

Pershore Times

A free monthly newspaper for Pershore and surrounding villages



Issue 70

April 2022

FREE



Spring Field, Pershore: Photography by Jayne Winter FRPS, www.jaynewinterphotography.co.uk

The Ukrainian war is dreadful. It is hard to believe that in one of the most sophisticated and civilised parts of the world, here in Europe, there is war, with fighting and the killing of innocent men, women and children. It feels as though we have gone back in time. We have to ask the question, 'How did this happen?' We will never find the answer other than because of a power mad leader!

The majority of Russians and Ukrainian people don't want war. They, like all of us everywhere, want a peaceful and fulfilling life. For a whole generation the Ukraine was overrun and ruled firstly by Hitler and his Nazi Army, and then by Stalin. When the Soviet Union collapsed they gained their independence and freedom. They are now fighting to keep it! They are supported by over 100 nations throughout the world. As a country we are opening our doors to Ukrainian refugees whose lives have been so cruelly torn apart. We hope that soon there will be a ceasefire and an end to

this unprovoked invasion and devastating war. It has got to stop! Easter is nearly with us and is a major event in the Christian Calendar. It feels particularly relevant this year when our thoughts are with those enduring the effects of the war in the Ukraine. The support shown by the British nation to the Ukrainian people is incredible; the amount of money raised, the thousands of families offering shelter, the vast number of events to raise money, clothing and food, in addition to the governments military and financial support and all in the name of freedom!

On a much happier note we have Spring, with the trees, hedgerows, bushes and flowers coming back to life after their winter rest. A wonderful time of the year when we can get into our gardens and enjoy nature at its best. We are also very fortunate as we are surrounded by beautiful scenery and fantastic wildlife. After two years of Covid, we all need the countryside, to enjoy the sunshine and recharge our batteries. It has been a long and winding road with much sadness and tragedy on the way; a hard and difficult time for everyone. The future holds uncertainty with many challenges. We have come through all sorts of difficulties in the past. Nothing on this earth will stop us finding our way and staying on top!



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Volunteer Centre meets its electric vehicle target



Colin Griffiths and Bob Armstrong presenting a cheque to Karon Swinburn, CEO & Colin Davidson, Chair of PDVC.

Here at the Pershore Volunteer Centre we are truly feeling the love and support from many local businesses in and around Pershore. Through the kind donations of many businesses, and individuals, we were able to reach our fundraising target and buy a brand-new wheelchair accessible vehicle! In fact, it is being delivered on 6th April. We are particularly grateful for the support of the Foresters Friendly Society in Pershore for pulling out all the stops to make

a generous donation in time to meet the Crowdfunding target. Thank you to all the businesses and individual's that helped make this a reality, because of the generosity of so many we will now be able to reach more people in our community that are unable get out and about. Pershore and District Volunteer Centre can continue to help strengthen the local community and ensure that play a full and active part in their community.

'Love letters' to Avon Meadows floodplain



During 2020 and 2021 contemporary art charity Meadow Arts commissioned four artists to create a series of projects that engaged with the community, reflected the seasons and captured the changing environmental conditions and biodiversity of Avon Meadows Community Wetlands and Local Nature Reserve in Pershore. The area was created after devastating floods in 2007, to help reduce the impact of future flooding in the area.

Nature and green spaces have been a source of solace for many over the last two years. The most recent flooding caused by Storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin have only highlighted the importance of our natural flood defences. The artworks, intended to be love letters to the meadows, will be showcased at Pershore Library this Spring.

The project was a partnership with the Floodplain Meadows Partnership, hosted by the Open University School of Environment, Earth and Ecosystem Sciences; Friends of Avon Meadows and Wychavon District Council.

About Meadow Arts Meadow Arts brings unique art projects to audiences in places with limited access to contemporary art, supporting artists by commissioning new work and creating inspiring events and exhibitions.

The organisation works with a variety of host locations, usually highly regarded heritage buildings, historic landscapes or public spaces. Meadow Arts' work creates new audiences for the arts by bringing high quality art to areas where few other opportunities exist, accompanied by vibrant education and engagement programmes.

Meadow Arts is a registered charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. It is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and receives funding from other Trusts and Foundations.

www.meadowarts.org

Twitter, Facebook & Instagram: @meadowarts

About Avon Meadows floodplain

After the devastating floods in 2007, the community wetland was created to help reduce the impact of any future floods that come from too much surface water. The project to create the wetlands was developed jointly by Pershore Town Council, Wychavon District Council and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Out of this partnership project the Friends of Avon Meadows were formed, a local community volunteer group who continue to support the management of Avon Meadows. Nestling on the bank of the River Avon, you can find the nature reserve only a five minute walk from the town centre, with one of the easiest access points being from King George's Field, just behind the Football Club. Parking is often only available during Spring and Summer, because the car park forms part of the flooding scheme for Pershore; it's often under water in Winter. Criss-crossed by footpaths and boardwalks, Avon Meadows is a wonderful place to get away from it all, relax and reconnect with nature, without having to travel far from home. <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/my-wychavon/avon-meadows>

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The concept offers exciting opportunities and we are developing more features which will be added over the coming weeks and months!

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Pershore Benefice
EASTER DAY
 April 17 2022



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

ALL WELCOME

JOIN US IN CHURCH OR ONLINE THIS EASTER

Facebook: @pershoreabbeycom YouTube: Pershore Abbey Community

Easter Message *from Claire Lording*



Despite all the progress we have made in the past couple of years, we continue to live in challenging and unprecedented times.

We find ourselves living in a world where war is raging once more in Europe. We have all watched in disbelief as Ukraine has faced the most terrible of attacks. Scenes of the devastation, the exodus of refugees and the senseless death of so many has been overwhelmingly difficult to watch.

It is understandable if we feel overwhelmed by everything that is happening, not knowing where it will all end. But we can be a people of hope. This month Christians all over the world will be celebrating Easter, that greatest of days when the awesome power of God is seen most perfectly in the

resurrection of Jesus from the dead. You can't get much more hopeless than your Son hanging on a cross, but it is from that moment that God is able to show that God's love for all of humanity cannot be stopped or held back by death or anything else that would seek to destroy us. We share that Easter love in the many acts of kindness which have happened since the war in Ukraine started; acts which are making a positive difference to the lives of so many. Easter is the moment in time when everything becomes possible. So let us hope and pray this Easter that peace, true peace, will come to all the world and that we will continue to reach out in love to all our sisters and brothers in need.

Claire

The Soviet Union was about prisons and gulags, borders and walls, violence against citizens and neighbours.

The European Union is about freedom and human rights, prosperity and peace, life without fear; it is about democracy and pluralism, a continent without internal borders and walls.

Donald Tusk, Ex President European Council

Pershore Benefice Easter 2022

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday 10 April

- 0800 Eucharist** (Pershore Abbey)
- 1000 Palm Sunday Procession on Abbey Park to Abbey.** Meet at St Andrew's Road/Abbey Road crossroads. Come and join us singing and drumming to the Abbey.
- 1030 Sung Eucharist** (Pershore Abbey) with **LIVESTREAM**
- 1030 Morning Praise** (St Mary's, Wick)
- 1700 Wholeness & Healing** (Pershore Abbey)

Monday in Holy Week 11 April

1900 Compline (Zoom) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation

Tuesday in Holy Week 12 April

1900 Stainer's Crucifixion performed by Pershore Abbey Choir (Pershore Abbey) **FREE ENTRY**
 This service presents a dramatic picture of the events leading up to the Crucifixion.

Wednesday in Holy Week 13 April

1900 Compline (Zoom) Please contact Claire vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk for the invitation

Maundy Thursday 14 April

2000 Eucharist of the Last Supper with **LIVESTREAM**, **Stripping of the Altars** with **LIVESTREAM** and the **Office of Tenebrae** with **pre-recorded service on YouTube** (Pershore Abbey)
 This service will be approximately one and three-quarter hours and will be followed by the Watch until Midnight. You are welcome to leave after the Office of Tenebrae.

Good Friday 15 April

- 1000-1415 TBC Children's Activities** (St Andrew's Centre)
 We hope to run this event in 2022 Full details to follow.
- 1015 TBC Walk of Witness to Chapman Court** followed by a short service at 1030
 We hope this event will take place in 2022. Full details to follow.
- 1500 Bredon Hill Service at the Folly** please contact the Bredon Group for details of this service on acbhteam@gmail.com
- 1400 Service of the Last Hour** with **LIVESTREAM**

Holy Saturday 16 April

1700 Evening Prayer with Short Easter Vigil (Pershore Abbey)
 This service will last approximately one hour.

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A few words from... Harriett Baldwin MP



Harriett Backs Rishi's Tax Cut Pledge

Harriett Baldwin MP has praised the plans set out by the Government to both support people through the cost of living crisis but also address the national debt and cut taxes. Chancellor Rishi Sunak has published a tax plan which will aim to reduce and reform taxes as well as reducing fuel duty, cutting national insurance for 30 million working and cutting business employment taxes to help small businesses and slashing VAT to help stimulate green growth plans. The plan delivers the biggest net cut to personal taxes in over a quarter of a century,

while also continuing to deal with the impact of war in Ukraine and the financial impact of the pandemic. Harriett said: "The Chancellor has had to do a difficult juggling act of facing up to some serious challenges with the impact of war and pandemic on the economic outlook. I welcome measures to help motorists and the lower paid who are already seeing the impact of rising fuel and energy costs on their household budgets. But at the same time, the Chancellor is staying true to the Conservative pledges to be fiscally responsible and committing to cut taxes. A penny off the standard rate of income tax will be a huge positive success for this Parliament. The doubling of the Household Support Fund will continue to help the most vulnerable in society at a time when the cost of living crisis threatens us all. It is a fund that the South Worcestershire Citizens Advice Bureau manages and I discussed it in detail when I met with them last month. I urge anyone who need to access support to get in touch with the team. I am proud that the Government can continue to offer support to those who need it most as well as helping small businesses – like those in hospitality – who will need continued support as we escape the clutches of the pandemic."

Historical grandeur in a garden - opening for the NGS since 1927!



Sunday 10th April 2022
10:30am - 5pm.
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Harriett drives into the future in hydrogen car

Harriett Baldwin has supported efforts to put the foot on the gas to find alternatives to petrol and diesel vehicles. Harriett took a test drive of a hydrogen-powered Hyundai and was briefed on plans by Cadent to prepare for the roll out a hydrogen network as a replacement for our reliance on natural gas and combustion engines. Cadent is already future-proofing its pipe network as the Government develops a hydrogen strategy for how to include central heating systems. Local boiler manufacturer Worcester Bosch is already developing a hydrogen heating system and hydrogen powered cars, buses and even refuse trucks are being developed. Harriett said: "We all know that the electricity network is much in demand so it is important that we look at valid alternatives, including hydrogen to heat our homes and businesses and for our commuter journeys. I've been a supporter of electric vehicles and having now tried a hydrogen-powered vehicle, I am similarly impressed. There are some very viable alternatives

available for those who want to move away from the traditional combustion engine. The use of hydrogen – and which type of the gas - is still the subject of some debate but I am grateful for Cadent to take the time to talk to us and take a drive in the hydrogen car. The mains replacement work we are doing is important from a safety perspective, but it is a crucial step to ensure our network is able to carry hydrogen to people's homes and business in the future, where it will be needed. As we await for a decision from Government on hydrogen's full role in helping us deliver net zero, it's important we continue to do what we can to future-proof our network now. We'll be investing £288m over the next five years to secure this greener future for Worcestershire's gas distribution network."

Elliott Nelson, director of West Midlands Network, from Cadent added: "We were hugely grateful to Harriett for taking the time to talk to us and take a drive in the hydrogen car. The mains replacement work we are doing is important from a safety perspective, but it is a crucial step to ensure our network is able to carry hydrogen to people's homes and business in the future, where it will be needed. As we await for a decision from Government on hydrogen's full role in helping us deliver net zero, it's important we continue to do what we can to future-proof our network now. We'll be investing £288m over the next five years to secure this greener future for Worcestershire's gas distribution network."

Calls for speeded-up response to A46 challenge

Harriett Baldwin MP has called for accelerated action to reduce the risk of dangerous accidents along the busy A46 between Evesham and Tewkesbury. National Highways, which is responsible for safety along the major road, has agreed to investigate the installation of a 'vehicle activated sign' to warn oncoming drivers about dangerous road junctions around Hinton on the Green and Sedgeberrow. Worcestershire County Councillor, Elizabeth Eyre and the county highways team have agreed that action needs to be carried out and the police and Safer Roads Partnership have been assessing the right approaches to reduce accidents along the A46. But the processes to investigate and install this sign is controlled by National Highways, and the process is expected to be lengthy so Harriett has called for an accelerated approach to fix this

important local concern. Harriett commented: "I've met with local councillors and even visited the local primary school to hear the clear message that we must do something to help drivers be aware of dangerous junctions along the A46. I've passed the message to the Department for Transport that this is an important issue to my constituents and I am reassured that both the Department and Worcestershire County Council support this ambition. What we now need to do is speed up the work to get a solution in place as soon as possible. This is a dangerous road and there have been a series of serious accidents recently. People are being killed and seriously injured along the A46 and I have been keen to share the message that a long delay actually doing something to prevent this is not acceptable to anybody."

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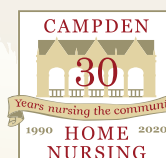
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Flying the Commonwealth Flag



Cllr Robert Raphael, Chairman of Wychavon District Council, with the Commonwealth Flag

The Commonwealth Flag has been raised by Wychavon as part of a ceremony of dedication to mark Commonwealth Day 2022. On Monday 14th March, the flag was raised outside the Civic Centre in Pershore joining more than 1,000 other Commonwealth Flags being flown in Commonwealth countries around the world. Commonwealth Day is an opportunity for individuals, communities and organisations to promote the values of peace, democracy and equality that the Commonwealth stands for. The theme this year is 'Delivering a Common Future' –

which highlights how the 54 member countries in the Commonwealth family are innovating, connecting and transforming, to help achieve goals like fighting climate change, promoting good governance and boosting trade. There is also a special focus this year on the role service plays in the lives of people and communities across the Commonwealth, in recognition of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Before the flag was raised, Cllr Robert Raphael, Chairman of Wychavon District Council, read out a special Commonwealth Affirmation. The statement reaffirmed the commitment of all Commonwealth member states to democracy, development, and respect for diversity. Cllr Robert Raphael, Chairman of Wychavon District Council, said: "I am pleased that once again we are supporting Commonwealth Day by raising the Commonwealth Flag. This day is an opportunity to promote the peace, democracy and equality that the flag represents and to strengthen the connection between Wychavon and the Commonwealth communities."

Visit www.thecommonwealth.org/commonwealth-day for more information.

Cash grants to help celebrate Jubilee

Parish and town councils across Wychavon will be given cash grants to help residents celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Wychavon is also scrapping its usual road closure fee for residents and groups holding Jubilee street parties. The nation will mark The Queen's 70 years of dedicated service from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022. Residents are being urged to come together with family, friends, and neighbours to mark the occasion. Wychavon is giving £15,000 to town and parish councils to support Jubilee celebrations. The money will be distributed according to the number of households eligible to pay Council Tax in each area. Town and parish councils can spend the money on supporting their own event or to support a community event in their parish. They can

also combine their grant with neighbouring parishes to help fund larger events. A short application form will need to be filled in before the grant is paid. Details are being sent directly to parish and town councils. Wychavon usually charges £95 for a single road closure order but any group planning a Jubilee event that needs a road closure, will be able to apply for free. Not all events require a road closure. *Advice on how to organise a street party, applying for a road closure, other ways to get involved in the Jubilee and available funding can be found at www.wychavon.gov.uk/jubilee. Anyone holding a Platinum Jubilee event can also fill in the form on the web page so Wychavon can help to promote them.*

Women's Fellowship on International Women's Day



A Brave Man:
The Town Cryer came to St Andrews Hall on 8th March, being International Women's Day. We had an interesting and knowledgeable talk regarding the history of a Town Cryer and how it originated. On February 8th, the members enjoyed a quiz with teams of four. All of us searching for knowledge we thought was lost. To recoup, Chris Parsons set the

quiz with music, dingbats, menus, and more. This was a really fun afternoon with lots of laughter. All looking forward to meeting him again.

Any one who would like to make new friends, and have a fun afternoon, the Fellowship meet at St Andrews Hall the second Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm

Support for the Ukraine



The UK has risen to support the plight of the Ukrainian refugees across many communities and through different ways. The Masons Arms in Wadborough is an example of this. A plea from landlady Lydia to support Tom Lawes to transport donations to the Ukraine border and bring back refugees met with an enthusiastic response. Villagers had already sent boxes of essential items earlier in the month. A singalong evening was quickly arranged with live music.

A raffle of donated prizes raised £437 on the night. This was followed by a silent auction which raised a further £414 plus €250 (provided by a local business man and friend, for Tom to use on his journey). Tom has now set off on his journey with the very best wishes of all in Wadborough. *If you wish to support Tom, go to: www.justgiving.com/crowdfundin/g/ukraineborderrun?utm_term=vJjNnJAzJ*

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Annual duck race returns



The annual duck race, in aid of Pershore Carnival returns on Sunday 17th April 2022 at King George's Field, behind Asda and Pershore Leisure Centre. Family fun is from 1.00pm includes bouncy castle, tombola, hook-a-duck and refreshments. First race will be at 2.00 pm. Tickets are now on sale at Baristas Coffee Shop, Broad Street and Pershore Town Hall and will also be sold in Chapman Court from 9.30am to 3.30pm on Saturdays 2nd, 9th and 16th of April 2022. Please support Pershore Carnival

Due to the changes to 2022 Bank Holidays, Pershore Carnival will be taking place earlier than usual this year.

The Carnival date is Monday 2nd May

(Early May Bank Holiday Monday). The theme for the Carnival Procession this year is "1952 - 2022: Inventions of the Last 70 Years". Individuals and local groups are invited to join the procession either on foot or on motorised floats. Winning entrants are presented with cups, and certificates are awarded to all who take part.

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Villages of Culture celebrate their achievements as reign ends

'New friendships and a legacy to be proud of' is the message from residents of Broughton Hackett, Churchill, Spetchley and White Ladies Aston as they reflect on their two-year reign as Wychavon Villages of Culture.

In January 2020, the four villages were awarded the title after a successful joint bid, receiving £5,000 to spend on a range of cultural and community-focused activities designed to bring people together and showcase the best of the district.

The introduction of coronavirus restrictions in March 2020 meant organisers were faced with some unexpected challenges requiring creative solutions.

But they continued undeterred and used online video-calling software to hold engaging workshops such as Christmas wreath making and Easter flower arranging, helping residents to discover new creative outlets during lockdown.

Because of the pandemic, Wychavon agreed to extend their award by 12 months, giving organisers time to do more as restrictions eased.

Among their many achievements was the creation of a booklet of local historical walks, the Big Art Show highlighting local talent, an archaeological dig, a Halloween pumpkin-carving trail and a weekend visit from the Worcester Re-enactors.

Long-lost traditions have also been revived including 'Beating the Bounds' and 'Wassailing' which it is hoped will become annual events as a lasting legacy from the project, as well as the spirit of community and co-operation it has encouraged to grow.

A competition to find the next Wychavon Village of Culture will be held in 2023.

More details about the competition, and how to enter, will be released later this year.

Fears grow over local bus service funding!

Last year HM government announced its highly publicised “Bus Back Better” campaign with a budget of around £3 billion promoted as new funding; totally separate from support for the bus industry during Covid restrictions.

Pershore Town Council and Vale Public Transport Group welcomed this new funding which was seen as vital to reverse the major service reductions in Worcestershire; the south of the county has been identified as suffering some of the worst cutbacks of any district in the country.

All Local Transport Authorities, (LTAs) including Worcestershire, were instructed to draw up Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs) and bid for a portion of this funding. The County Council produced a detailed 130 page report full of charts, plans and survey information which must have cost thousands of pounds to provide evidence to support their bid. Since this was published, we have heard nothing; we are concerned at reports that some of the “new money” may have instead been absorbed to maintain services during the pandemic. Funding seems channelled to metropolitan areas where public transport spending per person is already significantly higher than in rural areas which often have

greater needs around social isolation and health and wellbeing issues. Bus services linking local villages to Pershore, withdrawn at the start of the pandemic, have still not been restored. The large village of Fladbury remains effectively isolated and a long-established service from Pershore to Redditch serving villages north of Pershore has also recently been axed. Meanwhile the tremendous potential for improving bus links and interchange facilities at the local stations at Pershore and Evesham appears to have been totally ignored despite rail services being upgraded to hourly services in recent timetables and representations from this council and local transport groups. Major housing developments in the north of Pershore are extremely poorly served with the local PlumLine service – although reprieved – operates to a timetable over five years old.

If “Bus Back Better” or “Levelling Up” is to mean anything, it is vital that these local issues are addressed, and the County Council given adequate funding – and the ambition – to achieve much needed improvements to our local bus services.

*Mrs Ann Dobbins A.C.I.B.
Town Clerk*

Little Comberton village street market



*Please join us for our annual fête on:
Saturday 28th May 2022
2pm to 5pm*

A poem about the Little Comberton Village Street Market.

The village holds a street market in the month of May.
Everyone is hoping for a really lovely day.
The plans are all worked out, like a military exercise, but things can all go wrong, right before your very eyes.
A week before the day, it seems all is well.
Everything is arranged as far as they can tell.
But then the nerves kick in, and they begin to fear,
Will there be sufficient food, and sufficient beer!
Will the weather hold, for rain will spoil the day,
If we all blow hard, can we blow the clouds away.
Some villagers could help for as far as we're aware,
A few of them are full, with nothing but hot air!
The bunting all put up and the pitches all marked out,
But have they got it right, there really is some doubt.
The wind is getting up, will the bunting stay,
Or will they find next morning, it all has blown away.
But next morning all is well, and the sun is shining bright,
There'd been no need to worry, all through the flipping night.
The stalls are setting up, the Classic Cars are here,
The church exhibition's all set up, and so are the barrels of beer!

The crowds are turning up, they are given their entry docket,
We are rather hoping too, they have money in their pocket.
The cream teas are being served, they really look a treat,
It seems there's loads to drink and even more to eat.
But then disaster strikes, there is trouble in the loo,
It seems a queue was formed, just why, I wish I knew.
The ladies legs are crossed, as they are waiting at the doors,
It seems they're crossed much tighter than the elastic in their drawers!
But then from the loo, there comes a desperate shout,
For God sake someone help me, the toilet paper has run out.
So disaster is averted, the toilet paper is restocked,
And an embarrassed lady emerges, and once more the door unlocked.
At last the day is over, and the public now departs.
The helpers gather in the paddock and the evening laughter starts.
There's fish and chips etc. and plenty left to drink.
It seems the day has been successful, at least that's what they think.
They chat and drink the alcohol, they mop up all the food,
The atmosphere is great, they're in a smashing mood.
And before they all depart, and they've finished up the beer,
They make a promise they'll regret, to do it all again next year!

by David Parker.

Thoughts from the Snug...

*We welcomed a guest to the group.
In response to a welcoming enquiry, "How are you?" came the astonishing response, "I've got sciatica, I'm boarder-line diabetic, I've just had a cataract sorted. I can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine and I take a dozen different tablets each morning that make me feel nauseous, and occasionally dizzy. I have bouts of memory loss and my circulation is so poor I frequently can't feel my feet and hands, can't remember if I'm 75 or 85, but, thank god I've still got my driving licence." A 'capital attitude', we all thought. She's welcome to join us in the Snug any time!*

*To receive the
Pershore Times
by e-mail visit
www.pershoretimes.co.uk
enter your name and email address*

April Events at community run The Queen Elizabeth Inn



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

???

FISH & CHIP QUIZ NIGHT

???

Join our Quizmaster at 19.30 on **Tuesday 12th April**
£10 per head entry fee including Fish & Chips. Max 6 per team

EASTER SUNDAY

Special Lunch Menu and an Easter Gift on **Sunday 17th April**

ITALIAN FOOD NIGHT

Experience this Mediterranean cuisine on **Thursday 28th April**
One sitting at 19.30 – early booking recommended !

Booking advisable via www.elmleycastle.com or by calling **01386 710251**



We are a multiple award winning, community-run, 16th Century Inn. We aim to provide a sustainable 'heart' for Elmley Castle and the surrounding villages, and a friendly destination venue for visitors & tourists alike. Thank you for your support



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Latest information at www.elmleycastle.com or call us on **01386 710251**



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01386 710251
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www.elmleycastle.com

Flower Club News



On Wednesday, the 16th March, Lucy Ellis from a village near Salisbury Plain entertained the members of the Flower Club who had almost swum to Bishampton Village Hall after an extremely wet day. Lucy is a national competition examiner and a gold medal winner both at Chelsea and Malvern and we much enjoyed her humour and stories. It was good to have a laugh! She and her mother are opera fans and her designs were related to music and opera excerpts which she played for us after each beautiful arrangement. Her demonstration was entitled 'Opera goes to the Movies' and

she began with James Bond and the film 'Quantum of the Solace' for which she used a large silver-coloured container from Vietnam on which she started with three tall stems of white snapdragons, variegated begonia leaves, variegated acuba, heliobore leaves and a few sprigs of a rough conifer. She finished off with sprigs of contorted hazel which she had sprayed silver and complete with catkins and then Evered red roses and red Anthuriums. A matching smaller arrangement appeared from behind the curtain- see the photograph. The second design referred to

Daniel Craig in the film 'Knives out' for which she used another silver container with a ring of birch. To represent knives, Lucy used stems of Cotinus 'midwinter fire', leaves of Cotoneaster Strelitzia- she recommended keeping these leaves until they are dry and go into interesting shapes. The flowers were Celosia (pink brains), pale pink Gerbera with frayed petals- another tip Lucy passed on was to put a little bleach in the water when conditioning the flowers- and varied Anthuriums. Green heads of Anastasia chrysanthemums were placed at the base of the design. Next she brought out a red pot, looking very Chinese, into which she inserted a framework which Lucy had made using large kebab sticks bound with red wool and decorated with small fir cones. This was Lucy's foam-free design. She used stems of the Celosia again and more Anthuriums in varying shades of pink. She inserted small stems of Gloriosa into the test tubes which she had incorporated into the frame. The book 'Artemis Fowl', is connected to James Bond and for this next design she used a square box type container covered in sisal which had been whitewashed. The foliage which Lucy had already arranged on top of the box including folded Aspidistra leaves. Into this she inserted leaves of Arium Metallium Picton and then tall silver sticks, tall stems of Chinchinchee, stems of the miniature Gerbera called 'Kermit' and blooms of green Anastasia and green

Anthuriums. For her final design to reflect the film 'Out of Africa', she produced a dark brown wooden African pot into which she placed a couple of spathes from a palm tree and tall Strelitzia leaves. She added Leucadendron 'safari gold strike', stems of Heliconia otherwise known as false birds of paradise, stems of Leucadendron and a couple of spray chrysanthemums all in a beautiful terracotta colour. She added stems of a glorious coloured sandy rose, named after a valley in Tanzania and a few more Anthuriums. Lucy once again produced a second matching design to go with this last arrangement as we listened to music from the film. The whole evening was a delight from start to finish and the raffle prizewinners went off home thrilled with their arrangements. *Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 20th April when we shall welcome Lorena Dyer from Coventry whose demonstration is called 'Lipstick, Powder and Paint'. Please come and join us for more information ring 01386 550177*

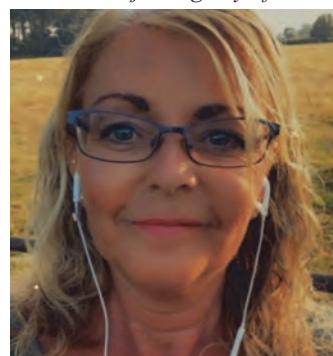


South Worcestershire Additional Needs Support - SWANS

About five years ago, Action For Children set up a support group for parents/carers of children with additional needs. It was originally based in Pershore and met once a month face to face. The group has subsequently evolved to cover the whole of South Worcestershire. During Covid, the group moved to virtual meetings and as soon as lockdown eased, they started meeting monthly at The Countryside Centre in Worcester. They still have monthly virtual meetings as well as the face to face and have also recently set up a Dads/Male Carers virtual group. There is also a Facebook

page (SWANS) which has become very popular. Having a child with additional needs can be extremely challenging and, at times, very isolating. The group provides support from other parents who understand exactly what you are experiencing and will never judge you. They often have guest speakers such as SENDIASS, Speech and Language and other professionals and sometimes offer training/support sessions. It is run by a member of Action for Children staff, Hollie Carver and a volunteer, Debbie Lamont. Between them and the parents, the group has a wealth of

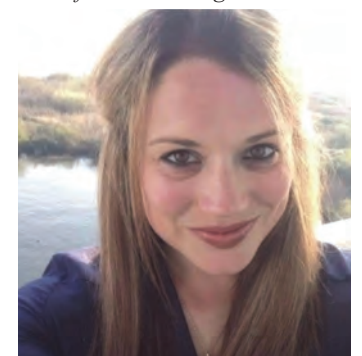
experience, helping parents navigate the SEN system and its various challenges. *Please feel free to contact Hollie or Debbie if you are interested in joining any of*



Debbie



their meetings or if you would like further information email: debbie.lamont@actionforchildren.org.uk or hollie.carver@actionforchildren.org.uk



Hollie

Ukraine refuge crisis



Ukraine Refugee Crisis Emergency Appeal

Donations to
www.pershorerotary.club/donate



Thanks to a wonderful response from the people of Pershore, our street collection on Saturday 5th March raised an amazing £2,483.88 for organisations supporting the Ukrainian refugees. Collections around the town were manned by Pershore Rotarians, Pershore Inner Wheel members and several volunteering friends. A huge thanks to all of them for supporting such a worthwhile cause and for standing out there on what was such a cold but rewarding day. With online donations and Gift Aid, the total funds received to date exceeds £4,000. Finding the right organisations to receive the money has not been easy due to the local circumstances and the large numbers of refugees crossing the borders.

However, we have sent £2,000 to ShelterBox, a Rotary Project Partner, and £1,000 to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), both of whom are on the ground in the area and helping to

support the refugees. The remainder of the money will be donated once all funds have been received.

We are grateful to Asda and Tesco in Pershore for allowing us to collect outside their stores, to Hughes & Co Printers for sponsoring posters and to Wychavon District Council's Regulatory Services for processing our street collection permit application in just 48 hours. Rotary members and The Rotary Foundation play a unique role in disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts. Working closely with our partner ShelterBox and other organizations that specialize in disaster relief, Rotary members lead projects to support every phase of a community's recovery.

To join us or for more information about Rotary in Pershore, contact Kit Carson secretary@pershorerotary.club or on 07747 117624

ROCK CHOIR
in Concert

30 APRIL 2022

Pershore Abbey

Doors open @ 7:00pm / Performance @ 7:30pm

Proceeds to St. Richard's Hospice

Tickets £15

Tickets available from www.pershorerotary.club
& Blue, 19 Broad Street, Pershore

In association with Pershore Rotary

'Rock choir in concert'

Join us in Pershore Abbey for an evening of songs and entertainment from our own Worcestershire Rock Choir on Saturday, 30th April 2022. This is a fundraising event organised by Pershore Rotary in support of St Richard's Hospice.

Tickets cost £15 plus booking fee visit: www.pershorerotary.club/events and from Blue, Broad Street, Pershore. Doors open at 7.00pm and the performance starts at 7.30pm.

Pershore's Jubilee Oak



An oak tree was ceremonially planted in the grounds of Pershore Abbey on Friday, 11th March 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The event, organised by Pershore Rotary, was part of a UK wide initiative to "Plant a tree for the Jubilee" and to create a lasting

legacy in honour of Her Majesty's long reign.

Pershore Rotary's President, Lucy Thornton, welcomed the guests including Richard Amphlett, High Sheriff of Worcestershire; Robert Raphael, CEO of Wychavon District Council and Julian Palfrey,

Pershore's Mayor. The Revd Claire Lording delivered a thoughtful and inspiring address and blessed the newly named Jubilee Oak.

President Lucy went on to thank Jane O'Connor and her team at Wychavon DC's Parks and Open Spaces Department for sourcing and planting the tree, Steven Cooper the town blacksmith, Browns Home Hardware, Hughes & Company Printers, The White Horse Hotel, members of Pershore Round Table and Robert Speight, Pershore's Town Crier. All had contributed to mark this special event.

With a potential life of 500 years, our Jubilee Oak will be a lasting reminder of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year and for many of those lucky to have been present, a chance to say, "I was there" to their children and grandchildren.

All present went on to enjoy light refreshments at the White Horse Hotel, courtesy of the owner Pio and members of Pershore Round Table.



Rotary

Jazz News *Peter Farrall*

A couple of months ago I spent a few minutes explaining to a member of the audience that the instrument on stage was not a xylophone but a vibraphone and then, of course, why vibes are so popular in some styles of jazz. Xylophone types of instrument, with a series of tuned wooden slats on a frame and struck with mallets have been around for centuries, in Asia and then Africa and eventually Europe. By the mid nineteenth century a standardised version began to appear in European classical orchestras as, for instance, in Saint-Saen's *Danse Macabre*. The beginning of the twentieth century saw a flurry of compositions featuring xylophone by the likes of Stravinsky, Bartok and Stockhausen and the instrument also found its way into the world of jazz, being particularly suited to ragtime styles and vaudeville presentation popular in the early nineteen hundreds. Meanwhile, the Leedy Manufacturing Company in the USA began developing a similar instrument but with tubular "organ pipe" type of resonators and butterfly discs driven by an electric motor to give a vibrato effect - the Vibraphone was born! Other companies began production under various alternative names, Vibraharp, Vibraceleste and such. By the nineteen twenties there had been many technical improvements and vibes were common in dance orchestras and smaller groups, popular because of their wide scope of effects from bright, ringing bells to subtle, intimate softness. Probably, the defining moment

for vibes in jazz came when drummer Lionel Hampton and Louis Armstrong during a 1930s recording session came across a set of vibes. Louis was intrigued by the sound and asked Hampton if he could play them. Sure, said Hamp (he already played Xylophone) so they featured the sound in "Memories of You." The dual careers of Vibraphone and Lionel Hampton were truly launched in the swing era and many musicians have since joined the ranks of celebrated "vibraphonists." We have our own British contingent of vibists past and present; Victor Feldman who subsequently moved to the USA, Tubby Hayes combining tenor sax and vibraphone talents, Anthony Kerr now teaching at the Royal College of Music and so many more including Roger Beaujolais who will be featured at the April session of Pershore Jazz Club with the Wendy Kirkland Quintet. A chance to experience Wendy's inimitable vocal and piano talent plus Roger's brilliant vibraphone technique all in one sophisticated package.

The Wendy Kirkland Quintet featuring Roger Beaujolais (vibes)
Wednesday, April 27th in the Function Room, Pershore Football Club.
Doors open at 7pm, music at 8pm
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



Amphitheatre takes shape



An exciting new outdoor performance space is taking shape in a small rural part of the district, thanks to support from Wychavon. Work on a modern 250-seat amphitheatre on the grounds of the Lenches Sports and Recreation Club is nearing completion. The design makes innovative use of the natural landscape, turning the gentle slope behind the club's tennis courts into a curved, terraced seating area. The existing pavilion will also be extended to include a dressing room, green room, costume area and storage facility. With a stunning view across the Severn Valley, and set against the backdrop of the Malvern, Abberley and Clent Hills, the venue opens up new opportunities for outdoor drama, dance, music and sporting performances.

The Lenches Sports and Recreation Club worked with South Lenches Parish Council to make their vision a reality, with

Wychavon backing the project with a £95,000 Community Legacy Grant in 2019. Part of the case for its construction was based around improving access to the arts in rural communities, with several groups, including the Greater Lenches Amateur Dramatic Society, endorsing the project and confirming their desire to perform there. The Cricket Club and other sports teams will also benefit from purpose-built seating for spectators and more secure storage space for machinery, kit and equipment. Construction of the amphitheatre started in March 2020. After dealing with some disruptions caused by bad weather and the pandemic, it should be finished and open to the public this summer. Wychavon's Community Legacy Grant scheme supports innovative, ambitious capital projects that meet local needs and will have a lasting benefit.

A Pershore man's memories of WW2

One day on another walk through a wood with Dad he told me he could take me to a place where trees weren't what they seemed: they were entrances to secret underground command posts in case we were overrun by the enemy. I couldn't think what to say. I thought it was a story and didn't question him: I wish I had. Later, when these things were revealed I learnt it was not a story. I went in two of these secret underground posts and wondered if dad had helped build those. He joined the army as a young lad and completed an apprenticeship in carpentry. He had finished his term in the army but was liable for immediate call up in case of war so he was among the first that were re-enlisted. He was a sapper in the Worcester Regiment and was trained in explosives and bomb disposal. He was with the army in France when the order

to retreat came. I think he was mainly employed in repairing bridges and later (at the retreat) blowing them up. He must have been among the last to reach Dunkirk because his group found only the fully loaded Lancaster and a few small craft left. They watched as the German bombers attacked the Lancaster and a direct hit went down the funnel. The ship sank leaving hundreds of bodies floating in the sea. They left and went to another port where they got away. After that Dad was away for long periods and Mum didn't know where he was. After the war he used to talk about the marquis and we had French coins to play with and other French items. When I started to learn French at school he would join in with a few French words so we realised he must have been over there.

Women's Hour!

Up, up and away – maybe?

Susan Catford



The e-mail has arrived! We have been invited to check in for our flight. There seem to be some hoops to jump through before we can actually have boarding passes but maybe we will really get away this time!

So by the time you are reading this, with a lot of luck, I hope to be lying by a pool catching up on a three year absence of sun, sea, blue skies and chilled wine. Sadly, there is more of me to tan than there was before but I will just have to drape myself in sarongs and hope no-one notices.

No 'itsy bitsy teeny weeny' bikini but neither will it be a 'tankini'; as I do not regard myself as tank-sized yet! I've checked the use-by dates on the sun creams and, yes, they have died. The first-aid kit also needs to be replenished as we have a history of medical mishaps. It has become necessary over the years to not only locate the nearest supermarket for gin, beers, wine and food etc. but also the pharmacist. In the past there have been many trips to the said facility due to a range of holiday

maladies ranging from stomach problems (normal), splinters (huge one in finger), ear infections (beware of swimming pools) and even once a back corset (don't ask!). So best to always be prepared.

Holidays are a great time to catch up on reading, relaxing, eating, drinking and listening to music. This is where multi-tasking takes on a new meaning. I can do all of these in a reclining position with minimum effort and maximum enjoyment. Although I do have a Kindle, I prefer to have 'real' books, even though hot temperatures have been known to reduce them to a random pile of pages. Holidays are my reading time and I can get through four or five books in a week. However, I face being embarrassed again if I don't manage to complete my book club novel, so that will be top of my list. Now we are allowed to socialise again, our book club convenes at the local pub where we discuss the current reading material briefly, then settle down to a good gossip with a glass of vino.

Even the prospect of the usual hanging about at the airport, desperately watching the departures board ready to sprint



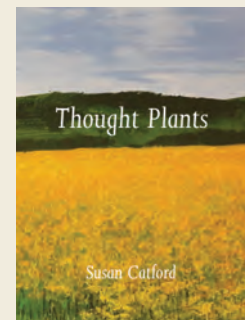
to the gate, seems undaunting now. It is hard to believe that this holiday might really happen after four cancelled efforts, so everything is crossed and we are good to go.

There just remains the problem still of excess baggage and I don't mean clothing wise! So I am turning my back on biscuits, reducing my calorie intake, swapping large glasses of wine for gin (only forty-five calories with slimline tonic!) and checking the scales in hope rather than expectation. If it doesn't happen, I will at least have tried. Sarongs don't take up much room together with the books, the sun cream and first-aid kit. The prospect of getting away fills me with a mixture of anticipation and anxiety. I never count chickens but if there is any wood near to hand, I am touching it!! We will have to wait and see what happens. Up, up and away – maybe!!

Spring

Where did the buds come from?
Have they been hiding away all winter
And only now, poked out their heads,
Inquiringly, to take stock?
They weren't here last week
But now, suddenly, they are all about us,
Crowning the tips of branches.
Some fat and furry, some delicate,
Some already beginning to unfurl.
And what about the blossom?
Its light, bright petals dust the bare branches,
Clouds of gentle colour,
illuminating and cheerful.
Daffodils too are in on the act,
Gathering in groups or even crowds,

Nodding to each other,
Showing off their spring frocks
Like Ladies' Day at the races.
Snowdrops still sprinkled shyly,
Pinpoints of white in shady woods.
And the crocus, with its purples and yellows,
Complements the new green growth of the grass.
The forsythia has been quietly, discreetly,
Pushing forward its yellow blooms
And now the garden glows with its golden branches.
Spring is coming
And we wait for it to unveil its full beauty.



120 pages A5 full colour illustrated by 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.

Available for £9.95

from: Hughes & Company 8 Church Street Pershore

Tel: 01386 803803

hughescompany@btconnect.com

susanatford@gmail.com

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Garden Watch



There is a definite feeling of Spring in the air today. We have had a few days of sunshine and blue skies but also a chilly breeze reminding us it is still early days. Nevertheless, there is some warmth in the sun and it is encouraging new growth.

The main theme for the garden at the moment is green and yellow. The grass- just newly cut -has a fresh look and the buds are increasing day by day. The box hedges have pale green new tips which contrast with the darker leaves underneath. There are daffodils – various large and small tête à tête- as well as the first tentative blooms on the forsythia and jolly yellow pansies in the pots. The sunshine brings out the bright colours of the garden.

The magnolia is magnificent!! From fat, fuzzy buds a week or so ago, then pretty pink petals emerging and now beautiful star-like flowers against the blue sky. Magnolias are spectacular plants and there are many varieties but all are beautiful.

The birds are busy building nests and courting! It is lovely to hear their songs, particularly one robin who performs wonderful solos for us. They are not always so welcome in the early morning when they squabble outside the window or tramp noisily across

the roof. On the whole though, they are still very welcome visitors to the garden and great fun to watch.

The warmer days are bringing out a few insects and there has been the odd noisy bumble bee bumping clumsily against the window. We probably won't see many until there are more flowers to attract the bees and butterflies.

The countryside beyond the garden is rarely quiet. Dogs bark, birds sing, hens cluck, tractors come and go, lawnmowers and hedge-trimmers buzz and soon we will hear lambs too! They are the sounds and signs that Winter is receding and the year is progressing. And the mole just keeps on digging!!!



Country file - Magpies



Magpies are large attractive birds but they are usually not regarded fondly. Most people are familiar with these black and white birds (scientific name *Pica pica*!). On closer inspection, its plumage has a purplish-blue iridescence and a green glossy tail which makes it quite beautiful.

Magpies are noisy, almost arrogant birds, chasing away and intimidating smaller birds. They often squabble noisily with their very distinctive chattering. They are common visitors in parks and gardens and can be seen throughout the countryside.

They are predators and will take eggs and nestlings which makes them unpopular but it is only part of their nature. Magpies mainly eat insects, caterpillars, fruits, berries and household scraps. Sometimes they eat

carrion and may prey on small mammals and birds, occasionally also on young rabbits.

The common magpie is one of the most intelligent birds. Their brain-to-body mass ratio is outmatched only by that of aquatic mammals and great apes. Some people regard magpies with superstition and would not want to see a single bird (one for sorrow!!) but, apparently, seeing twelve may be a sign of wealth to come! There is also a belief that you should salute magpies to ward off bad luck.

Collective nouns for magpies include a mischief, conventicle, congregation, charm and tribe. They are also sometimes referred to, like crows, as a murder.

It is untrue that magpies collect shiny things!!

One for sorrow, Two for joy,
Three for a girl, Four for a boy,
Five for silver, Six for gold,
Seven for a secret never to be told.

Gifts for Gardeners at Easter



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Cooking for fun!

Ailsa Craddock

Spring, with golden daffodils, tulips and bluebells is one of my favourite seasons – full of anticipation for a garden full of flowers and vegetables and the promise of hot summer days to come. April has Easter this year so I thought to give you an Easter Sunday lunch and what better to have but locally raised Spring Lamb, with a leek pate to start and a chocolate mouse to finish!

Ailsa's Cheese and Leek Pate -

1 leek
Large knob of butter
2 – 3 cloves of garlic, crushed
200g packet of cream cheese
Lots of freshly ground black pepper

Cut the leek up into thin slices - I cut down the middle and then slice. Melt a little butter in a pan with some salt and coarse pepper. Saute the leek and garlic very slowly until soft (keep an eye on it and move around the pan as you don't want it to burn). Put the cream cheese in a bowl, tip over the hot leek and blend with a stick blender until pate-like. Put into a small bowl or if you want to be super-posh in your serving, line a small tin with cling film and spoon it in - when set in the fridge you then tip it out and slice like a cake on a plate with salad and bread.

Roast Lamb with lemon, olives and spring vegetables -

Look for firm, slightly pink meat

with a velvety texture. As the meat ages it becomes darker in colour so avoid meat that has a brownish tinge.

230g pitted green olives, plus extra halved lengthwise, to serve
7-8 anchovy fillets in oil, drained

8 cloves peeled
60 ml lemon juice
125 ml extra virgin olive oil, plus 2 tbs extra
3/4 bunch flat-leaf parsley, plus extra chopped, to serve
2.5kg lamb leg, bone in
2 lemons, sliced into quarters width wise
375 ml beef or lamb stock (cube will do)

Capers, fried in butter till crisp
Spring vegetables of your choice

Preheat oven to 200°C. To make the olive paste, place the olives, anchovies, 6 peeled garlic, lemon juice and oil in a food processor with half of the parsley, stalks and all.

Pulse, scraping down the sides, until a rough paste is formed. Season to taste and set aside. Season the lamb leg all over. Slash through the skin and push in slices of the remaining garlic. Scatter the lemon in a large roasting pan, place the lamb on top and roast for 45 minutes. Remove from the oven and spread the olive paste all over the top of the lamb.

Roast for a further 30-40 minutes until cooked to your liking. Transfer lamb to a large

tray, cover with foil and keep warm until ready to serve. Meanwhile, to make the roasted garlic sauce, skim off almost all the lamb fat from the roasting pan, reserving pan juices. Taking care of the heat, squeeze out the roasted garlic from their skins (reserving 2 cloves) and the lemon into the pan juices. Strain through a fine sieve into a medium saucepan with the stock. Place over high heat and simmer for 8-10 minutes until reduced by one quarter. Season to taste and keep hot until ready to serve. Place the lamb on a serving dish and scatter with halved olives, crispy fried capers and extra parsley leaves. Serve with garlic sauce and new potatoes, mashed carrots and parsnips and some spring greens.



Mint and Wild Garlic Sauce -

Wild garlic is just coming in – look for vibrant green leaves and their wonderful smell!

A handful of mint, A handful of wild garlic, 2 shallots
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon sugar

Pick the mint leaves off their sprigs and finely chop them. Finely chop the wild garlic and slide both into a bowl. Peel and finely chop the shallots. Add the shallots to the bowl, along with 2 tbsp red wine vinegar and 1 tbsp sugar. Season with a good pinch of salt and pepper. Pour in 1 tbsp olive oil and 1 tbsp cold water. Stir well into a sauce, adding a further 1-2 tbsp water if you prefer a looser sauce. Set aside.

Chocolate Mousse -

This has to be the easiest chocolate mousse recipe EVER!

200 grams dark chocolate
1/2 pint single cream (if you've only got double use half cream and half milk)

2 egg yolks (put the white in a carton in the freezer - when you have enough you can make meringues or coconut biscuits)

Break up the chocolate into a bowl. Put the cream into a saucepan and bring to the boil for few seconds. Pour over the chocolate and stir till blended. Beat in the yolks and pour into 4 – 6 ramekins (depending on size and how many you are catering for). Put in the fridge to set and serve with some more grated chocolate and cream!



Changes to family law, new divorce procedures

New laws being brought in by the government which take effect on 6th April 2022 introduce a new 'no fault divorce'. It will be possible to apply for a divorce under the new law from 6th April via online or paper application. This is a major change to existing divorce law and means that in future under the new rules, a divorce will take a minimum of twenty-six weeks to complete. Importantly, it will not be necessary to attribute blame leading to the breakdown of the marriage and joint applications can be made.

The changes in legislation aim to reduce the potential for conflict amongst divorcing couples by: - removing the ability to make allegations about the conduct of a spouse

- allowing couples to end their marriage jointly
There will be a minimum period of twenty weeks between the start of proceedings and application for conditional order which aims to provide couples with a meaningful time of reflection and the chance to reconsider. Where divorce is inevitable, it is designed to enable couples to cooperate and plan for the future.

Separating couples will often need to consider a range of other issues such as their finances, possessions, housing and child maintenance/ access to children. Family mediation is often a cost effective way to reach agreements about these issues and you can contact a mediator via the Family Mediation Council.



Legal aid is potentially available for the cost of this.

However, child maintenance is not usually dealt with by the family court. The Child Maintenance Service (CMS) determines this. Couples are encouraged to reach their own agreements first and the child maintenance calculator on

GOV.UK can be used for guidance on the rules.

For more help and guidance please visit the Citizens Advice website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk or telephone the Worcestershire Advice Line freephone on 0808 278 7891

Containers to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee

Nikki Hollier - Border in a Box



Spring has arrived and it's time to think about our containers and what to plant for the coming season. Whether you have a small balcony or a sprawling country estate, containers can be a really useful way to add year-round colour and interest to your garden. Containers are great in that you can move them around the garden to fill empty gaps and create seasonal displays. Concrete or stone pots are more difficult to move but are sturdier. Plastic pots are less stable, but easier to move and there are plenty of stylish eco versions available now. One way around this is to place a plastic pot inside a stone pot to make it easy to interchange plants through the seasons. When creating the container use the mantra "Thriller, Filler and

Spiller". The thriller is the star of the container – the attention-grabbing, dominant eye-catcher. The fillers do exactly that, and fill the pot around the thriller, while the spillers are the trailing plants over the side of the pot. You can grow plants in just about any kind of container, as long as it's large enough to hold compost to suit the plants' needs, and it has drainage holes in the bottom. If you live on a windy site, consider the stability of the plant and the pot, particularly if you're growing something tall. It's easy to plant seasonal bedding plants, but there's plenty of choices in addition to a petunia. However, if you're planning a red, white and blue display to celebrate the jubilee, I can recommend Petunia 'Tidal Wave

Red Velour' (Spiller) along with Cosmos bipinnatus 'Dwarf Sensation White'; (filler) and a Buddleia davidii 'Buzz Indigo' (Thriller).

I love all white flowering planters which look great in zinc containers (metal containers can get hot when in full sun). Add in a few Phlox drummondii '21st Century White' F1. These can grow to around 30cm tall and look lovely with some trailing Helichrysum 'Goring Silver' and Osteospermum 'Akila White Purple Eye'. A white repeat flowering rose such as David Austin 'William and Catherine' would be an ideal 'thriller'. One last thing to bear in mind is watering. Container plants need watering more than those in the ground, so add water-retaining crystals to the compost and mulch the surface to minimise



Nikki Hollier

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evaporation. Smaller pots will need watering more often than larger ones, so choose the biggest pots you have to reduce the need to water during the Summer.

April gardening tips

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester

Early in the month

Sow annual climbers e.g. Asarina, Eecremocarpus, Cobaea, Ipomoea, Tropaeolum and Rhodochiton. Dead head daffodils and narcissi – feed them but DO NOT cut off the foliage. Keep an eye out for slugs and take steps to control them. Prune out any frost damaged shoots on less hardy shrubs such as Pittosporum. Plant summer flowering bulbs outdoors e.g. Gladioli and Nerine bowdenii, if you already have overcrowded clumps of Nerines in your garden, lift and divide them now. For trouble free roses, treat with Safer Gardens Rose Guard combined pest and disease treatment or Uncle Tom's Rose Tonic for an organic solution to rose diseases. Prune Forsythias and winter Jasmine after flowering. Finish dividing overcrowded herbaceous perennial plants. Plant summer flowering bulbs eg. Gladioli, Dahlias etc. Straggly silver foliage plants can be cut back now e.g. Saintolina. (but not down into old wood - that is risky). Lift and divide pond plants. This is also a good

time to introduce new plants too. Plant Asparagus crowns and Jerusalem artichokes. Divide overcrowded clumps of Nerines and Siberian Iris. Treat potted ornamental plants with Scotts Vine Weevil Killer, as it acts as both a control measure and an insurance policy. One treatment lasts 3 months. Organically place a half inch layer of horticultural grit on top of the compost to prevent successful egg laying. Cover some established strawberry plants with cloches to get an early crop. Plant new conifer hedges and trim established ones.

Mid April.

Tackle pernicious weeds, like bindweed, with a systemic weed killer containing glyphosate, it is best to use an "extra strong" version. Hardy annuals can still be sown in situ outdoors. Plant dormant dahlia tubers 10cm (4in) deep outdoors at the foot of support stakes. Undertake lawn renovations by repairing damaged edges and removing bumps and hollows. Watch out for whitefly appearing in your greenhouse, hang up some yellow sticky traps to monitor them. Plant some French marigolds

or Coleus cannina near your tomatoes to deter the pests. Take conifer cuttings. Pull off 7.5 – 10 cm (3-4in) side shoots. Trim up the base. Dip in hormone and insert in free draining compost. Watch out for attacks of gooseberry mildew and sawfly these devastate bushes. Plant out cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprout and celery plants. Finish planting sprouted maincrop potatoes. Sow tomato seeds now for outdoor planting in June. Begin planting up hanging baskets, keep them inside until frost risk is minimal. Check your greenhouse regularly, as watering, shading and ventilation are important. Sow Basil indoors, but do not plant outside until there is no risk of frost. Start successional sowings of salad crops eg. Lettuce, carrots and radishes.

Late April

Sow tender veg. indoors for planting out next month e.g. courgettes, French and Runner beans. Sow marrow, courgette and squash seed on its side and soak Sweet Corn seed in water for 4 hours before sowing. Prune early flowered Clematis



after blooming e.g. C. alpina and C. macropetala. This is only necessary where space is limited. This is a good time to re-pot any houseplants that are pot bound. Store unused seeds left in open packets in an airtight container in the refrigerator. Treat your lawn to an application of lawn food. Miracle Gro Thick and Green is my favourite as its food is release according to the weather conditions.

Posture and pain

Karen Harris



Posture, and what constitutes good or bad posture, conjures up different things to different people, but most would say that upper body deviations are most obvious. Whether it be occupational situations, hobbies, low self esteem, lack of confidence or just general weakness causing shoulder roundness and a 'stoop,' the neck and shoulders have a lot to cope with.

I've shocked many a person handing over my 5kg medicine ball (8-12lbs in old money.) saying... 'this is the weight of your head...when it's on your shoulders!' Now bring the head forward by 30 degree - which is book, tablet, phone reading position - and the weight increases to 11-13kgs (20-22lbs). Stiff neck and shoulders surprising to anyone?

This is talking about what happens when muscles on the back of the body are pulled forward, we need to realise that the muscles on the front of the body have to deal with this; they will get short and tight, and depending on the severity of the posture, the rib cage will be depressed, the arms will rotate, the diaphragm gets less efficient, breathing patterns become dysfunctional, lung capacity decreases, the respiratory system suffers, which impacts the immune system, and lots of processes fail to happen.

But lets concentrate on that little muscle shown in the picture, the pectoralis minor. It is a muscle that becomes easily shortened and tight due to many factors, including the above mentioned

rounded shoulder posture.

It is located in an area of the shoulder with many other muscles; clusters of muscles like these often become dysfunctional due to poor biomechanics. As you can see, it is attached to the ribs and the scapula, (shoulder blade) and its job is to draw the scapula forward and down, so it's easy to understand with a rounded shoulder and forward head posture how the pec minor shortens.

You might think, it's only a little muscle why is it so important? Well, tightness in itself is just that, but all muscles work in pairs (for every action, there's a reaction) and in conjunction with others. So those muscles on the back of the body (that draw the scapula back and keep it sitting nicely on the rib cage) become inhibited. So the 'pecs' need to be released and the back muscles strengthened once the shoulder is better aligned. There is no point trying to strengthen a dysfunctional muscle on a compromised body.

If you have numbness or tingling in the arms, neck/arm/hand pain, hand discoloration, arm fatigue with activity, and/or a weakening grip, then it's likely you are compromised in the upper body as these are symptoms of Thoracic Outlet Syndrome. There is a mass of blood vessels and nerves between your collarbone and first rib, and tightness and compression of this area will bring about some, or many, of those symptoms.

Resilience

Angela Johns

"Wow, what a great idea! What beautiful humans there are in the world," said no-one after listening to the news! The world has been a difficult place to be these last few years with an overload of doom and gloom reported at every turn and truly terrible acts of violence and aggression that feel too close to home. I have met several people lately who are feeling the strain of what is occurring in the world. It's not always obvious to them that that is why they are feeling anxious, but as they talk it starts to unfold. They realise their physical aches or pains may be as a result.

We hold tension in our feet too. Yes, we really do. And if there are all those reflexes on the feet that connect to all parts of our body then it's hardly surprising this tension could cause issues literally anywhere else. I can feel it at the start of a reflexology session at times: the feet feeling solid, inflexible, maybe cold or dry. That's why it's important for me to encourage my client to let go of everything outside the therapy room, albeit temporarily. Sometimes we need a reminder to give ourselves permission to do this. Life can carry on for an hour or so without us, we can re-join when we are done. We will be a little calmer and our resilience will be strengthened. Not to be confused with resistance, resilience is the ability to bounce back, to bend and flex rather than snap. We can build on our resilience by learning from our experiences, rather than repeating our mistakes, by honing our skills to handle stress and by knowing when to ask for help.



We can help each other build resilience too. We can search out some positive stories and we can definitely tell them more often. And, if we are telling them more often, we can listen and encourage more often too. "Wow, what a great idea! What wonderful humans there are in the world!", said everyone, everyday.

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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Hormone happiness

Pam Clark

The Perimenopause can be a challenging time for women, but thankfully there appears to be a growing awareness in our media. The reality is half of our population will experience the diverse symptoms of menopause; some of the most common include brain fog, joint pain, gut disturbances, anxiety and depression, sleep disturbance, weight gain, dry skin as well as the old faithful hot flushes. In fact, many women may end up receiving prescriptions for pain, low mood or digestive issues when the culprit is their hormones!

The menopause refers to a time when you haven't had a single period for at least a year and the peri-menopause is the run up to this and may last from eight to ten years. During the peri-menopause, levels of one of the main female sex hormones, oestrogen, rise and fall unevenly; this can be reflected in a woman's cycle and symptoms. The average age of the menopause in the UK is 51, this is often a stage where many women are at the peak of their careers; poorly managed peri-menopause symptoms can have significant impact at home and at work.

The findings of a survey of 3,800 UK women by Newson Health Research and Education found:

- 99% of respondents said their perimenopausal or menopausal symptoms had led to a negative impact on their careers, with more than a third calling the impact 'significant'.
- 59% had taken time off work due to their symptoms:
- 18% were off more than 8 weeks.
- Reasons for taking time off included reduced efficiency (45%), poor quality of work (26%) and poor concentration (7%).
- Half (50%) of those who took



at least eight weeks off work resigned or took early retirement. Everyday, in our clinic, we support women with their peri-menopausal symptoms. They come to us exhausted, overwhelmed, struggling with their weight, sleep and their daily emotional rollercoaster. By making simple diet and lifestyle changes we can have a significant impact on how these wonderful women experience this natural transition; which in turn has a knock-on effect to their professional and personal lives. Rather than addressing each symptom individually within Functional Nutrition, we look at the root cause, and consider the body holistically, where every symptom is interconnected. We gently but assuredly support our clients as they move forwards, to find balance, happiness and calm once more.

To find out more or discuss further support head to our website and book a complimentary call with either Keeley or Pam today.

Spring is here!

Emily Papirnik

Notice the new, notice the fresh, notice the colours, notice the bird song.

Here we are able to see the change in seasons and suddenly the feeling of spring is really around us. We are able to walk without the wellies on our feet so much. We are able to feel the warmth of the sun on our face. The blue sky is bluer and I have started hearing lawn mowers in the gardens.

This is a time that we might be emerging more from our houses, feeling the impetus to meet people for a coffee outside or go for a longer walk with the dog. It is a time where I start to look further into the year ahead.

Perhaps to start planning months in advance. A thought of warmer days coming and longer days in which we come out of hibernation and just do more out of the house. It is for me a time to clear out, a time for tidying and sorting and of letting go of what is no longer needed. I am a hoarder and this is not the easiest thing to do. In fact, I will easily find something else to do rather than tackle a 'letting go' of what I do not wear or use, many things I have not worn for up to twenty years and I still have things in my kitchen that I 'might need one day' but haven't actually taken out of that drawer for the last ten years or more! I am one of those people who plans to do a car boot... and just hasn't. I have three children, I keep thinking will want or need the things I no longer use, but they don't.

So here I go, starting with my clothes drawers. I was actually in the park a few weeks ago when I was asked about my wardrobe by Justyn from Hereford and Worcester BBC radio. He asked if I had anything



in my wardrobe I couldn't get rid of but no longer wore. I was able to tell him that most of my clothes were in that category and the fact that I wear a particular uniform of shirt and trousers for my six days a week work, I rarely have time to wear other clothes. This Spring will be different, I will be one of those people who takes their clothes that they haven't worn in the last twenty-four months to the charity shop and sheds the paper that they have accumulated in drawers, cupboards and on the top of their desk. I may find some treasures under those papers or in the bottom of those drawers. I shall let you know. In the meantime, enjoy those daffodils and budding trees that are making us feel brighter and ready for a more active time.





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Focusing too much time on social media?

Ruby Edwards

Are you focusing too much time on social media rather than traditional PR? The number of people around the world using social media has just passed the 4.62 billion mark, according to Hootsuite. This means that the number of social media users has grown by more than 1 billion over the past 3 years, with 57.6 percent of the world's total population using social media in March 2022 – that's up 11.6% since July 2019.

Are we still defining it as "rising" because we are expecting it to eventually plateau? Or is it because we are still comparing it to traditional media, which did rise but eventually began to fall?

The decision between focusing on social media or traditional PR is changing and our sense of "either/or" may be the wrong approach. Perhaps we need to look at the two together from both a measurement and programming perspective.

Here are a few differences between traditional media and social media

1. *Social media is more versatile compared to traditional media*

On social media you are able to make amendments to posts once they are published, whereas once traditional PR is published, it's set in stone. If you're lucky, the reporter you worked with on a story may be willing to make changes to an online piece, if it's still current.

2. *Social media is immediate, while traditional is when the journalist wants to publish it*

Think about how quickly you can put together a social media post compared to a press release, which needs to be drafted, finalised, pitched to reporters and sent off with suitable imagery. Most PR professionals understand the delay in press releases being published. You can pitch a story in January and you might get the published piece in April.

3. *Social media reaches much bigger audiences, while traditional media's audience is generally more targeted*

Social media marketing allows you to market strictly to men over 60 who live in Yorkshire and are interested in cycling. This particular example shows how specific you can make your marketing.

Whereas if your press release hits a national paper, let's say the Guardian, your readership will go through the roof.

4. *Social media is a two-way conversation, and traditional media is one-way*

The typical process is that the PR professional pitches the story to the reporter, they read it and publish the story for the public to read. With social media, the public has the opportunity to start a conversation and voice their opinion which you don't have with traditional. Both social and traditional media play a prominent and very important role in today's public relations, despite their roles being quite different. Social media is often praised for its immediacy, flexibility and the ability to gather feedback. Traditional media offers a higher chance of reaching a larger audience in specifically targeted regions. Unlike traditional media, social media is not an ideal platform for complex or detailed messages. It is also more unpredictable and prone to sparking controversies and PR crises. Its interactive nature makes it harder for businesses to control their message and keep them from being misinterpreted or distorted. A shift in mentality is definitely needed when focusing on PR efforts. Social media shouldn't be a replacement for traditional media on occasions where budgets are tighter, or the turnaround is much shorter. There are plenty of circumstances where social media cannot replace traditional media, such as developing a strategy for regions without strong online presences. Instead of thinking social media versus traditional media, in the sense that one is slowly replacing the other, why not use them together?

The best results are usually achieved when the two are used in conjunction - as part of a comprehensive PR strategy.



Budget for survival and success

Carol Draper

For many businesses the end of March marks the end of their financial year. Whether the past twelve months have been successful or not, if a business is to remain or even become profitable it is important to plan how that can be done and to have a system where progress against a plan can be monitored. Given the current explosive rise in prices, this is especially important now.

The cornerstone of any business plan is a budget, which can be as simple or as detailed as you like.

An easy budget is to look at last year, assume everything will remain the same and just apply a basic percentage increase to both sales and expenses to reflect inflation.

The problem with this is if you plan to change nothing then nothing will change.

An alternative approach is to have a target of what you want to achieve, for example in terms of profitability, business growth, developing new products or services, or just what you need to survive, or the amount you want to be paid.

Having set a goal, you need to identify the costs you have to cover to enable you to reach it. When considering costs, make sure to include not only ongoing costs such as rent, insurance, staff, and production costs but also irregular or one-off costs such as tax bills or new equipment. Don't forget to include your required earnings too.

Identifying the costs will help establish the minimum level of income that is required to meet them and so provide a goal to work towards. If costs seem high, take a careful look at exactly what you are paying for and whether it is required. All the little add-ons can add up while adding nothing to your business!

Finally, having prepared a budget, ensure you use it by regularly comparing your actual income and expenditure against the budget set. This will help you to foresee problems but also plan for success. If you need help with budgeting or business planning speak to your accountant.

Carol Draper FCCA
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd



"If you always do, what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got."

Henry Ford

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Let's stay local . . .

Brian Johnson-Thomas

Looking at the calendar this week I've been struck by the variety – and the quality- of the events happening near to us over the next couple of months. In the realm of the performing arts, not only do we have Pershore's own, vibrant Number 8, but we have the world class Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford on Avon just about half an hour's drive away. And, in the Summer months we also have the renowned Longborough Festival Opera situated just this side of Stow on the Wold.

To start with Stratford, new productions of Shakespeare's Henry VI run from this April 1st and have been entitled, firstly, Henry VI: Rebellion which is described as a fresh new take on Henry VI, Part two and hurtles though one of the most turbulent periods in English history; followed by Wars of the Roses, which is the thrilling climax to the Henry VI trilogy and describes events as the tussle for the Crown escalates to the battlefield in a brutal bloody conflict with deceit, betrayal and murder at every turn.

Shakespeare was, of course, the chief apologist for the Tudor dynasty but he certainly knew how to entrance an audience (mind you, between ourselves, I prefer Christopher Marlowe's works but although born in the same year as our William his career was cut short by an unseemly brawl in a tavern...)

Full details of tickets, prices, etc can be seen on www.rsc.org.uk. Meanwhile, the **Longborough Festival Opera** season this year runs from May 30th to August 2nd opening with Wagner's Siegfried, followed by Korngold's Die Tote Stadt (The Dead City) and then Bizet's ever-popular Carmen. Right at the end of the season they have made space for an 'emerging artists double bill featuring Freya Waley-Cohen with Spell Book and Francesca Caccini with La Liberazione de Ruggiero dall'isola d'Alcina (or the liberation of Ruggiero from the island of Alcina). No, I haven't heard of it either but, if the production is up to their usual standard, it should be well



worth seeing. Ticket prices range from just £20 all the way to £220 depending on the seat and the performance.

See www.lfo.org.uk for details.

The Three Counties Showground is back up and running as normal this year, starting with the Malvern Spring Show, a joint venture between the Royal Three Counties Society and the Royal Horticultural Society, which runs from Thursday 5th May until Sunday 8th May. A 'must' for keen gardeners, it has something to appeal to everyone and it's closely followed a month later by the Royal Three Counties Show which runs from Friday 17th June to Sunday 19th June and which celebrates its centenary this year. Showcasing the very best of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, all the old favourites are there plus a new Food and Drink Festival with producers, both small and large, from the Three Counties area and even beyond. Personally I'm looking forward to a thirst quenching visit to the Cider and Perry Festival! There are lots of displays booked for the main arena, including a welcome return for the Red Devils army parachutists. The organisers expect that over 6,000 animals will be shown either in the Grand Parade of Livestock in the Main Arena or in the Farming Village as well as alpacas, poultry, goats and rabbits. I could go on-

rabbit on, even- but just look up www.threecounties.co.uk for the full details.

Finally, for a fun filled family day out, the **Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway** is fully open and ready to welcome travellers over the 14 mile Cotswold line between Broadway and Cheltenham Racecourse, with trains running every weekend and most weekdays until the end of October. This railway is also celebrating an anniversary a little late, as last year was actually forty years since its formation to rebuild the former Great Western railway line between Stratford on Avon and Cheltenham. Visitors this year to the line's HQ at Toddington will discover that the former nearby garden centre has now been demolished and the space will be utilised for more car parking and a new visitor centre in due course. Some of the 900+ volunteers have also been busy on many other projects, including specially adapting one fully restored passenger coach to provide additional accommodation for disabled visitors and extending the canopy of Broadway Station to provide an airy, covered area. For further details see www.gwsr.com.

That's it for now and, despite the dire events surrounding us, I hope that you somehow manage to have a very Happy Easter!

Brian

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Book Review

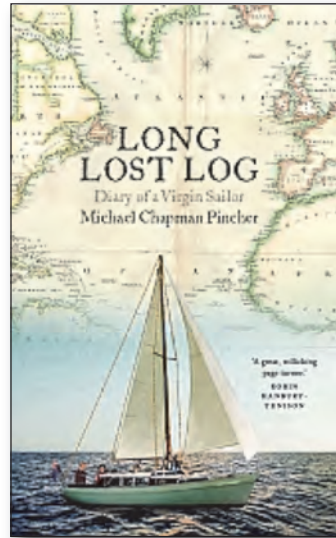
Long Lost Log – Diary of a Virgin Sailor

Michel Chapman Pincher

Local mole-catcher turned author writes a book for those who have ever been young, muddled or wanting adventure. During 'lockdown', Michel Chapman Pincher received a surprise package - a logbook of a sailing trip he'd made across the Atlantic 47 years ago - one he thought long-lost. Returned by a young love who found it in a keepsake box in her attic, Michael was inspired to tell a tale never told before.

I'd kept the adventure to myself, as I know old sailors become pub bores but rereading the diary entries brought my rite of passage back to life. It was an intense time as I had never sailed before and was on a small boat with an irascible skipper running away from Ireland with his mistress, not to mention the cat.' Taking the opportunity of lockdown, Michael wrote up the clash of a free-loving, dope-smoking hippy with the class prejudiced, racial stereotyping and failed tweedy attitudes of his 'elders and betters' in the confines of a 37' cruising yacht, heading for the Caribbean. It was worth the effort as Lilliput Press, Dublin, is publishing it this April in a handsomely printed, gatefold cover.

Long Lost Log: Diary of a Virgin Sailor is witty, charming, and proof that some risks are worth taking. This once-in-a-lifetime adventure is easy to read - the story flows from one event to another. Long Lost Log



is a true story, written like a novel - a rollicking page-turner written with verve, keen observations and sparkling with wry humour.

A beautifully crafted book, multi-layered and bravely written, Long Lost Log has many interesting insights into the skills and craft of sailing and the broader history of the day. Chapman Pincher describes the people he meets and the voyage he makes with incredible clarity and of the moment. Set in the 1970s, Long Lost Log is a period book for the nostalgic traveller and the armchair adventurer of any age.

Available in Paperback, eBook and Audiobook format Long Lost Log is available on 28 April.

Vale Harmony lift trophies ahead of their 'Spring Sing'

Vale Harmony are back to winning ways, lifting two trophies at the Dudley Festival of Music, Dance and Drama.

Vale Harmony The A Cappella Fellas came away from the festival on 5th March with the award for the Best Barbershop Chorus and they took first prize in the 'Singing for Pleasure' category, winning the Eve Preece Cup. The trophies are a boost to the chorus, which is staging its Spring Sing concert at Pershore Abbey next month in support of Prostate Cancer UK.

Chris Franey, Vale Harmony's chairman, said: "Winning these trophies at Dudley has confirmed that after two years absence, we are back in full voice and are well on song. Our Spring Sing concert at Pershore Abbey was originally due to be held in April 2020 but Covid-19 intervened. We were determined to keep the chorus together during the

lockdowns. We met weekly by Zoom and even invested in new uniforms, a new name and new logo. Now it's fantastic that, at last, we can put on this fabulous evening of entertainment at Pershore Abbey.

It will be the third time we've been joined by the award-winning Great Western Chorus of Bristol and we hope to sing to a full house now the Abbey has relaxed its Covid distancing restrictions."

The concert on 7th May starts at 7.30pm Tickets are £13 for adults and £10 for children 12 years and under. They're now available from BLUE in Broad Street, Pershore and online via the website: www.valeharmony.co.uk For any further information visit the website above or call/text their PRO, Colin Pemberton, on 07766 524833

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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Window and other code names

Tim Hickson

When I was a little boy, living in Plymouth during World War 2, after a German air raid, my grandfather and I would go out to see what we could find. He was mainly after the leaves that had collected in bomb craters which he would use on his allotment to help the vegetables grow; I was looking for the thin strips of shiny aluminium that could be used as Christmas tree decoration. I have found accounts of German families doing the same thing after an Allied raid. One described the shiny strips as 'like tinsel for their Christmas trees'.

Both the Luftwaffe and the RAF with American bombers had dropped clouds of these metal strips to confuse their enemy's radar. The Germans called theirs Duppel, after the place where they had tested it, we called ours Window because the chap who came up with that code word was standing by a window! Later, the Americans produced some and called it Chaff. It was not hard for any scientist who knew about radar to realise that lengths of metal equal to half the wavelength of the radar waves would reflect these waves strongly, so lots of these strips in the air would give echoes just like an aircraft does. A cloud of them would be very confusing.



The first experiments in this country to find the best design of these strips was carried out in 1941/2 by a very skilled physicist, Mrs. Joan Curran (later Lady Curran). An example of the final form can be seen in the RAF Museum at Croome. Notice that these strips are shiny but blackened. They were made of black paper to which was stuck thin aluminium foil.



There is a YouTube clip that shows Making Anti-Radar 'Window' - Wartime footage. Bundles of these strips were produced very quickly but their use was held back because we thought the Germans, on finding the fallen strips, would copy the idea and then use them on us. Guess what?. The Germans had, of course, come up with the same idea and also held back their use for exactly the same reason. When the strips were used, they were very effective and our losses of bombers to German fighters fell considerably. Later, on the eve of D-Day, when the Allies invaded France, Window was used extensively both to persuade Hitler that the attack was going to be far to the north of the Normandy beaches and to hide the real invasion force from enemy radar. The names Window and Duppel remind us that the Germans used logic in choosing their code names whilst British choices were just daft! That meant that our scientific intelligence could usually deduce what the German words referred to. Thus a guidance system for bombers called Wotan was revealed to

have only one beam by the fact that the god, Wotan, had only one eye. Freya was a Nordic goddess whose prized possession was a necklace guarded by a watchman who could see for 100 miles, day or night. It did not take long to work out that it was the name for a chain of German radar stations which could detect targets 100 miles away. Kit developed at Malvern and RAF Defford included Airborne Grocer, Village Inn and Liquid Lunch. Make sense of those! There was one that the Germans never worked out. Their listening stations heard aircraft flying in this area asking for information about Jumbo. They would hear conversations such as, "Is Jumbo out of bed yet?" The reply from RAF Defford control tower might be, "His head is out of the bed clothes". In the end they concluded it was a new bombing aid. Actually, Jumbo was Bredon Hill (a hazard for Defford pilots) and that reply meant that the top of the hill was poking out of the cloud or fog in the valley. Watch out!



Businesses benefit from plug-in van and truck grants

- Plug-In Van and Truck Grants extended for two years as Government goes further and faster to decarbonise transport
 - Drivers with standard licences can continue driving electric goods vans at a higher weight limit, making it easier for businesses to make the switch
 - Comes ahead of 2030 phase-out of new petrol and diesel cars and vans as part of net zero commitment
 Businesses will be supported to make the switch to electric as the Government commits to a two-year extension of Plug-In Van and Truck Grants.
 The move is expected to support the purchase of tens of thousands of greener vans and trucks, and will help make the UK less reliant on imports of foreign oil, improving the

security of our energy supply and reducing our vulnerability to volatility in global energy prices.
 Last year, industry figures showed the UK had the highest number of plug-in electric vans sold in Europe, and there were around four times as many grant applications compared to 2020. Existing grants have supported the purchase of more than 26,000 electric vans and HGVs across the UK since the programme launched in 2012. With nearly 5% of the UK's CO2 emissions currently coming from vans, the two-year extension to these grants and the switch to greener vehicles is essential to support the Government's climate change and air quality commitments. Government grants for electric



vans and trucks has helped kickstart the market, which now offers more than 30 models of electric vans and trucks which qualify for such schemes. Electric vehicles are becoming more popular and affordable, and the number of available models will continue to rise, allowing more people and businesses to benefit from the lower running costs of greener

vehicles. This Government has committed £2.5bn to vehicle grants and chargepoint infrastructure to support the transition to zero emission vehicles to date, and Plug-In Vehicle Grant Schemes have supported the purchase of over 450,000 ultra-low emission vehicles across the UK – including more than 300,000 zero emission vehicles.



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Gregory's world! *More Clearly* Gregory Sidaway (18)



A hearty hello to you, fellow reader! How has everything been? I hope your answer involves at least one positive adjective, although – if not – don't worry. Grab yourself a cuppa or a piece of toast, maybe even a blanket, and let's begin. So, despite last month's planned trip to Dublin fizzling out due to a positive Covid test, a few weeks ago, I ventured beyond the borders of Worcestershire for a university offer holder day. This one was at Oxford. It was basically an opportunity a) to have a look around, and b) to meet other offer holders so that – fingers crossed and if all goes well with A Levels – I will be able to recognise someone if I get there at the start of term. We went by train and as green

pastures rose into villages into housing estates into flats and finally into the city centre, more and more commuters hopped onto the train until it became like a highly pressurised artery; the flood of people leaving at Oxford meant we were effectively carried by a current all the way through the ticket scanners and newsagents and Breakfast Deal: Bacon Roll: Only £2 displays outside Greggs, until we found ourselves on the main street, where taxis shuffled to get ahead of each other, and a Tour de Oxford of students zoomed past us on bikes. Coming from our pocket of the Midlands, it took a few moments to adjust. That particular Saturday had been chosen because it was the last day of the Spring term,

which we quickly figured out from the vast numbers of suitcases trundling along pavements. We were going into Oxford while a mass exodus of students headed the other way. The college we were visiting was Exeter College, which (unlike others such as Balliol and Blackfriars) hasn't been around for very long – it's only 708 years old! Overlooking the Radcliffe building and snuggled beside Knoops: Expertly Crafted Chocolate Drinks, the original college is charming; beards of ivy climb up sun-baked stone, the doors are studded with iron and, walking into the dining hall, you'd be forgiven for anticipating the sight of floating candles and nearly-headless ghosts. It was a bit nerve-racking at first, but a visit like this made a lot of sense; I was able to meet other offer holders, quickly building up a repertoire of things to say. "Hi, what's your name?" "No way, me too!" "Hi, what subject are you taking?" I would ask that last one and then correct "taking" to "reading", which got a bit confusing. When I was asked what I was reading, I nearly said American Gods by Neil Gaiman, before saving myself in the nick of time. Throughout the day, I was able to meet quite a few people which – fingers crossed



regarding A Levels – means I shouldn't be too bewildered if I arrive at the start of term. Even if I end up following a different path, a visit to an actual university was really useful, as most open days last year were online. Now, the future isn't an indistinguishable blur, hopefully I'm starting see bits and pieces of it more clearly. On the train back, as flats became housing estates became villages became the green pastures of home, another image stayed with me: in the common room at Exeter, draped across a window, was the blue and yellow of a Ukrainian flag. Stay safe, fellow reader.

Riverside Youth Centre

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f @pershoreriversidecentre @pershoreyouthy

Pershore Riverside Centre CID (charity no 1156413) King George's Way, Pershore WR10 1QU



SEND Saturday Social club at Pershore Riverside Youth Centre is a youth group for young people aged 16-18 years old who have additional needs and/or disabilities.

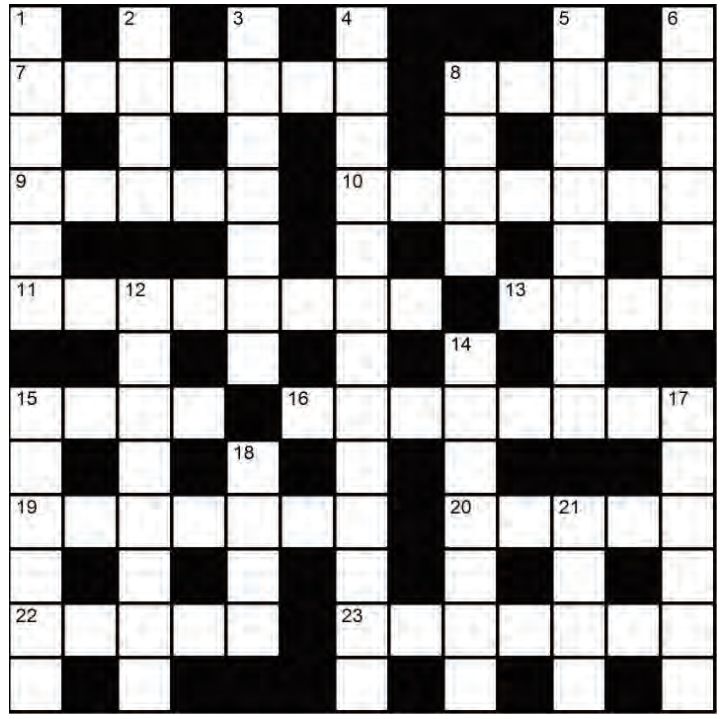
We enjoy meaningful activities, encourage self-development and awareness, learning new skills but most of all we have fun. There are activities like Xbox, Wii and music room. We always have music playing with flashing disco lights in the hall, creating a disco atmosphere. The café is open to the young people between 5.30 and 7pm. They can help cook and serve their peers, learn new skills transferable to the work place, learn money management skills and share a meal with friends.

The club provides valuable respite to the parents/carers of the young people who are welcome to stay and enjoy a cup of tea and chat with other parents carers in a separate room or go off and enjoy some free time, knowing their young person is in a safe and secure environment with experienced staff supporting them. SEND Saturday Social runs every Saturday (except Bank Holiday weekends) between 5pm and 8pm. If you have any more questions please contact the centre admin@pershoreriversidecentre.org.uk or contact Christine Searl, SEND Lead for Saturday Social Club directly on 07504 242080

Coffee Break

Pershore Times today! Do you enjoy Jigsaw puzzles? Play online for FREE, visit: www.pershoreline.co.uk/coffeebreak

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 7 Possibly (7) | 1 Food tin essential (6) |
| 8 Cousin of your daughter (5) | 2 Minerals (4) |
| 9 Pertaining to the nose (5) | 3 Sentimental songs (7) |
| 10 Satisfied (7) | 4 Mental (13) |
| 11 Form of precipitation (8) | 5 Runaway (8) |
| 13 Cease (4) | 6 Broken-down (4-2) |
| 15 Excess of expenditure over income (4) | 8 Number of feline lives (4) |
| 16 Magician (8) | 12 Inability to sleep (8) |
| 19 African river powering the Kariba Dam (7) | 14 Nemesis of "Titanic" (7) |
| 20 Highly favoured (5) | 15 Reptile (6) |
| 22 Prevail (5) | 17 Revolve (6) |
| 23 Performer of gymnastic feats (7) | 18 Noggin (4) |
| | 21 Recedes (4) |



Sudoku

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

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

March Answers

1	B	R	O	T	H	4	H	5	E	L	6	P	E	7		
8	P		E		I	9	S		A		A		Y			
10	O	U	T	F	L	O	W		11	S	T	U	F	F		
	O	A		E		E	T			L		E				
12	L	A	I	D		13	R	E	V	E	R	S	E	D		
	S		N				P		R							
			14	A	S	S	A	S	S	I	N	A	T	E		
							F	T						17	I	
18	A	B	19	N	O	R	M	A	L		20	U	S	E	S	
	L		Y				I		K		21	S	T		L	
22	L	I	L	A	C				23	E	M	O	T	I	V	E
	O		O		A				S		F		F		T	
24	T	E	N	A	N	T			25	S	A	T	Y	R		

Easter Wordsearch

- | | | |
|---------|------|--------|
| Angel | Gall | Mary |
| April | Gift | Palm |
| Bells | God | Rise |
| Bible | Holy | Rite |
| Bonnets | Hymn | Roman |
| Bunny | Joy | Sin |
| Cross | Kiss | Sleep |
| Die | Lamb | Spear |
| Easter | Lent | Thirty |
| Egg | Life | Three |
| Faith | Lord | Tomb |

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

Poets' Corner

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.
The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:
For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth
1770 - 1850

Fun Quiz!



- For playing which instrument did Larry Adler become famous?
- Referring to trading in investments, what does the A in the acronym AIM refer to?
- In what decade did the Threepenny bit cease to be legal tender?
- How many degrees of angle in total does a triangle have?
- If something is described as 'stellate', what shape does it have?
- What unit of length of 18 inches was referred to in the Bible and is roughly the length of an average man's forearm?
- How many US states border Alaska?
- What were the Rainhill Trials, held in 1829?
- Which Scottish airport has the code ABZ?
- What did Laura Greene, Ulrika Jonsson and Trish Williamson do on television?
- What type of fruit is York Imperial?
a) Pear b) Rhubarb c) Apple
- Georgetown is the capital of which South American country?
- Which is the driest desert on earth? a) Atacama Desert b) Sahara Desert c) Gobi Desert
- Which country has the largest coastline?
- If you were 'taking the Chiltern Hundreds' then what employment must you have just resigned from?
- What did the period of industrial unrest during the winter of 1978-9 become known as?
- If you are forced to do something humiliating you are said to eat.... Which bird?
- If you are given 'carte blanche' what restrictions are placed on your actions?
- Which disgraced celebrity wrote the book 'As it Happens'?
- What is the lowest rank of commissioned officer in the Royal Navy? a) Petty Officer b) Sub-Lieutenant c) Midshipman

Answers: 1. Mouth Organ 2. Alternative (Investment Market) 3. 1970's 4. 180 5. Star shaped 6. Cubit 7. None 8. Competition to choose the design of the locomotive engine for the Liverpool to Manchester Railway 9. Aberdeen 10. Present the weather 11. c) Apple 12. Guyana 13. a) Atacama Desert 14. Canada 15. Being a Member of Parliament 16. Winter of Discontent 17. Crow 18. None 19. Jimmy Saville 20. c) Midshipman



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COMPETITION TIME!

Take a look at the anagram
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- March Winners**
- William Ford
 - Liz Prentice
 - Valerie Higgins
 - Mel Colmer
 - Patricia Wright
 - Caroline Hartshorne
 - Hilda Tustin
- Last month's answer: Imperial Marques

- This month's prizes!**
- 1st - £25
 - 2nd - Sunday Lunch for two at The Royal Oak, Kinnersley
 - 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

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In memoriam

Smith. Anne

Passed away Saturday 12th March 2022, at home with her family close by. Dearly loved wife to Roger, mum to Mark and Alison, nanny to Harry, Daniel, Lily and Oliver, mother in law to Fabienne and Ian, sister to the late Marina. The cremation will take place at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury on Tuesday 5th April at 3pm. Family flowers only please. Donations for the Stroke Association.

Reid. Ivy

Former proprietor of Cosy Wool Shop and Mary's Hair Salon. On 19th March, peacefully in Heathlands, aged 95 years. Much loved wife to Joe, dearly loved mother to Doug, Terry, Joe and the late Mary, a beloved nan and great nan. Funeral service at Pershore Abbey on Wednesday 13th April at 1pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers only, donations for Cancer Research UK.

Owen Margaret Alice Nee Dufty

Passed away on 13th March 2022, aged 93 years. Much loved wife of the late Jack, loving mother to Janet and Gary, grandmother to Matthew, Christopher and Katie, great grandmother to Ellie, Sam, Dylan, Leo and Amelie. Margaret will be greatly missed by family and friends. Funeral service took place on Thursday 31st March. Donations, for the British Heart Foundation.

Wilson. Margaret Frances

Margaret died on 9th March 2022 in Heathlands Residential Home, Pershore. She was a much loved mum to Malcolm, Ian and Peter, mum-in-law to Teresa, Angie and Edi, grandmother to Tim, Claire, Gemma, Lee, Matthew, Joanna, Andy and John and great-grandmother to Reece, Mia, Jake and Aiden. Funeral service at Drakes Broughton Church on Monday 4th April at 12 noon, followed by interment in Pershore Cemetery where she will be laid to rest with her husband Paddy. "Please wear a splash of colour in Margaret's memory" Family flowers only, donations for RNLI.

Cosnett. Brian

On 8th March 2022, suddenly, but peacefully in hospital, aged 79 years. Much loved husband to the late Marion, loving dad to Francis and Jayne, beloved grandad to Ethan, Leah, Eve and Zoe. Funeral service took place on Monday 28th March. Donations for British Heart Foundation or Pershore Abbey PCC

Smith. Malcolm Keith (Malc)

On 1st March 2022, suddenly at his home in Pershore, aged 73 years. Much loved husband to Val, father to Neil, Lee and Dean, stepfather to Debbie and Dave and a much-loved grandfather. Funeral service private. Donations in memory of Malc are invited for the British Heart Foundation

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On Saturday last, 5th March, a colleague on Pershore Town Council, Peter Brookbank, and I held a bring-and-buy sale at Pershore Town Hall in aid of the Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal. We'd like to thank and congratulate everyone who donated items for sale, or helped set up and staff the event. What a magnificent effort it turned out to be, with just five days from planning to finish. Although we hadn't asked for money donations, money soon poured in. An astonishing total of £4252.35 was raised in money and cheque donations, and includes cash raised at the

Saturday sale.

As you might imagine, the event itself was very busy, with super support from fellow councillors as well as from residents from Pershore, Drakes Broughton and Gt Comberton.

Formally, in conjunction with the fund raising, Pershore Town Council has passed a resolution urging our MP, Harriett Baldwin, and the Government to do all they can to help end the current conflict as speedily as possible.

The crisis in Ukraine has touched a nerve, none more so than here in Pershore.
Yours Faithfully

Cllr Art Lavelle



L-R, Cllr Val Wood, (who also helped greatly) with publicity, two Ukrainian visitors, Cllr Art Lavelle, Cllr Peter Brookbank.

Dear Editor,

I'm a member of the "Friends of the Meadows" and spend every Thursday photographing and counting birds from 09.00 to 12.30. I'm one of the photographers who walk round and support the team that count the birds. Last week, we fell on an a bird that you can hear it but it's very hard to see, a Cetti's Warbler. The Cetti's made a fleeting appearance just in front of me and I only had a short window (3 seconds) to focus and take the shot. I took four shots and I was pleased to get one of that shows the Cetti's in its splendor. The Cetti's is a

shy bird and rarely seen as they spend most of their time in the undergrowth. Please let the people of Pershore see and know that they have a Cetti's on their meadows.

Stephen P. McLaren



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What's On?



April Cinema Listings

Dream Horse (PG)

Mon 4 Apr - 11.00am & 7.30pm

Directed by Euros Lyn,

1hr 42 mins

Tickets: £8.50, Matinee £7.00

Drive My Car (15)

Thu 7 Apr - 7.30pm

Directed by Ryusuke

Hamaguchi, 2hrs 59 mins,

Japanese with subtitles

Tickets: £8.50

The Duke (12A)

Fri 8 Apr - 7.30pm;

Mon 11 Apr - 11.00am & 7.30pm;

Tue 12 Apr - 7.30pm;

Fri 15 Apr - 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Directed by Roger Michell,

1hr 35 mins

Tickets: £8.50, Matinee £7.00

Clifford the Big Red Dog (PG)

Tue 12 Apr - 11.00am;

Thu 21 Apr - 2.00pm (RS)

Directed by Walt Becker,

1hr 37 mins

Tickets just £6!

Chicken Run (U)

Thu 14 Apr - 2.00pm

Directed by Nick Park & Peter

Lord, 1hr 24 mins

Tickets just £6!

Ali & Ava (15)

Thu 14 Apr - 7.30pm

Directed by Clio Barnard,

1hr 35mins

Tickets: £8.50

Uncharted (12A)

Sat 16 Apr - 7.30pm

Directed by Ruben Fleischer,

1hr 56 mins

Tickets: £8.50

Marry Me (12A)

Tue 19 Apr - 7.30pm

Directed by Kat Coiro,

1hr 52 mins

Tickets: £8.50

The Phantom of the Open (PG)

Fri 22 & Sat 23 Apr - 7.30pm;

Mon 25 Apr - 11am & 7.30pm

(ST); Tue 26 Apr - 7.30pm

Directed by Craig Roberts,

1hr 42 mins

£8.50 Mon-Fri £7.00

Event Listings

Mirusia Sings for You

Saturday 2 April - 7.00pm

1hr 30 mins

Tickets: £12

Exhibition on Screen:

Easter in Art

Tue 5 Apr - 7.00pm

1hr 25 mins Tickets: £12,

Students £10

Royal Opera: La Traviata

Wed 13 Apr - 6.45pm

3hrs 40 mins (inc intervals)

Tickets: £16

Morgan & West:

Unbelievable Science

Wednesday 20 April - 2.30pm

1hr

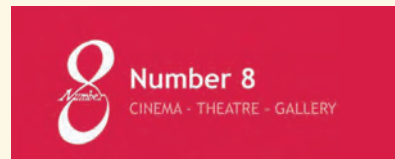
Tickets: £13, 16 & under £10

National Theatre Live:

Henry V (15)

Thu 21 Apr - 7.00pm

Tickets: £15, Students £10



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"All I really need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt!"

Charles M. Schulz, Peanuts

"Easter is the only time of year when it is safe to put all your eggs in one basket."

Vale Golf Club seniors section results



Due to the two storms, that hit the UK, there were only three Monday competitions played during the last month. The first competition was a five club and a putter, which attracted fifty-seven players.



The results were:

Div 1

1st. Brian Bunn. 49 points
2nd Will Reading. 45 points
3rd. Mike Heard. 45 points
(On count back)

Div 2

1st. David Bradford. 49 points
2nd. Carlo Martinelli. 49 points
(on count back)
3rd. Brian Leggott. 48 points

Div 3

1st Graham Whitehead. 46 points
2nd. Rob Taylor. 44 points
3rd. Peter Morris. 44 points
(on count back)

Nearest the pin was Mike Hird
This was followed the next week by an Individual Stableford Competition on a shortened course due to the weather attracting fifty-five players.

The Results were:

Div 1

1st. Mark Harris. 48 points
2nd. John Eastoe. 47 points
3rd. Rob Sharp. 47 points
(on count back)

Div 2

1st. David Bradford. 51 points
2nd. Neil Thompson. 46 points
3rd. Peter Richards. 46 points
(on count back)

Div 3

1st. Colin Edey. 48 points
2nd. Peter Morris. 48 points
(on count back)
3rd. Rob Taylor. 47 points

Nearest the pin Gerry Clayton
The next week sixty-seven players contested a Tex Am competition. First was the team consisting of Mick Lewis Martin Westwood and Les Cosnett with 150 points followed by the team of John Milward Mike Roberts Keith Round and Tony Perfect with 145 points.

The third team of Brian Bunn Martin Holland Geoff Wilson and Michael Taylor with a score of 136 points. Nearest the pin was Mike Collier.



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Angling: *Fishing Rights* John Craddock

I've often wondered how a piece of land, woodland especially, can be sold but certain rights retained by the seller. Doesn't seem right to me. You either own it or don't own it surely? Not a bit. Shooting rights can be retained after the land is sold. Mineral rights too. This means you can sell the property, but still go and dig it up, or shoot there, or wander about on it, even though you don't actually own it. Same applies with fishing. The person who owns the fishing rights owns the freehold of the riverbed but doesn't own the actual water flowing down the river, or the river bank the angler stands on either. Weird eh?

This underlines one of the most unusual aspects of mankind's behaviour. Human beings are the only creatures on the planet who can create or visualise invisible concepts, which are then treated as real and actual. Boundaries or territorial borders don't physically exist in nature. One side of a field is usually the same as the other side, but we can put a legal boundary down the middle and have two separate owners, who can then argue or go to war over this invisible and imagined boundary. As far as humans are concerned, they're real. Why? Because it says so on a piece of paper. These boundaries therefore exist only in our heads. In other words, we make them up. Limited Companies are another example. A legal creation which enshrines a concept for business, which in turn creates some order, or structure for us to work in. A Limited Company doesn't physically exist, like say an apple or a bag of crisps, but in Law it does. We made that up as well. If you like, we imagined

it into reality. When the settlers arrived in America and began wiping out the native American Indians, (ethnic cleansing on a monumental scale by the way, which you don't hear much about these days) the white settlers promptly fenced off the land, creating borders and boundaries. The pesky injuns would be shot if they transgressed. These nomadic Indian tribes simply couldn't understand the concept. For centuries the land was free to roam, they moved across it with the seasons, along with the migratory buffalo. The very idea of fencing land off was alien to them. They could no more consider this than fence off the sky. I have tried so hard here to avoid mentioning Ukraine, and the invasion of their borders, but all countries have borders, and once crossed by a hostile neighbour, war ensues. It's the same when neighbours fall out. If one neighbour's shed or tree or washing line happens to protrude an inch or two over the other's territory, there's usually trouble. Quite a bit of this stuff ends up in Court, sometimes over the most trivial of transgressions. The Earth doesn't care about boundaries any more than the wild animals which roam across it care, so why do we humans get so upset about it? This territorial mindset applies of course to fishing rights. The river Wye is divided across all of its 130 miles into many sections which are owned by individuals or fishing clubs, as are many other rivers in this Country. The lines aren't actually there of course, they just exist on the deeds. As far as the fish are concerned, they couldn't give two hoots (can fish hoot?) across who's boundary they



might swim. They're free to swim the length of the river if they so choose, and migratory fish like salmon do, but anglers get very upset if another angler starts fishing in a section of the river they have no right to fish. It's called poaching. I'll hold up my hands here. I've done my share over the years, and now in danger of admitting to my criminality!

I've told you before that trout like flies but given a choice they go for worms every time. Back in the day when I was a penniless student, I lived in a filthy hovel near Redditch. I would go out on a Friday to the pub with a mate, and when we got back to my gaff, would stay up for the rest of the night, have a full English around about 3am, before we planned where to fish later. Just down the road was a strictly private trout fishery, but at four in the morning we assumed we'd have the place to ourselves. And we did for a while. Armed with small rod and a jar of worms, we would crawl through a dense hawthorn hedge, getting scratched and cut to ribbons, but it was worth it. Within minutes we'd be hauling out rainbow trout. We got away with it three times,

until the police and a furious bailiff jumped us at 3.50 am. They confiscated our rods, took us into custody, and we ended up in Bromsgrove Magistrates court a couple of months later. We were both done for theft, as well as 'the more serious charge' of fishing without a licence. The Bailiff even produced the 'stolen' trout frozen in a plastic bag. He was still, weeks later, puce with rage in the Court for our transgression of his fiefdom. We were fined £5 on each of these two counts. That £10 fine was my food budget hi-jacked, and how I ended up with a criminal record. I am officially a trout thief! However, after we were sentenced we asked the Magistrates if we could 'buy' back our rods (for sentimental reasons obviously!) To my surprise they agreed, and at £1 each rod the money went (allegedly) into the Police Benevolent fund. As a result, I became famous for all of five minutes because the story hit the front page of the Birmingham Evening Mail. This was 1972. I've never done it since, so please don't tell anyone. I wouldn't want my reputation sullied now would I?

Tennis centre welcomes walking tennis programme

Pershire Tennis Centre is delighted to be able to offer Walking Tennis sessions starting on Wednesday 27th April 2022. Walking Tennis is for anyone that wants to play tennis, but at their own pace. No running or jumping and you can let the ball bounce twice. Less speed but just as much fun! Ideal for anybody looking to build their confidence, returning from injury, or would just like a bit more time getting to the ball. Walking Tennis offers a slower format of the traditional game



by introducing simple rules to make it less physically demanding, easier to learn, but just as much fun.

For more about Walking Tennis, Easter Holiday Camps and more at the award-winning club, please head to the Pershire

Tennis Centre website: www.pershoretennis.co.uk or call 01386 556677

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County championships

Pershore swimming club had 35 swimmers qualifying to compete at the county championship.

They managed to collect an impressive array of 89 medals and thirteen overall trophies. In the 10-11 age group, Harry Porter achieved gold for the 50m breaststroke, silver for 100m breaststroke and bronze in the 100m backstroke. Liam Boulton in the 12 year age group had a fantastic bronze in the 100m butterfly. Toby Marchant in the 13 year age group achieved a silver for his 200m individual medley and bronze for 200m backstroke.

For the 13 year age girls, Elizabeth Annis amassed an amazing three golds, two in the 50m and 100m backstroke and one in the 100m individual medley, five silvers and four bronzes. Natalija Kelly in the

15 year age group achieved a fantastic bronze in the 100m butterfly.

For the 15 year old boys, Josh Heeks achieved a bronze in the gruelling 1500m freestyle and a bronze in the 200m butterfly.

In the 16 year age group David Annis shone with his truly outstanding collection of 29 medals and seven trophies.

He won seventeen golds for swimming in his own age group and, for the overall fastest, he collected seven gold championship medals and seven trophies, two silver championship medals and three bronze championship medals. The impressive haul gained David the 'Top Boy' award.

Patrick Heeks in the 17 year and over age group achieved sixteen medals. In his age group he collected three golds, four silvers



and one bronze. For the overall fastest swimmers he achieved a championship trophy, five silvers and two bronze medals. Hannah Woodcock in the 17 year and over age group also had a fantastic collection of 23 medals and five trophies. In her age swimming she amassed eight golds and four silvers. For the overall fastest swimmers she achieved five gold medals and championship trophies and six

silvers. Hannah's standout swim was the 100m breaststroke where she finished a massive six seconds ahead of the nearest swimmer.

Fiona Taylor, Toby Stanley, Natalija Kelly and George Howard had some outstanding swims making the finals. Pershore swimming club are truly proud of the commitment, attitude and achievements of its swimmers and Coaches.

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