for winter use. Sow a final batch of parsley seed outdoors and some spring cabbage. Check over any bulbs e.g. tulips that you have in store to ensure that they are fit to re-plant.

Cooking for fun! *Ailsa Craddock*

When I was little, I used to go blackberry picking with my mum - and I, in turn, took my own children with my friends, Claire and Beryl, and their children. Our babies have got babies of their own now and we hope to all go picking again this week - trying to persuade little fingers to put as many of the berries they put in their mouths into their baskets! Our garden is partly an old orchard where the apple trees have fallen down (we have also planted new ones!) and become a secret hiding place for rabbits, squirrels and mice and the trunks homes for woodpeckers and robins. And over it all, has grown the most wonderful blackberry bush, its huge, thorny branches weighed down with all the glistening, purple gorgeousness of fruit! There are so many things you can do with blackberries - jams, cordials, puddings and savoury sauces - and, of course, you can just freeze them for later and eat every morning with porridge (me) and yogurt (the husband) for a dose of vitamin C throughout the winter. They are free, picking gets you out in the fresh air and it's a time to spend with friends, chatting away as you do, as we have done for years!

Overnight Blackberry Oats serves 1

- 1 cup fresh ripe blackberries
- 1/2 banana
- 200mls milk
- 1/2 teasp vanilla essence
- 1/2 cup of oats (I like the jumbo ones best)

Put the blackberries, banana, milk and vanilla in a blender and blend until completely smooth. Pour into a bowl or glass jar and stir in the oats. Cover the bowl or jar and place in the refrigerator overnight to allow the oats to soak and soften. In the morning add some fresh blackberries and the other half of the banana (sliced) on top (for those with a sweet tooth, add a drizzle of honey or maple syrup.



Blackberry Salad

- baby spinach/ watercress/ rocket leaves (or a mixture if you have it!)
- fresh blackberries
- crumbled gorgonzola or blue cheese
- walnut pieces (optional)
- citrus vinaigrette (recipe below)

Citrus Vinaigrette:

- 1/3 cup good-quality olive oil
- 1/4 cup freshly-squeezed orange, lemon, or lime juice
- 1 tsp. salt,
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

Whisk together all the vinaigrette ingredients. Toss the leaves and blackberries together with the vinaigrette and serve topped with crumbled cheese. It will look so beautiful with the light green leaves and purple blackberries, you will be loathe to eat it - but do!



Blackberry Fridge Jam (as the name implies, you keep this in the fridge once made. It has half the amount of sugar normally used so better for you. I put it into small jars so that I am opening and using quickly). Weigh however many blackberries you have and put in a bowl. Weigh out half that weight in preserving sugar and add to the bowl. Mash the fruit up slightly and leave aside for no less than an hour. Put into a saucepan (you can at this point add a tablespoon of cassis if you like/have), bring to the boil and stir a rolling boil for exactly 5 minutes. Allow to cool and put into sterilised jars.

Savoury sauce for pork/lamb/venison chops or medallions

- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 150ml beef stock
- 2 tbsp redcurrant jelly
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 85g fresh or frozen blackberries

Add the balsamic vinegar to the pan, then pour in the stock, redcurrant jelly and garlic. Stir over quite a high heat to blend everything together, then add the blackberries and carry on cooking until they soften.



Blackberry, Elderflower and Mint Fool

- 200g ripe blackberries
- 1 - 2 tbsp elderflower cordial
- 60g caster sugar
- a few fresh mint sprigs
- 150ml double cream
- 125ml full-fat Greek yogurt

Put the blackberries in a saucepan with the elderflower cordial, caster sugar and fresh mint sprigs. Set the pan over a medium heat and gently bubble the mixture for 10-15 minutes until the berries soften and release their juices, then reduce to a thick coulis. Remove from the heat and let it cool a little, then taste, adding more sugar or a dash more cordial if needed. Remove the mint sprigs. Allow the mixture to cool completely (it will become more like jam in consistency). Pour the double cream into a large bowl then, using an electric mixer, whisk to soft-medium peaks. Stir in the Greek yogurt, then fold in the cooled blackberry coulis, creating a swirled effect. Spoon the fool into a dish and serve straightaway, or cover and chill for up to 6 hours.

Jazz News

There will be no Pershore Jazz Club session in August because this month we hold our main event of the year. Pershore Jazz on a Summer's Day has replaced Pershore Jazz Festival which, because of a change in the business policy at Pershore College, can no longer be held on the College campus. To lose such a fabulous venue after thirteen amazing years was a huge disappointment to our loyal fans (the last time, in 2019, attracted an audience of 700), the musicians, who always looked forward so much to appearing at "the small festival with the big heart" and, of course, Pershore Jazz Committee who saw all the years of hard work and close collaboration with the College disappear almost overnight. Last year we began the new,

Peter Farrall

"on a Summer's Day" venture and were pleased to record a ninety nine percent capacity audience, including fans from all over the country most of whom had erstwhile attended the Festival. It was unanimously proclaimed a great success and prompted a desire for a similar event this year, and so we have produced Pershore Jazz on a Summer's Day 2023. A musical journey through time and place to visit four great cities with strong jazz connections. In New Orleans we meet jazz trumpet kings past and present, many of whom migrated to Chicago, host city to the 'Golden Age' of jazz. On to New York where material published in Tin Pan Alley was often performed in clubs along 52nd Street where the great Billie Holliday was defining

her career. In Europe where Paris has always been a jazz friendly city, we meet Django Reinhardt of Hot Club fame and many eminent visiting American musicians, some of whom even stayed to make a life in France.

Our journey ends back in New York for the sound of the fabulous Harlem big bands. Music and anecdotal commentary during our journey are provided live on stage by eighteen of Britain's foremost jazz musicians. We've had an enthusiastic response nationwide and can even welcome some of our fans from Tel Aviv this year. Just a few tickets remaining!



Saturday 12th August

Pershore Jazz on a Summer's Day

at Number 8 Community Arts Centre, High Street
2.00pm - 10.30pm. Interval 5.30 - 7.15pm

Day tickets, £50, available from Number 8 Box Office
tel: 01386 555488 or in person at the Box Office or
Online via Number 8 website: www.number8.org

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

Dubliners

Have you fastened your seatbelt? I certainly have – very tightly with minimal wiggle room. I haven't flown since before Covid, so I'm a little tingly in the legs. The engine thrums to life. Outside, the propellers under the wings spin into blurry discs. I swallow and look to you for reassurance, then – VROOM!

– We're off. I sink into my seat. The plane shoots upwards. The runway is running away. Through the porthole window, Birmingham is shrinking far below, disappearing under layers of pulled cotton wool. It's a sight we shouldn't be able to see, bipedal and wingless as I am – and I'm sure you are too, and it really is amazing. As the plane plateaus across a sea of cloud, I sit back and relax. We're becoming quite the seasoned travellers this year, fellow reader. At Easter, I took you to the Scottish highlands. Now, we're heading to Ireland.

As someone with varying degrees of interest in literature, travel and booze, Dublin felt like a good destination. Its skyline doesn't reach for the clouds as London's does, so walking through the streets often felt like walking through an amalgamation of Worcester, Bristol and Liverpool. The River Liffey is the pulsing artery at the city centre, but not

(as we were informed) the source of the water used in Guinness – that honour is bestowed on the Wicklow Mountains, whose mottled green backs could be seen from our hotel room, cresting the horizon to the south. Our first ritual of the day was to head down to the Temple Bar district, into a pub also called The Temple Bar, renowned for its hearty atmosphere, live music, and walletcripping pints. The pubs in the centre of Dublin are the kind of pubs where you leave and every penny you possess stays behind. It was worth it, however, to christen the occasion with a pint of the real stuff. Guinness truly is everywhere, not just in physical pint glasses – those can be found in their natural habitat, congregating on tables or ledges in various foamy states – but in adverts, signs, t-shirts, oven gloves! I even saw a pair of fluffy pint-shaped slippers. Our knowledge of Irish culture wasn't exceptionally nuanced, so we assumed the harp logo (the coat of arms for Ireland) was the Guinness logo. This meant, when we googled the Irish President's website or examined an Irish euro, only to see the harp of Ireland as their key symbol, we began to think that Guinness' influence ran far deeper than we had ever considered, that somehow they had a monopoly

on government and currency. That was a powerful drink. We visited the Guinness Storehouse on day two. The only time available was 9:45, so I had my earliest two and a half pints ever, before embarking on a journey around the city. From Phoenix Park – the largest city park in Europe – to Supermac's – where I ate the largest chicken pieces in my life – our adventure led us to Dublin Castle and Trinity College, to St. Stephen's Green and the Ha'penny Bridge, before finishing with a much-appreciated iced cappuccino in Caffè Nero on O'Connell Street. If I went again, I would wait until I was at least twenty-one, as (although the legal drinking age in Ireland is eighteen) many bars refused us in the hopes of nurturing a warm, cheery, more adult environment. Day three led us further afield. We took a train from Dublin Connolly and travelled to Northern Ireland, arriving for a whistle-stop tour of Belfast. The familiar traffic light system assured us we were back in the UK. In Ireland, they have an orange man, acting as a ticking clock for anyone still crossing; instead of the deafening beep-beep-beep-beep that heralds our green man, the Irish green man makes a ssszoomm! sound, like you're in a Star Wars



film or a Laser Quest. The bulk of our visit was spent in the Titanic Museum, which was very impressive, if not a little puzzling; it tries to be a fun day out for kids, while memorialising thousands, celebrating Belfast engineering, and appealing to fans of the movie. Seeing Titanic teddy bears and Christmas decorations was a bit strange, but I suppose they have to keep generating interest in the place. Besides the docks, Belfast didn't feel as much like a capital city. However, if you're ever in the vicinity of BFC (Belfast Fried Chicken) on Bridge Street, I highly recommend. Returning to Birmingham, the weather back at home was actually better than the weather we left behind. Then again, the deep greens and blanketing mists seem a part of Ireland's charm, and indeed I was charmed by its pints, sights and Friday nights, with the promise of more to explore. Here's to being twenty-one!

Teenage Focus *Romy Kemp (18)*

Summer Holidays:

The Summer holidays have finally begun for all students, which I'm sure is a relief to many. Having already had around a month off after A-Levels, before many other year groups, there has been time to de-stress and unwind. A lot can be done in a month, and personally I haven't had a single day of full rest because I've been so busy. I have already been on holiday with my best friend to Cornwall and stayed in a lovely airbnb. The weather was fabulous for most of the days we were there, however there was one dreadful day of heavy rain and wild wind. Unfortunately for me, my raincoat had a hole in one arm, needless to say I was drenched. We did shop a lot whilst we were there, from the touristy shops to charity shops and got some great deals (especially in the charity shops - sometimes you just can't beat them).

From full days out with friends, to shopping with family, and everything in between, it has been an enjoyable summer so far. Even despite the bewildering weather we have had recently, it is important to recognise the international global warming that is happening right now - for example, the heatwave that is sweeping the South of Europe as well as the wildfires at the minute. All the evacuations from certain tourist destinations have rung alarms across the country as well as the airlines. People travelling and residents alike have all been affected in these places and should be given as much help as possible. However, it is the surrounding wildlife that must be helped as well. Their habitats are being destroyed and don't have much chance of being evacuated, they just have to hope that they can outrun the fire, it's terribly upsetting.

To end this article on a good note, the Blues Festival in Upton has recently finished and the atmosphere was as bubbly as usual. I did not stay for long this year due to the weather on the Saturday being quite drizzly. However I have heard from the rest of my family who went again on the Sunday, that it was even better. The festivals that take place in Upton have always been a brilliant environment to offer opportunities for smaller



businesses, through stalls, as well as create a positive community. This is clearly shown every year, despite the weather.



Holidays and holiday pay

Carol Draper

As we are entering the summer holiday season, I thought it would be useful to review entitlement to holiday and holiday pay. If you are an employee or a worker, even if you are an agency worker or on a zero hours contract, you are entitled to paid holiday.

As a legal minimum you are entitled to 5.6 weeks paid holiday per year, which is known as your statutory holiday entitlement. Your employer may give you more than your statutory entitlement with any extra days being known as contractual holiday. Bank holidays are not in addition to your statutory entitlement and your employer can ask that you take bank holidays as part of your paid holiday. Your employment terms will detail the number of days holiday you are entitled to and whether bank holidays are included in that number or are in addition.

For employees who work the same number of days each week statutory holiday entitlement works out as follows:

<i>Days Worked</i>	<i>Paid Holiday Entitlement per year</i>
5	28
4	22.4
3	16.8
2	11.2
1	5.6

It is more difficult to calculate your entitlement if you work



irregular hours or days although you can use the Holiday Entitlement calculator on www.gov.uk. The holiday leave year may not be the same as a calendar year and your employment terms should detail when the leave year begins and ends. If you start or leave employment part way through a leave year your holiday entitlement will depend on how much you have worked during that year. If you leave part way through a year and have not used all your holiday entitlement, you should be paid for it when you leave. Employers must ensure workers use all their statutory entitlement in a year unless they have been on long term sick or maternity leave. An employer is not entitled to pay workers in lieu of holiday. If this happens the holiday will accrue anyway, and employees will be entitled to be paid for holidays not taken when they leave an employment.

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

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

Albert Einstein

Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co

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A trip to the seaside

Angela Johns



What a relief when I get in the car and shut the door. The wind noise instantly falls and the constant buffering ceases. I don't realise the muscles in my face are bunched around my eyes until I can finally relax them. The car feels very contained, almost claustrophobic. My subtler senses are turned up, retuned and sensitised as the relative silence roars in my ears instead and a quiet voice will suffice. I can work out how badly I want a sweet hot chocolate or whether flask tea will do until we get to the fish and chip shop. This is the story of many a trip to the British seaside when the sun is out but the chilly wind steals any warmth as it whips around me and gives me goosebumps. When the kids were small they seemed to be immune to it, with their sense of fun and excitement eclipsing the effects of the chill. Impending adulthood is now tipping the balance the other way with judgements of too hot or too cold. Their exploration of self-discovery seems to make them hyper-aware of the physicality of their environment. And British weather gives them a wealth of variety in which to do it.

Last month I was lucky enough to spend a few sizzling days in Spain with my partner, no offspring. Wandering around beautiful Palma it was often too hot to hold hands. The absence of this unspoken act of togetherness needed to be replaced with other indications of intimacy: a word, gesture or facial expression. A little extra effort. We were on holiday, relaxed and momentarily carefree, so it was easy.

Other occasions in life are not so straightforward. We may not even realise to what extent we are uncomfortable, or how much physical or emotional pain we are in. Some aspects of our various relationships with friends, family or partners are withdrawn in order to conserve our energy or because we cannot handle someone else's pain too. It can be difficult enough to work out our own feelings let alone communicate these to another. Sometimes we might need to metaphorically 'get in the car out the wind', so you can hear yourself think and work out what you need. What to choose in how to do this is individual, but choose. It'll be worth it.

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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Gardeners elbow??

Karen Harris

Elbows! Funny things aren't they, although not so when you bang them!

The elbow is just the junction of the humerus (upper arm bone) and radius and ulna, (lower arm bones) and its the ulna nerve that sits on top of the bone that takes the brunt of any knocks. Because there isn't much in the way of padding, the signals of shock up and down the arm are sufficient to make some people pass out. It's the primary nerve in the arm, coming from the spine through the neck and snaking down the arm. It is responsible for transmitting information from some of the finger tips to the brain and back down again, as well as control some movement in the hand.

I always try and write from experience, or from conditions/ailments that are common in people who come for alignment. However it's me that's had the elbow issue! To add to the usual list of 'Tennis' and 'Golfers' I am adding 'Gardeners' elbow, symptoms include pain on the elbow and one side of the wrist, forearm tightness and overall discomfort when using the arm to lift or grip.

Apart from many other things, I had shovelled and moved 1.5 tons of topsoil and a load of gravel in a weekend, so there was a constant internal rotation



of my lower arm, under load and with a heavy spade. As my arm muscles were tiring my shoulder muscles were doing more work, which then affected the muscles down the side of my back and ribcage, and as time went on, my neck was getting cramp!

Should I put a brace on my arm? Rest it?

Get an injection into the joint? Do some elbow exercises?

Hmmmm.....no, most definitely not!

As we should know by now, the site of the pain is rarely the site of the problem. It would be easy to think I'd damaged tendons (It felt like it), the bony bit - that isn't a 'funny' bone at all - felt bruised even though I hadn't hit it; but as you have just read, that was the ulna nerve letting me know something wasn't quite right. Did I fix it?

Yes, of course, with the Posture Alignment exercises I give to everyone else. My shoulder had rotated, pulling the shoulder blade with it, the humerus was rotated in the shoulder making my bicep tight, my neck and back muscles were just about coping with the rotation and all this tightness on the left side elevated my pelvis on the right! This is life though, isn't it? Niggly injuries that keep on happening, pains that you end up living with never quite getting sorted. People who come to me, to get themselves out of trouble, get to learn how the body works, because when you know how your musculoskeletal system is connected, chasing symptoms really makes no sense.

Believe

Emily Papirnik

If you allow yourself to believe in something, notice how there are no questions that need to be asked. No walls built or obstacles to get over.

I believe the sun will come up tomorrow, I trust it will.

I believe in life continuing, I have hope for the planet.

The seeds in nature find their way to grow into those trees, those fruits and vegetables, they need little help from us to get on with it. They have done this for millions of years. Imagine a world where you can believe in yourself.

Allow the belief, start small but this can be limitless. Feel an ease and let this ignite within you.

Allowing the belief will create possibility and opportunity. With Focus, determination and huge passion so much can be started.

With Trust, Love, Hope, Truth and Strength, all the components of belief let us try.

- Allowing belief increases momentum and growth.



- Allowing belief stops the distractions that stifle creativity.

- Allowing belief encourages a confidence that will ensure inspiration flows.

- Allowing belief enables an unencumbered slipstream in clarity

- Allowing belief means there are no questions, no stumbling blocks and no hurdles

- Allowing belief in yourself enables a momentum in creativity from a place of balance.

Allow that feeling of balance in every one of your cells. So it's up to you, to choose, to try, to believe.

Are you ready?



YES or NO?

Do you want to take control of your aches and pains?

Do you want to stop having to take pain killers?

Do you want the knowledge to be able to help yourself?

Do you want to feel how empowering that feels?

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

YES, of course!

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

Karen Harris, Posture Alignment Specialist, Fitness Trainer
07954 544595

Karen & Emily's

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This fabulous full day inc 4 master classes, lunch, refreshments and a full instruction pack cost £95

For bookings please email relax@intentiontherapy.co.uk or for more info call 07954 544595



Of kings and things



Arthur's Stone

Well, school's out, the weather's variable and there are long queues at ports and airports – welcome to the British summer! So I thought that perhaps we should look a little closer to home for our entertainment this August.....

Starting at Arthur's Stone, a stone age tomb overlooking the Golden Valley at Dorstone in Herefordshire. Allegedly it's where King Arthur killed a giant, certainly it's where King Charles the First stopped for a picnic back in 1645, when things were looking a little ropery for him. We visited there last month because archaeologists have been digging there and their resulting conclusion is that the site dates back nearly 6,000 years – making it even older than Stonehenge. Writing in the scientific journal 'Antiquity' two Professors – Keith Ray and Julian Thomas – say that radio carbon measurements from bones and carbonised plants found there show Arthur's Stone to be 'the earliest culturally Neolithic site in the west Midlands'. As an added bonus the site is free to visit – and if you're taking the kids why not then pop down the valley to Longtown Castle, a mediaeval round keep on the site of a Roman fort, which is also looked after by English Heritage and is also free to visit. But if you haven't got the kids, and you fancy a more grown-up experience then also in the environs of the Golden Valley you'll find Black Mountain Botanicals, who both roast their own coffee and distill their own gin, rum and liqueurs.

For details see www.blackmountainbotanicals.co.uk

Nearby you'll also find Gwatkin Cider with their brand new Red Cow Tavern beckoning at lunchtime. They're on the edge of Abbey Dore, so still in the Golden Valley and are hosting this month a Down on the Farm Festival from the 11th to the 13th. See www.gwatkin cider.co.uk A nice touch binding the two businesses is that Black Mountain Botanicals use Gwatkin's surplus cider apples as the base for their distilled spirits....

Apropos of King Arthur – who may, or may not, have existed – I happened to be in Siberia for work some years ago and had dinner with a Kazakh academic who spun me the tale that King Arthur was in fact from Kazakhstan. The tale as he told it was that a nomadic people, the Pannonians originally came from the vast steppes around there and moved slowly west as far as what is now Hungary. There they came into contact with the Roman Empire and – as they were all expert horsemen – they got hired by the Emperors as auxiliary cavalry. One of their bands duly got sent to help garrison Hadrian's Wall and their then leader – to ease communication with the Roman legions – took the name of Artorius, hence 'Arthur'. He told me that the DNA of some of the villagers on the western, Carlisle, end of the Wall is identical to the DNA of the people living in the east of his country, near Almaty. That's as maybe – it's certainly an interesting story but one fascinating thing he told me was definitely true. The original apple tree – from

Brian Johnson-Thomas

which all our orchards stem, came from the Tien Shan – the Celestial Mountains – which tower over Almaty and whose crest is the frontier with China. However, I know, I was talking about things to do back home....well, over in Stratford on Avon the Royal Shakespeare Company have put together a free programme at The Dell, on the banks of the Avon in Avonbank Gardens near Holy Trinity Church. Various amateur and semi professional theatre groups are performing most of Shakespeare's plays on Saturdays and Sundays all this month

Full details are available at www.rsc.org.uk/thedell

But I am particularly struck by a couple of them, such as the one advertised for noon on the 13th called 'The Shakespeare Jukebox' and performed by Crew of Patches the four actors say, "The rules are simple: call out the name of a Shakespearean play and we'll do it!" As they also say "37-ish plays. 4 actors. What could possibly go wrong?" Well, I for one, intend to be there to find out....

One venue where absolutely everything went well was the Longborough Festival Opera's production of Claudio Monteverdi's L'Orfeo. First performed in the Ducal Palace at Mantua on 24th February 1607 – so the same time frame that our Will Shakespeare was operating in – this modern performance was graced by the

same musical instruments playing the same music as the original thanks to the talented musicians who comprise La Serenissima, the accompanying orchestra. I was especially thrilled to hear the sackbuts played by Emily White and Hilary Belsey although the UK debut of Julien Segol as Plutone was also noteworthy. The season ends in the first week of this month with Purcell's 'The Fairy Queen' which was originally composed to fit between acts of Shakespeare's play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' to musically express the play's themes of nature, transformation, love and magic. As an Emerging Artists production it will showcase the stars of the future. Sung in English it was first produced in London at the Dorset Garden Theatre on 2nd May 1692. We'll be there for the opening night – try and join us ?

See www.lfo.org.uk for any remaining tickets.

Finally – he says, writing as the rain lashes down – I've just been told of an event at the NEC in Birmingham next month from September 22 to 24th. It's A Place In The Sun see www.aplaceinthesun.com and is billed as the perfect place to pop in and learn about buying a holiday home – or even a retirement place – in the sunshine of France or Spain. If this rain keeps up then I think that I'll likely be there.....



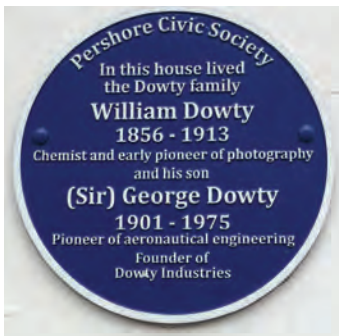
The Fairy Queen



L'Orfeo

Local hero - Sir George Dowty, Part I *Tim Hickson*

Many readers of the older generations will be familiar with the name Dowty from the engineering groups with factories on the edge of Cheltenham and between Cheltenham and Gloucester. However, how many knew that George Dowty was born and brought up in Pershore and is buried in Pershore Cemetery? I was surprised to learn that there is a blue plaque marking the site of his father's chemists shop as I had never noticed it. I wonder how many readers know where it is.*



William Dowty was born in 1856 and he and his wife, Laura, went on to have eight children of which the seventh was George, with a slightly younger twin, Edward, born in 1901. This was a time when the town was lit by gas lamps, water was pumped from wells and the only transport was horse-drawn or a bicycle. George's father was a pioneering photographer and used magnesium powder to produce a bright light for night photography. When the boy was eleven he was experimenting and lit the powder which exploded in the glass bottle and caused him to lose his right eye. However, he said he 'gradually became accustomed to the disability and that it never interfered with his sports'. The following year his father died from a stroke and the business was taken on by his eldest son. Young George found a friend in his sister's husband, Sidney Fell, a Worcester solicitor. This brother-in-law sparked young George's interest in Engineering by giving him a steam engine which he used to operate other toys that he constructed. In his autobiography, written in the early 1970s, he wrote, 'Nowadays a child's creative talents can be inhibited by the wealth of ready-made toys'. George also made and flew model aircraft, seeing his first real aircraft when Gustav Hamel in a primitive Bleriot monoplane (the aircraft that first crossed the English

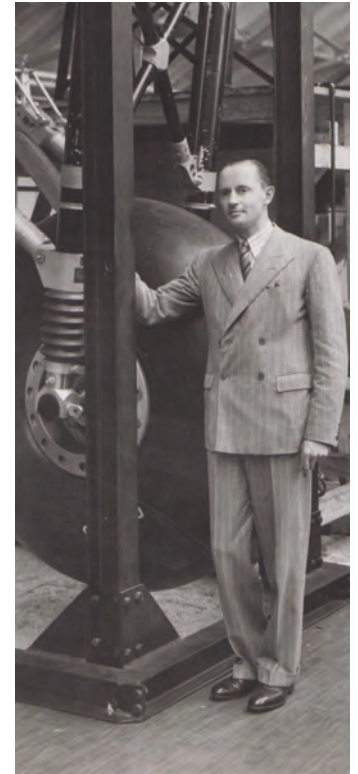
Channel) came to Pershore. After being at school in Pershore, he and his twin brother joined Worcester Royal Grammar School in 1913. That entailed a nearly three mile bicycle ride to the railway station, a train ride to Worcester followed by a two mile walk to the school. He did well at school but in August 1914 World War 1 started and when conscription was introduced he and his brother had to leave the school to help the eldest brother with their father's business. That was in the winter of 1915. After twelve months, the eldest brother felt he could cope alone so George, was free to join the engineering works of Heenan and Froude in Shrub Hill Road in Worcester. His day began at 6.30 and he worked for eight and a half hours except on Saturdays when he stopped at 12 noon. He said it was difficult getting up so early especially on winter mornings. He was paid six shillings a week which was roughly equivalent to £20 today. His first job was testing hydraulic hand pumps which, not surprisingly led on to a career specialising in hydraulics. He was the only boy in the factory and there was no apprentice scheme during the War. He took evening classes in mechanical engineering at the Victoria Institute in Foregate Street, paying his own fees, and took a postal course in the Internal Combustion Engine. After a few months he was transferred to the Inspection Department and then to the Drawing Office where he learnt to draw the hard way but it taught him how to put his ideas on paper. In 1918 he obtained a job as a draughtsman with the British Aerial Transport Company in London where he was paid 35 shillings a week and became self-supporting. 30 shillings paid for his lodgings, leaving 5 shillings for clothes, railway fares home and so on. Without money for entertainment, he taught himself calculus and studied and designed machines.

At work he had his first introduction to aircraft design and, particularly, to undercarriages which, later, became his life's work. When the War ended, the demand for aircraft fell and George had to find other work. However, he

was gaining experience and acquiring ideas as well as becoming an expert in hydraulics. So, when, aged 19 in 1920, he joined A. V. Roe's aircraft company, he was accepted as the undercarriage expert and designed these for an auto-gyro and a fixed-wing aircraft.



In the years that followed, George developed his designs for undercarriages to include shock absorbers and the novelty of brakes. During this time, his mother moved from Sansome Walk in Worcester to live in Ombersley which, of course, became George's base when in Worcestershire. He left A. V. Roe in 1924 and eventually joined the Gloucestershire Aircraft Company in Cheltenham. The aircraft were initially made on the same premises as a firm of Monumental Masons, an unusual combination. Later the design and engineering departments were moved to a country location at Brockworth Aerodrome.



He worked on many aircraft including the Gloster Gamecock, an aircraft used by Finland defending itself from an attack by Russia, a sea plane designed for racing, the Gloster IV and the Gauntlet, the last aircraft with an open cockpit to be used by the RAF.



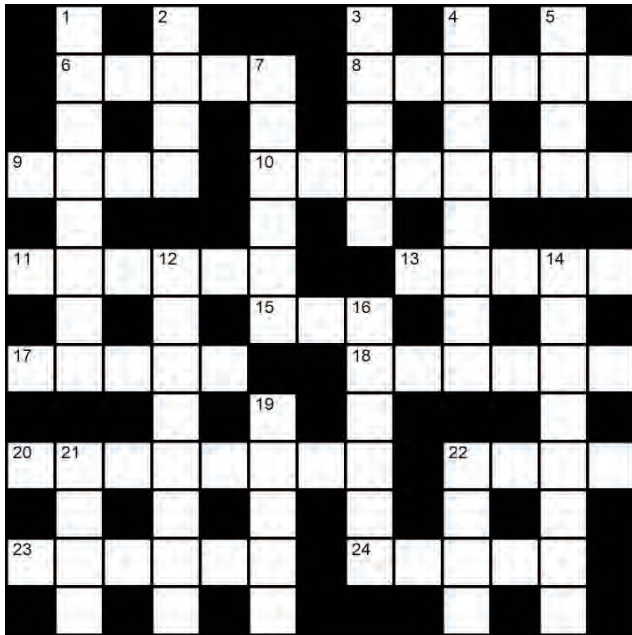
Gloster Gamecock



Gloster IV

Coffee Break

Crossword



Across

- 6 Type of male (5)
- 8 Scattered rubbish (6)
- 9 Inhabitant of e.g. Helsinki (4)
- 10 Insensitive (8)
- 11 Biased (6)
- 13 Morsels (5)
- 15 Exclamation of contempt (3)
- 17 Renown (5)
- 18 General escape (6)
- 20 Elongate (8)
- 22 Religious practice (4)
- 23 Seventh planet (6)
- 24 Proof of being elsewhere (5)

Down

- 1 Reasonable (8)
- 2 Atop (4)
- 3 Not in silence (5)
- 4 Short dagger (8)
- 5 Long fish (4)
- 7 Soak up (6)
- 12 Self-important (8)
- 14 Peak (8)
- 16 Rupture (6)
- 19 That group (5)
- 21 Lugs (4)
- 22 Restraint (4)

Sudoku

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

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

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

Crosswords

Sudoku

Wordsearches

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online for FREE



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Capitals Wordsearch

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

- ACCRA
- AMMAN
- ANKARA
- APIA
- BAMAKO
- BELGRADE
- CAIRO
- DOHA
- KABUL
- KIGALI
- LA PAZ
- LAGOS
- LIMA
- LUANDA
- MACAU
- MALE
- MAPUTO
- MONACO
- MUSCAT
- NOUMEA
- OSLO
- PRAGUE
- ROME
- ROSEAU
- SEOUL
- SUVA
- TAIPEI
- YAREN

July Answers

1	A	2	H	3	S	4	S	5	P	6	M					
7	R	O	O	S	T	8	E	M	9	B	R	A	C	E		
	G		M		R		L		E		I		S			
10	U	N	E	Q	U	A	L	11	V	I	R	U	S			
	M		B		C				E							
12	E	U	R	E	K	13	A	14	S	L	I	15	P	U	P	
	N		E		N		E				R		A			
17	T	A	W	D	18	R	Y	19	C	20	C	O	L	O	U	R
					E				P		P		A			
21	W	R	O	N	G	22	S	A	T	C	H	E	L			
	R		A		A		I		I		E		Y			
24	E	A	R	F	L	A	P	25	O	A	S	I	S			
	N		S				S		N		Y		E			

Poets' Corner

A Shropshire Lad

XIII

When I was one-and-twenty
I heard a wise man say,
"Give crowns and pounds and guineas
But not your heart away;
Give pearls away and rubies
But keep your fancy free."
But I was one-and-twenty,
No use to talk to me.

When I was one-and-twenty
I heard him say again,
"The heart out of the bosom
Was never given in vain;
'Tis paid with sighs a plenty
And sold for endless rue."
And I am two-and-twenty,
And oh, 'tis true, 'tis true.

XIV

There pass the careless people
That call their souls their own:
Here by the road I loiter,
How idle and alone.

Ah, past the plunge of plummet,
In seas I cannot sound,
My heart and soul and senses,
World without end, are drowned.

His folly has not fellow
Beneath the blue of day
That gives to man or woman
His heart and soul away.

There flowers no balm to sain him
From east of earth to west
That's lost for everlasting
The heart out of his breast.

Here by the labouring highway
With empty hands I stroll:
Sea-deep, till doomsday morning,
Lie lost my heart and soul.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

Spot & Shop - July Winners

- 1) Robert Edwards
- 2) Gill Hames
- 3) Adrian Lowe
- 4) Marc Western

Last month's answer:
Revills farmshop

Fun Quiz!



1. Which Bruno Mars' song begins with lyrics: 'Easy come, easy go, that's just how you live'?
2. Which band did Lionel Richie join in 1968?
3. Who released an album in 2008 called 'Fearless'?
4. Who sang 'Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me' with George Michael?
5. What year did Robert Palmer's 'Addicted to Love' reach number 1 in the US?
6. Which Bob Marley song includes the lyrics: 'But I didn't shoot no deputy'?
7. Which 2014 song was released by Austin Mahone and featured Pitbull?
8. Where did the pop group ABBA come from?
9. Which Kings of Leon song begins 'I've been roaming around'?
10. What song was released by Kenny Loggins in 1984 and also featured in a movie with the same title?
11. What year did Lady Gaga release her hit single 'Born This Way'?
12. Which pop duo did Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe form?
13. Which song by Savage Garden reached number 1 in the US in January 1998?
14. Who is lead singer of the rock band Aerosmith?
15. Which Elvis Presley song begins with the lyrics: 'When no one else can understand me'?
16. What is the opening line to Meghan Trainor's 'All About That Bass'?
17. Which female rapper features in Justin Bieber's 'Beauty and a Beat'?
18. Dinah, Camilla, Normani, Ally and Lauren make up which girl band?
19. What is the opening line to Ben E. King's 'Stand By Me'?
20. In 2004, Usher released one of the decade's best-selling albums worldwide, what was its title?

Answers: 1. Grenade 2. The Commodores 3. Taylor Swift 4. Elton John 5. 1986 6. I Shot the Sheriff 7. Mmm Yeah 8. Sweden 9. Use Somebody 10. Footloose 11. 2011 12. Pet Shop Boys 13. Truly Madly Deeply 14. Steven Tyler 15. The Wonder of You 16. Because you know I'm all about that bass 17. Nicki Minaj 18. Fifth Harmony 19. When the night has come 20. Confessions



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