

Bredon Times



A free monthly newspaper including Bredon's Norton, Westmancote, Kinsham, Bredon's Hardwick and surrounding villages

Issue 2

October 2026

FREE



On Bredon Hill, photographed by Cynthia Warden

Suddenly we have returned to our 'Green and pleasant land'. The heatwaves have gone and Autumn is 'sort' of here, not sure how to describe the seasons these days. The countryside looks lovely everywhere and the parched look has gone. With relatively little rain, everything has changed, nature is amazing. We have so much to be thankful for.

We have all sorts of challenges; property development, illegal immigration, wars in Ukraine, Iran and the Middle East. A lot of effort is going into all these very complicated matters but nothing is easy. No good 'winging', just keep going.

We have had some amazing sport this summer with outstanding achievements in World Cup Football, Athletics, Gymnastics, Swimming, the list goes on and on! The football season is now underway and winter could be very exciting.

The free advertisement scheme we offer for 'start up' businesses is proving popular. We have supported twenty-five new companies. The response is very encouraging and we wish all advertisers every success. After three months of free advertising we offer a further three months at substantially reduced rates. Looking forward to the last quarter of this year with great enthusiasm! Christmas is on its way and the shops are already stocking seasonal gifts and decorations.

***Clocks go back
one hour
on 25th October.***

**Explore on-line
today!
News, products
and services!
www.hughescompany.uk**

FREE QUOTATION



CONSERVATORY WARM ROOFS
WINDOWS & DOORS
EXTENSIONS
CONSERVATORIES
FASCIAS & SOFFITS

01905 905615
www.casaimprovements.co.uk

Free Advertising

All start-up businesses will be eligible for three months free advertising

The size of the free colour advertisement will be 1/8th page

*To start a business,
you need courage, belief and
determination.*

*We are here to help you achieve
success!*

Hughes & Company
Printers & Publishers
Pershore, Worcs
Tel: 01386 803803
Email: news@hughes.company

**PRO-ACTIVE**
PHYSIO PILATES

What we offer:

Sciatica	Headache Clinic
Neck and Back Pain	Private Prescriptions And Pain Clinic Service
Shockwave Therapy	Clinical BOTOX For Headache/Migraine And TMJ Jaw issues
Paediatrics From Age 8	Ultrasound Guided Ostenil (Hyaluronic Acid) Injections
Acupuncture	Ultrasound Guided Steroid Injections
Sports Injuries, Identification And Rehabilitation	Women's Health Specialist
Links and Referrals To Specialists	Pro-Active Provides Bespoke, Expert Physiotherapy Alongside Advanced Clinical Procedures For A Variety Of Musculoskeletal Issues
Direct Referral For MRI And other Tests	
Matwork and Reformer Pilates	

 www.pro-activephysio.net
info@pro-activephysio.net
 Gardens Office, Overbury GL20 7NT

 01386 298058
  

A few words from... Dame Harriett Baldwin MP



MP Expresses Anger at Latest Farming Blow

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP has expressed her anger at Government's management of a support scheme for farmers which opened and then closed in less than six hours. The MP has already been contacted by frustrated local farmers who were unable to submit an application for the Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme which many farmers currently use to support their businesses. Dame Harriett has joined a group of MPs complaining in the strongest possible terms about the Government's handling of the scheme which was first introduced in 2022 as part of a package of measures to encourage farmers to manage their land in a more environmentally-friendly way. Earlier this year, the Government committed £253 million to the support scheme but the application process was only open for only half a day before

the fund was over-subscribed and closed, leaving many local businesses unable to apply. Dame Harriett said: "There have been concerns raised about whether this scheme would run at all. It is much needed support for some local farmers who will now be devastated that they will be missing out. In my regular meetings with farmers, this issue was raised and many were concerned whether the scheme would be properly funded and when it would open again for applications. A tiny six-hour window in the middle of a busy harvest season to apply for vital support seems farcical. This is an important scheme to support farmers, not a teenagers' pop concert. As a group, Conservative MPs have written to express our farmers' anger to the Environment Secretary."

Harvest Hope

Rev. Allison

It seems very strange that I sit here writing an article for the October village magazines when our days will be getting cooler and the nights longer, on what is one of the hottest days we have experienced this summer, and, on what has now been the hottest summer on record in this country. Currently we are on the fifth extreme heat alert, with a sixth being predicted for September. Furthermore, the last couple of days have seen multiple wildfires across the country and especially in our own region of the West Midlands. Making headline news, nearly 40 homes were destroyed or badly affected in Stourbridge, and many people were evacuated, including our own Bishop of Dudley. There was also a serious fire within the town of Pershore, where two houses were destroyed and families lost all their lifelong possessions. Thankfully in both situations, although a few people were taken to hospital, no lives were lost. The summer has therefore been a wakeup call in recognising that no country is now immune from natural disasters, as climate change, once again, forces us all to acknowledge our planet is suffering effects which a few years ago would have thought to have been impossible; And who knows whether the extreme heat and lack of rain during the summer, is one which will become our new normal for the future! However, one of the many terrible and devastating images which struck me over the last few days was that of a farmer ploughing a field near Stourbridge, seeking to create a firebreak in the hope it would help prevent further spread of the fires. This farmer, local firefighters and emergency personnel, clearly saved the lives, land and houses of many through

their actions. We are indebted to them all for their sacrifice and bravery under such difficult circumstances. Therefore, in this season of harvest we now are journeying through, we acknowledge and give thanks for the farmers who will be taking stock of the effects of the extreme heat and long summer, as well as the impact such a season has had on their livelihoods. Many of us in churches at harvest services will be singing, "Come ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home"; And of course, we do have so much to be grateful to God, our farmers and food producers and manufactures for. Yet this year, our farmers have faced, and will continue to face, many challenges as they come to terms with the cost of what this summer means for them – earlier harvesting times, having to use winter supplies to feed cattle due to poor grass quality, lack of raining affecting the size and quality of products grown, to say nothing of the personal cost and sacrifice of caring for our land and their livestock in extremely challenging temperatures and conditions. And so this harvest, we really do need to give thanks for all who bring food and drinks to our tables – both to our amazing farmers and landowners, but also to the God who gives us everything we need to live full and fruitful lives. Yet, as we do, we also need to take seriously our own response to environmental issues and do all we can to look after the resources within our world – not just locally, but right across the globe. In this, may we look to a God, who created everything in perfect balance, and charged us with its safety, protection and wellbeing. Happy harvest tide everyone!

Every blessing, Rev. Allison

Hughes & Company

Bredon Times

Printers, Publishers

Book Binders & Stationers

8 Church Street
Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 1DT

Tel: 01386 803803

print@hughescompany

www.hughescompany.uk

Four generations of printers



Dates for your Diary

Friday 9th October, 3pm-5.30pm – Afternoon Tea in support of Babyloss Awareness Week at Bredon's Norton Village Hall.

Homemade cakes and raffle, £3.50 for tea and cake.

Bake Sale for anything left over at 4.45pm!

Proceeds to be shared between Tommy's (1060508) and Sand (299679) charities.

Websites: Tommy's.org & sands.org.uk

Wednesday 14th October, 7pm-9pm – First Aid workshop run by British Red Cross at Bredon's Norton Village Hall.

The aim of this is to give untrained people confidence in facing a first aid situation.

£5 suggested donation to Red Cross.

Numbers are limited so please email if you are interested: bredonsnortonsocialcommittee@gmail.com

Women's Voices



(L-R) Patricia Head and Suzanne Millington



(L-R) Patricia Head, Catherine Lack and Suzanne Millington

Concert at St Giles' Church on Saturday, 29th August

I knew this concert would be good, but it really blew me away. It was performed by 'The Two Sopranos' - Suzanne Millington and Patricia Head with our local Catherine Lack on piano. Beautiful music was flowing in

the church for one and a half hours. My favourite piece was Dido's Lament, sung with so much emotion that I could feel Dido's heartbreaking pain! Lost in the music and the singing - a wonderful way to spend a summer evening!

Anne Choi

Community Care

By the time this article has been put in the October edition of the Bredon Magazine, we should have held our AGM (7th October), where we invite our volunteer helpers to the Village Hall to thank them for their assistance over the year with transport both by personal car or for driving and helping on the Blue Community Bus and present an account of the events and finances for the past year. Bredon Community Care's next fund raising event is part of the Warm Welcome Scheme and is operated in conjunction with St Richards Hospice.

Soup & Sandwiches Event
Held at Bredon Village Hall
Date: Thursday 5th November
12.00 noon to 1.30pm .

Suggested donation £5.00 per person.
Christmas Craft Stalls & Raffle to be drawn at 1.15pm.
Stalls are available at nominal charge of £5.00.
Please contact for further details: Vicki Clift : 07799 660090
The Blue Community Bus will be available that day to pick up those residents less mobile.
Please contact to book your pickup: Arti Ranner on 07940 427112
This is our major fundraiser for us. your support would be so much appreciated in order for us to perform the work that we carry out for bredon and its surrounding villages.



Lengthsman: Mr David Gray



David Gray is the Parish Lengthsman who covers Bredon, Bredon's Norton, Westmancote, Kinsham and Bredon's Hardwick. The Lengthsman's primary duties are undertaken for Worcestershire Highways, *inside* the publicly adopted highway within a 30-mph limit, for which they make a contribution to costs and expenses for up to 30 hours per month. The Lengthsman's activities include:

Drainage:

Clear gully grates.
Clear verge grips.
Clear headwalls, outfalls.
Advise landowners and frontagers when their ditches need cleaning.

In especially difficult circumstances clear ditches – subject to prior agreement.

Vegetation Clearance:

Remove vegetation obstructing signs.
Remove vegetation at junction visibility splays.
Removal of basal tree growth from highway trees.
Pulling/cutting of noxious weeds following site specific approval.
Side out footways to normal width and spread arisings on verge where possible.
Negotiate with frontagers for them to cut back overhanging vegetation.

Miscellaneous:

Rotation and charging of mobile Vehicular Activated Signs (VAS) following site specific approval and authorisation.
Clean dirty signs and/or retighten brackets, reposition signs which have been knocked out of place where no excavation is required (except illuminated signs).
Painting of heritage cast iron direction signs.
Snow clearance and gritting / salting by hand.
Removal of illegal fly posting.
Maintenance and repainting of highways approved visibility fencing.
Cleaning of subways.

Note: Not included:

Litter picking.
Rubbish removal.
Removal of waste from gully pots / jetting or any other gully work that involves removal of covers or lids.
All work *outside* of the publicly adopted highway.
Cutting of private hedges.

The Lengthsman must have attended a Worcestershire Highways prescribed course(s) every five years, before being allowed to undertake any of the works outlined above.

"The leaves fall, the wind blows, and the farm country slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter wools."

Henry Beston

Probus Club

The club for retired and semi-retired professionals and businessmen



Every year, twice a year on the King's Official Birthday and in the New Year's Honours List, we hear of people being awarded a knighthood, CBE, OBE or MBE. But how much do we really know about the honours system? Probably very little. Members of Tewkesbury and Bredon Hill Probus Club were therefore delighted to welcome Ashley Jones MBE, who gave a fascinating

and detailed insight into how Britain recognises outstanding service through its honours system. Ashley explained that the British honours system is one of the nation's oldest and most respected traditions. He traced its origins from medieval knighthoods and orders of chivalry through to the modern honours awarded today. He described the various honours and awards in

detail, including MBEs, OBEs, CBEs, knighthoods and gallantry decorations, explaining how each is awarded and the differences between their medals and insignia. He also spoke about both famous and infamous recipients and told us that anyone can nominate any person they believe deserves an honour. Illustrating his talk with images of many well-known personalities, Ashley highlighted recipients whose awards were widely regarded as richly deserved, alongside others whose honours have proved more controversial.

He also explained that honours can be forfeited, with several recipients having their awards removed following serious offences such as espionage or other grave misconduct. Earlier in the month, club member Malcolm Pollock gave a fascinating presentation on the murals of Diego Rivera in Mexico City. While many people are familiar with the celebrated Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, who was married to Rivera for many years, Rivera himself is perhaps less well known. Malcolm illustrated his talk with superb photographs that he had taken of Rivera's remarkable murals, which are renowned for their immense scale and intricate detail. One of the murals is so large that it has its own museum built specifically to house it. Malcolm also explained how Rivera was a committed

communist and outspoken critic of capitalism, despite receiving commissions and patronage from many of Mexico's wealthiest and most influential figures of the time. Both presentations were thoroughly enjoyed by members and provided fascinating insights into two very different but equally engaging subjects.



Forthcoming Events in October:

- 6th Oct - Donald Campbell (with Paul Murphy)
- 13th Oct - The history and archaeology of Bredon Hill (with Deborah Overton)
- 20th Oct - Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (with John Jones)
- 27th Oct - Artificial Intelligence: The future is now! (with John Handby)

Chris Brown

<https://probusclub.net/tewkesbredon/>



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Poppy Stall

Saturday 24th October

from approximately 10am – 4pm at

The Old Bakery – next to Drapers SPAR,
Church Street, Bredon

Contactless payments will be accepted, as well as cash & cheque

BREDON TENNIS CLUB

NEW

JUNIOR

TENNIS SESSIONS

STARTING SOON

MONDAY SESSIONS

REDS: Monday 16:00pm – 18:45 pm Ages 4-6

ORANGES/GREENS: Monday 17:00pm – 18:00pm Ages 8-10

YELLOW: Monday 18:00pm – 19:00pm Ages 11+

SUNDAY SESSIONS

ORANGES: Sunday 12:00pm – 13:00pm Ages 8-9

GREENS/YELLOWS: Sunday 13:00pm – 14:00pm Ages 10+

Liamgough_pt@hotmail.co.uk 07521127940

TENNIS COACHING

Bredon Warm Welcome

You're Welcome to join our Space,
it's an open invitation to everyone

Connect with others

Have a chat with other local residents

Safe and warm space

Opportunity to make new friends

1st Thursday of the Month from 12-2pm

Free hot meal from a local supplier

3rd Thursday of the Month from 10:30am - 12

Share a warm drink and a piece of cake

Meet in Bredon Village Hall

Runs from October – May

For further information contact:
declan.shiels@bredonpc.org.uk

dementia friendly

Turnpikes and Toll Roads

Tim Hickson



Maria Gunning

When, in 1751, George William Coventry, of Croome Court, became the 6th Earl, the condition of roads in Britain was not good. (We complain about potholes today but then, one hidden by rain, drowned a traveller is it was eight feet wide and eight feet deep. It was, however, that deep as the clay had been mined by a local miller to repair his mill house! Clay caused particular problems as it would not drain. Stones laid on the surface would eventually sink into a sea of mud. Horses died, bogged down to their shoulders in mud.) When in London, the new Earl became besotted by

one of two beautiful sisters, Maria Gunning. She was 20 when he eventually persuaded her to marry him. In spite of his best efforts at Croome and although we know, from their letters, that they did love one another, she preferred living in London where there were theatres, parties and King George II liked having her at Court. The Coventrys had a passionate if tumultuous life for the next eight years and produced four children but then tuberculosis claimed her. She died in Croome Court, where the Earl told the builders to stop hammering and sawing so she could have some peace. Capability Brown's splendid new church was not finished, so she was initially buried at Pirton Church nearby. She had become, by then, such a 'celeb' that 10,000 people turned up for her funeral! Given the three day journey time from London, that has always struck me as remarkable. For centuries, attempts were made to return road surfaces to the quality of Roman military roads but there was no national plan. Eventually, in the early 1700s, if, say a parish wanted to improve their local roads, it could apply to Parliament for

permission to charge road users who damaged the roads and then use that money to repair surfaces. An Act would be passed specifically for that group to set up a Turnpike Trust. Ensuring travellers paid was difficult until the Act began to include permission to build moveable barriers which would only be opened once travellers had handed over the appropriate charge. They were called 'turnpikes' as the barrier was usually a long pole, as a pike would have, and it might also be spiked. The nature of road surfaces obviously depended on the material that made up the local ground. Generally it was possible to put large stones onto the earth and then smaller ones on top which would get ground by passing hooves and wheels. In boggy ground, logs were laid, corduroy-fashion, then stones on top. Later, curved surfaces were introduced to drain the rain into ditches by the side of the road by 'Blind Jack' Metcalf, Thomas Telford and John Macadam in particular. Finally, in 1902, tar was added as a binding material to give

what we know as TarMac (short for Tar Macadam). Evesham applied for a Turnpike Trust in 1727 but that seems only to have been for the roads going north, the direction of important trading. Upton was granted permission to have a Trust in 1751 for roads to the west. I found that Pershore's Turnpike Trust was granted in 1743 and also in 1825 for roads going to Birmingham. Initially there was no special accommodation for the 'pikemen' who took the money and opened the barriers. Generally it was in the early 1800s that Toll Houses began to appear. Probably our best local example is at the End of Bridge Street in Pershore. Although if you go down the A38 to Tewkesbury and then turn right to the Mythe Bridge, there is another splendid survivor. Try entering 'Surviving Toll Houses in Worcestershire' in Google to find others. Broadway has Pike Cottage in the High Street, Wyre Piddle has Turnpike Toll House in the village centre and where the road from Pershore to Upton where the A4104 meets the A38 there is the Blue Bell.



The Toll House

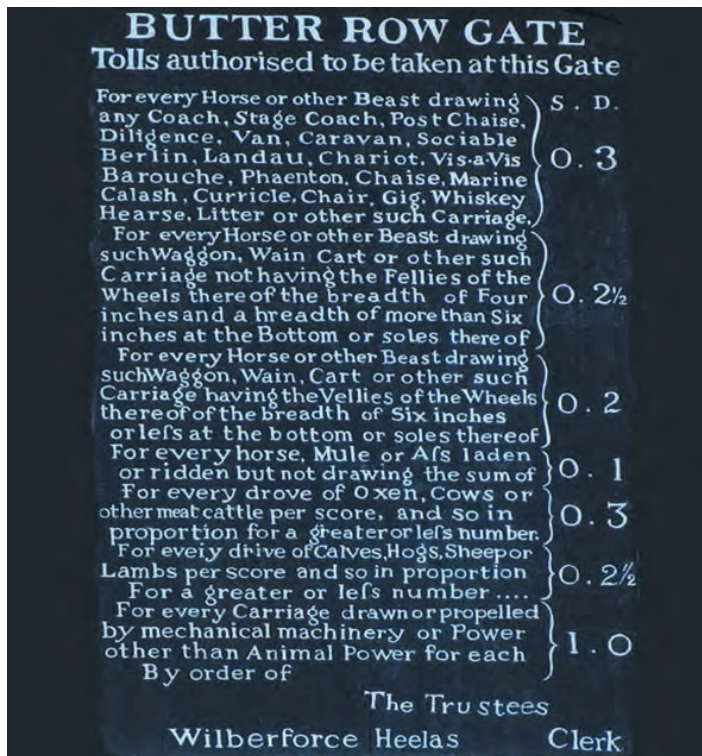


The Toll House

Turnpikes and Toll Roads

cont.

Tim Hickson



In Evesham at the junction of the A4184 and the old road, The Squires, is a very good example. The Little Malvern Toll House has been saved and is now in the remarkable Avoncroft museum of Buildings. This was built by the Upton on Severn Turnpike Trust in 1822. When tolls were paid, the amount was meant to reflect the damage that could be done to road surfaces. Driven animals, sheep, pigs and cattle, were generally charged per 20. Thus, at Pershore, a drove of Calves, Hogs, Sheep or Lambs cost 2.5 old pennies per 20 whereas a drove of Oxen or Neat Cattle cost five old pennies per 20. Every Wagon, Wain, Cart or Carriage drawn by five or more horses or oxen cost one old shilling. (Can you remember how many pennies to a shilling?) In some places, in recognition of the fact that thin wheels caused more damage than wide ones, charges

reflected this, even allowing vehicles to pass freely if the wheels were more like rollers. To us this arrangement may seem reasonable. Keeping roads in good condition requires money so to get it from those who damage the surfaces seems fair. However, many of those who, before, had never had to pay to travel objected strongly; so to be a pikeman could be hazardous. Also, notice that Toll Houses were outside the edge of towns so no one was charged to move around inside their town. These Parliamentary Acts allowing Turnpike Trusts to be set up were available in the C17th but were mainly used in the C18th and early C19th. The coming of the competition to move goods by canals acted as a stimulus for some parishes to get on with applying. However, the advent of railways caused the beginning of the decline.

Thoughts from the Snug

Catchphrases

A new game has been invented in The Snug. We'd like to share it with you. When played it provokes nostalgic memories (often from childhood) of radio and TV shows we loved. Matching these catch phrases with their owners produces chuckles and smiles – and what's wrong with that!

Match these Catchphrases with their originators. Answers below.

1. "Look at the muck in here!"
2. "Like it? ...Not a lot!"
3. "Nice to see you -To see you ,,,,"
4. "I don't believe it."
5. "Hello, my name is Julian and this is my friend Sandy"
6. "Hello playmates"
7. ITMA
8. "Like that not like that!"
9. "Don't panic, don't panic!"
10. "Oooh er, Missus."
11. "You're having a laugh."
12. "Language, Timothy."
13. "Pretentious! Moir?"

14. "What's on the table, Mable?"
15. "Lovely Jubbly."
16. "I have a cunning plan."
17. "This is the lady of the house."

Answers:

1. Larry Grayson, Generation Game. 2. Paul Daniels, magician. 3. Bruce Forsyth, Palladium & GG. 4. Victor Meldrew, OFITG. 5. Kenneth Williams, Round the Horn. 6. Arthur Askey, Workers Playtime. 7. Tommy Handley, It's that man again. 8. Tommy Cooper. 9. Corpral Jones, Dad's Army. 10. Frankie Howerd. Carry on Films. 11. Ricky Gervaise, Extras. 12. Ronnie Corbet, Sorry. 13. Miss Piggy, Muppets. 14. Wilfred Pickles, Have a Go Show, Radio (1946-67). 15. Del Boy, OF&H. 16. Baldrick, Black Adder. 17. Hyacinth Buckett, Keeping Up Appearances.

Most popular catchphrase in the snug? "Your round. Mines a pint!"

Buddy Bach

DO NOT MISS

Thursday 19th
November 2026



7.30 pm

Doors open at
6.30 pm

PERSHORE FLOWER CLUB

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DEMONSTRATION

AT NUMBER 8 PERSHORE

Coral Gardiner will be demonstrating

'A Treemendous Christmas'

TICKETS £15

RAFFLE OF ALL ARRANGEMENTS & LOTS MORE

GET YOUR TICKETS
FROM

NUMBER 8, PERSHORE

Box office 01386 555488

This is a wonderful way
to get into the spirit
of Christmas

JOIN US & HAVE
FUN!

Cover Photo Competition!

We are looking for seven photos for our papers
Each photo should be high-resolution and landscape

Submissions to: news@hughes.company
with your name and paper you would
like to be considered for

Deadline: 20th of each month



Autumnal Ideas for a Stylish Halloween Garden

Autumn has arrived with its crisp mornings, glowing foliage and that unmistakable shift toward cosy evenings. As Halloween approaches, it's the perfect moment to bring a little seasonal magic into the garden. Whether you love rich autumn colour, spooky contrasts or natural textures, a few thoughtful planting choices can transform your outdoor space beautifully. Here are some easy ideas to help you create a display that celebrates the best of the season.

Chrysanthemums (Mums)

Their warm shades of amber, rust, orange and deep purple make them ideal for October displays. They're brilliant in pots and keep flowering well into November.

Heuchera

This semievergreen perennial is a star for autumn texture.

Choose glowing copper, plum



or caramel foliage to add depth and richness. They're hardy, reliable and can be planted into borders afterwards.

Physalis (Chinese Lanterns)

Their bright orange lanterns are perfect for Halloween styling. They dry beautifully, so you can use them in wreaths or table decorations long after the season ends.

Calluna (Heather)

Heather's purple and pink tones pair perfectly with pumpkins and gourds. It flowers from late summer into winter and is a great choice for adding height and structure.

Ophiopogon planiscapus

'Nigrescens' (Black Grass)

This lowgrowing, dramatic black foliage is ideal for adding contrast. It makes orange pumpkins pop and gives displays a moody, gothic twist.

Ornamental Kale

A brilliant addition for autumn containers. Their ruffled leaves and purple centres look almost floral and thrive in cooler weather. All of these plants can be arranged in baskets with different colours and sizes of gourds, along with pumpkins, twigs, branches and berries to decorate a windowsill,

garden table or doorstep.

Add fairy lights for extra sparkle at nighttime.

Sempervivums in Pumpkins or Gourds

If you want a Halloween decoration that looks beautifully crafted but is surprisingly simple, try planting sempervivums (houseleeks) inside small pumpkins or gourds. They're hardy, low-maintenance, and their sculptural shapes look incredible against autumn colours.

How to make one:

- Choose a small, firm pumpkin or gourd with a flat base.

- Slice off a shallow lid and scoop out some of the flesh - just enough to create a small bowl shape.

- Add a moisture barrier such as dry moss or hessian to protect the roots from damp.

- Nestle the sempervivum into the cavity so it sits snugly.

They last around 7-10 days depending on the temperature - it's best to keep them cool. When the pumpkin starts to soften, simply lift the sempervivum out and plant it in a pot, so nothing goes to waste.

Help the Wildlife

It's tempting to leave carved pumpkins out for wildlife after



Nikki Hollier

nikki@borderinabox.com

@borderinabox

www.borderinabox.com

Halloween, but Forestry England now advises against it. Pumpkins aren't part of a natural woodland diet and can make some animals poorly. They also attract rodents, which can spread disease. It's best to pop any pumpkins into the compost heap where they'll break down safely.

Celebrate the season, enjoy the changing colours, and embrace the cosy charm that October brings.



October gardening tips

Early in the month.

New lawns can still be seeded (soon) or turfed this month. This is a good time to plant trees, shrubs, roses, fruit trees and soft fruit plants. Clear summer bedding from tubs and borders and replace it with plants which give colour through to spring. Garden Centres will have an extensive range of suitable species in their planterias including Winter Pansies, Violas, Wallflowers, Ornamental Cabbage etc. Don't forget to add some colourful evergreen plants and spring flowering bulbs to your planting scheme. Osteospermums, Arctotis, Argemone and other tender perennials should be lifted from the borders, potted and brought inside for the winter. Spray peaches and nectarines with Vitax Copper Mixture against peach leaf curl. Spring flowering bulbs of all kinds can be planted outdoors this month.

Middle of the month.

Rake up fallen leaves both for general hygiene and to use to

make leaf mould – a valuable soil conditioner or a peat substitute in home made potting compost recipes. Continue planting spring flowering bedding like Wallflowers, Brompton Stocks, Forget-Me- Nots and Sweet Williams. Allow the first frosts to blacken off Dahlia foliage before lifting and drying the tubers ready for winter storage. Treating the tubers with sulphur dust before storage helps to prevent rotting. If you have light soil consider leaving the tubers in the soil over winter, perhaps with a protective mulch of garden compost or bark over the root area. Gladioli corms should be lifted, dried and stored in a frost-free place until spring. Clean up dead foliage from the centres of Pampas Grass clumps, but wear strong gloves to avoid being cut by the razor sharp leaves. Lift and divide large clumps of early flowering perennials. Late flowers can be left until spring. Mow lawns less frequently and treat them

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester



with an autumn lawn fertiliser. Lawns also benefit from a good wire raking to clear "thatch" and spiking with a hollow tined aerator. Hardwood cuttings can be taken from now onwards but the sooner the better. Tidy up pond plants, removing the foliage from water lilies before they decompose in the water.

Feed your fish less often as they begin to slow down for the winter. Remember to use a wheatgerm based food as these are much easier for the fish to digest. Prune blackcurrants, blackberries and hybrid berries e.g. loganberries, tayberries. Watering and ventilation need careful attention in greenhouses in order to avoid fungal diseases. Sow winter lettuce under cloches and frames. Plant lily bulbs in pots in a cold greenhouse to get early flowers. Sow sweet peas in pots in a cold frame. Protect against damage by mice. Pick apples and pears. Remember to remove any mummified fruits as these harbour brown rot disease. As houseplants

slow down for the winter they will require less watering and feeding. If you wish to move any deciduous shrubs to the job now. Lift the plants with a good rootball intact and re-plant firmly.

Late in the month.

Tall deciduous shrubs – e.g. roses, Lavatera and Buddleia can be cut back by one third in order to prevent wind rock. Dead foliage on any herbaceous plants can be removed between now and next Spring. Sow broad bean Aquadulce Claudia in mild areas to crop next June. Plant Paperwhite Narcissi now for flowering in mid-December. Keep the planted containers in a light warm place.



Anne

Worcester, Wychavon &
North Cotswolds

bluebird
care®

Expert care.
From Mum's
favourite
armchair.

We're here so your loved one can stay home, where they want to be. Where things are safe and familiar and they have the best chance to live a full and meaningful life.

Whether it's everyday companionship or everyday errands, Live-in Care or Home Care visits, our highly-trained Care Experts will give your loved one the support they need to live in the place they feel best: home.

See how we can *support you*.

It's good to
be home

Call us for a friendly chat on

01386 575800

Or email

worcesterandwychavon@
bluebirdcare
.co.uk

*Find
out more*



Ailsa's Kitchen

The gluts and harvest continue as fruit trees groan under the weight of ripe apples and pears, the branches bending downwards (always amazes me how much they spring up when you've picked!) What can you NOT do with apples – surely one of the most versatile of foods? Freeze them, stew them, make puddings, cakes, sauces and put them in savoury dishes. So many different varieties to choose from – everyone will have their particular favourite. With over 7,000 different cultivars available worldwide, it's no surprise that apples are the most widely consumed fruit globally! In addition to their culinary versatility and numerous colours and flavours to choose from, apples are an exceptionally healthy fruit with many research-backed benefits. A good source of fibre and vitamins C and E. They may help lower high cholesterol and blood pressure levels, can aid digestion and support a healthy immune system as well as being a diabetes friendly fruit. An ever favourite combination is pork and apple – and the perfect month to make this.

Pork and Apple Casserole

700g pork cubed
1 tablespoon seasoned flour
2 tablespoon sunflower oil
100g smoked streaky bacon, chopped
large leek, cut into chunks
Garlic clove, crushed
500 ml dry cider
250ml chicken stock
1 tablespoon soured cream
(if you don't have any, add a little lemon juice to plain cream or even use cream fraiche)
1 tablespoon wholegrain mustard
Squeeze of lemon juice (optional)
2 apples, cored
50 g butter
2 tsp. Soft Brown Sugar
1 tablespoon sage, roughly chopped
Heat the oven to 170°C (150°C fan oven) gas mark 3. Toss the pork in the seasoned flour. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large hob

proof casserole dish. Brown the pork in batches over a medium to high heat and set aside. Fry bacon in the casserole to release the fat then turn up the heat and fry until golden. Set aside with the pork. Fry the leek until lightly golden, then add the garlic and cook for 1 minute. Stir in any leftover seasoned flour and cook for 1 minute. Gradually blend in the cider and stock and bring to the boil. Return the pork and bacon to the casserole, cover and cook in the oven for 1-1½ hours until the pork is tender. Remove meat and leeks with a slotted spoon and keep warm. Put the casserole over a medium heat. If the sauce is thin, reduce a little until syrupy. Add the cream and simmer for 2 minutes until thickened. Stir in the mustard. Check the seasoning and add a squeeze of lemon juice if

Ailsa Craddock



necessary. Meanwhile, halve the apples, then cut into 1cm thick slices. Melt the butter in a pan with the sugar. When it's stopped foaming, add the apples and fry gently for 3-5 minutes until tender and caramelised. Serve the pork and apple casserole garnished with the apple slices and sage.

Apple and Oats pudding

1 medium apple, peeled and sliced
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoons quick-cooking oats
1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
Cream, optional
Place apple slices in a small greased baking dish. In a small bowl, combine flour and brown sugar; cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add oats and cinnamon. Sprinkle over apple slices. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until tender.

Serve with cream or ice cream.

Apple Crisps

2 apples, thinly sliced
2 tsp. granulated sugar
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
Preheat oven to 200°. In a large bowl, toss apples with sugar and cinnamon. Place a metal rack inside a rimmed baking sheet. Lay apples slices on top of rack, spacing them so that no apples overlap. Bake for 2 to 3 hours, flipping apples halfway through, until apples dried out but still pliable. (Apples will continue to crisp while cooling).



Celebrating Apple Day



Karen Rose

October 21st is Apple Day. Launched by the environmental charity Common Ground in 1990 it's a much-loved moment in the orchard year: a chance to enjoy one of autumn's great treats and recognise the value of traditional orchards to our landscape, food heritage and wildlife. Orchards are wonderful places for nature. Old apple and pear trees often develop hollows, cracks and rough bark, creating homes for bats, birds, beetles and other insects. Spring blossom provides nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and hoverflies, while fallen fruit feeds birds, mammals, wasps and many invertebrates in autumn. Long grass, hedgerows and wildflowers add even more shelter and food. As October arrives and nature slows down, orchards are still full of life. Cherries and plums may be

long gone, but apples and pears are ready for harvest, and later varieties can store well into winter — good news when local food resilience matters more than ever. Here in the Vale, we're lucky to have the Vale Landscape Heritage Trust, whose volunteers look after 20 sites, including many old orchards. These orchards and flower-rich grasslands are part of the Vale's historic landscape and would otherwise be lost. On 25th October, the Trust will hold an Apple Day at Stocken Orchard, near Tiddesley Wood: a chance to taste local fruit, buy honey and juice, take part in apple activities and enjoy a beautiful traditional orchard. Look out for details and join us to celebrate orchards.

Karen Rose is a biodiversity officer at Wychavon District Council

Roaming with Romy

Now that the heat has passed, it will finally be the season of sweatshirts and fuzzy socks. Autumn this year will be so much more festive in the countryside, surrounded by the falling of apples and the smell of leaves and dew. Whilst living in Liverpool, it was rare to see an apple tree, although I was fortunate with the accommodation that I stayed in

first and third years that meant I was close to Sefton Park, which had many other types of tree. I will never forget the first time that I saw the bright green parakeets in Sefton Park, I had to look up whether they were meant to be there: I just thought one had flown away from an owner until I saw hundreds of them! I even saw a kingfisher



Romy Kemp



next to the stream that runs throughout Sefton. There was a heron as well who seemed a resident of the lake there too and was one of the reasons that I visited often. I watched many an amazing sunset in my friend's car. Although it is nice to be home in Worcestershire and starting a new chapter, Liverpool was such an incredible and inspiring time of my life, one that I will never forget! The hustle and bustle of a busy city makes the sudden independence that much more exciting to explore, but now I am no longer a student but a graduate instead. Despite what I have said, I am still visiting Merseyside to see my boyfriend, and over the next year I will be visiting my friends as well. Now that I am settled and home, I have begun the Couch to 5K. Having started over the summer heat, it has become more enjoyable now that the weather is cooler. Now that I am working at

Hughes & Company, I have been able to obtain a graduate job that is significant to my degree. Although my degree was in English and not journalism or editing, the skills that I have learned already have been incredible - I am not the best with technology and have learnt many shortcuts that I wouldn't have known otherwise. The majority of my friends have gone back to university so over the year I will be seeing them during holidays and when I visit them. I am excited to catch up with my friends who are still in Worcestershire. I am also looking into joining a martial arts club as I had so much fun at TaeKwonDo before university.

A Place to Meet

I've noticed the sun is setting much earlier now, and my flat is filled with a golden glow as I make dinner. This can only mean one thing. Autumn is coming. For many of us, what a relief. No more heatwaves, stuffy air and pollen (gosh, my asthma has been bad this summer). Now enter baggy jumpers and cosy evenings spent indoors. An introvert's dream. This autumn does feel slightly different for me. I have started a new job, my routine has changed, and I'm still finding my feet. I'm getting used to it, but I'm trying not to wish away these first few weeks until everything feels normal, as tempting as it is. Instead, I'm trying to enjoy the seasonal rituals that mark the changing seasons. There is a lot of seasonal beauty to be found in this small city. The river is beautiful this time of year, and walking around the cathedral can feel like stepping into one of those old university films, like *Mona Lisa Smile*. The changing leaves, earlier sunsets

and golden light make even a familiar walk feel slightly different. The cathedral has a programme of musical events and tours throughout autumn, while local venues and community groups have their own seasonal activities planned. Autumn doesn't have to mean staying indoors until spring. Churchfields Farm is opening its fields after dark for two special evenings this October, and there are plenty of Halloween-themed activities and fayres taking place in local community spaces. Although the days are getting shorter, it doesn't mean we have to cut the nights short too. I have started attending more open mic nights recently, and it was actually a good friend of mine who suggested we start going. She wanted to sing at them herself, and her idea has given us some fantastic nights out and led us to meet new people and discover some incredibly talented local musicians. It's one of those simple ideas that has opened the door to a whole

Chloe Pickstock

new part of Worcester's community. And then there is Halloween. There is something I love about Halloween. Perhaps it's the excuse to dress up, or the slightly spooky atmosphere, or simply the fact that it gives us permission to be a little silly for an evening. I'm also helping to host my theatre group's Halloween party this year, which I'm really excited about. It is easy to think of autumn as the season when everything starts to disappear. The evenings get darker, and the temperature drops as summer slowly becomes a memory. But perhaps it is also a season of finding new things



to enjoy. I might still choose a long summer evening over an early autumn sunset, but perhaps the season isn't so bad after all. And maybe that is what I want to take from this season: a reminder that beauty and community still exist, even when life feels like it is changing too quickly or even when things feel a little bleak.



Gregory's World!

Choosin' Texas

"Any of you folks from outta town?" the guitarist asked his audience, leaning forward on his instrument like a rancher leaning on the pommel of his saddle. I stuck my hand up. "England!"

"Ireland!" A group chimed in. "South Africa!" cried another group, decisively winning this contest.

"Well, you're most welcome!" exclaimed the guitarist, tipping his hat and seguing into a cover of Glen Campbell's 'Galveston'. Me and my sister, Ali, sat across from him in a booth, illuminated by neon lights, sipping lemonade from red party cups, absorbing the atmosphere of the 'last of the true Texas dancehalls': the Broken Spoke. What kind of a road-trip through the 'Lone Star State' doesn't involve a honky-tonk somewhere along the line? Being in the spiritual company of a pantheon of country music gods, including Willie Nelson and the late great Dolly Parton, was too good an opportunity to ignore. The Spoke is also famous for its chicken fried steak. Yes, I blinked when I first heard about

it too. America is the land of the big, so of course a mountain of fries and a lagoon of ranch sauce was served with it! It's hard to imagine a more Texan dish.

We were surrounded by cowboy boots, Stetsons, and a sea of denim. Country music was playing, harmonicas were skirling. If we were playing a bingo game of all things quintessentially Texan, we were one 'yee-hah!' away from a full house. That's what I admired most about the Spoke: Texan to the core. It hadn't been depersonalised by tourism.

Then again, the Texan identity is probably too strong for that to ever be a worry. In 1835, the (then) Texians revolted against Mexico. During the Battle of Gonzales, the Texians refused to hand over a cannon that was on loan to them and mocked up a quick flag: a cannon on a white field, 'Come and take it' written underneath it. Across the state, these words have since been immortalised on just about every merchandisable item under the sun, from bumper stickers to baby grows. Today, they not only describe the state's attitude towards cannons but are often

used to encapsulate its entire ethos of pride, toughness and never going quietly. Tonight, I wanted to be part of this loud, proud, wonderful culture, to experience its food, music and camaraderie. Once our plates were cleared away, it was time for our final test: trial by line dancing. We assembled in the dancehall alongside visitors from as far away as New Mexico and Michigan, Scotland and Israel. Anyone who thought this was just going to be a laugh quickly realised their mistake as soon as our dance instructor arrived. "Y'all better pay attention now!" She was fierier than a triple-shot of Cholula hot sauce.

She inspected us all with shrewd eyes and one hand on her hip (the other would soon be busy slapping the wrists or bottoms of anyone who didn't concentrate). The trick with line dancing, fellow reader, is to keep your feet on the ground at all times. Don't be pretty. Don't kick or flick. Don't do teeny-weeny steps. Shuffle from side to side as though your feet are buried under straw and you can't lift them up. One, two. Then forward three



steps. A one, two, three. From the top! Ali was my dance partner, unfortunately for her. I clomped around for a bit, constantly forgetting my steps, but it was so much fun. When the band arrived and broke out with 'Cotton Eye Joe', our dance instructor's reign came to an end. Everyone dared to lift their feet off the ground and started freestyling. Me and Ali linked arms, galloped in a circle, clapped, and galloped back the other way. "Yes! Awesome! You guys are great!" cried a fellow line dancer, with more enthusiasm than the average Brit shows in their entire life. She linked arms with her partner and joined in. What d'ya know? Forget just showing up. We'd actually started something! *We came to Texas, true, but we didn't take anything. We shared in it.*

Evie's Adventures

Evie Aubin Oxford Brookes University



It feels slightly surreal sitting down to write my October article already. Somehow, we have gone from the beginning of the year to autumn in what feels like the blink of an eye, and by the time you're reading this, Halloween will probably be right around the corner. Where has the time gone! There's something very strange about being able to say that this is my final year. University has become such a huge part of my life, so knowing that I'm now in the last chapter feels both exciting

and overwhelmingly emotional. I'm determined to make the most of it, and one of the best things about being back has been getting involved with university life again. This year, I decided to join the podcast society, which has already been such a fun experience. I love the idea of being able to help create something with other people, have conversations, share ideas and, hopefully, produce some entertaining content along the way. I have also been working on

our hybrid magazine, which has been another really exciting start to the year. There is something so satisfying about seeing ideas develop from a simple conversation into something real that other people can read and enjoy. It's given me another creative outlet and, most importantly, another reason to get stuck into university life during what could otherwise be quite a busy final year. Of course, one of the biggest things I was looking forward to about coming back was seeing all my friends.

There is something so comforting about being surrounded by people you know, catching up on everything that's happened over the summer and slipping back into familiar routines. Even the ordinary moments feel special when you realise that there aren't many of them left. And, while I absolutely love being around everyone, I can't deny that there is also something lovely about having a little peace and quiet. Living away from home gives me the chance to have my own space, my own routines and a bit of independence. Whilst I really value that, it doesn't mean I don't miss my family (So to my dear



mother, when you read this, don't go around saying that I don't miss you!). As much as I am enjoying this new chapter, my family is always in the back of my mind. I love having the freedom that university brings, but there is nothing quite like being at home with the people who know you best. Thankfully, Christmas will be here before we know it, and I'll be back with them before long. As well as once more returning to work at the incredible Hughes and Company for a few weeks! For now, though, I am going to go back to planning my assignments and dissertation, sitting in the beautiful Waterstones cafe with a cup of tea surrounded by my friends; and try to enjoy every moment of this final year. If the year has gone this quickly already, I have a feeling Christmas will be here before I know it! Wish me luck, Toodles!

Farming

Mike Page

The Weather this time continues to be problematic: the main harvest of grain in the UK does not start usually until well into July, continuing on into August, and in some seasons even into September. This year the dry and hot conditions prevailing meant that here in Worcestershire crops ripened early, or in some cases died off rather than ripening naturally but still managing to produce some viable grain; in many parts of the UK combine harvesters were being returned to the barn well before the end of July, with harvest finished out in the fields. Total national crop harvested as yet unknown, but likely to be well down on more usual levels. We have all seen not only our garden lawns but huge areas of grassland turn gradually brown rather than remaining green this summer season, with active growth ceasing, leaving little for grazing livestock to eat; perennial grasses not necessarily dead but certainly in dormant mode in order to remain viable. Some of the grass harvested earlier in the Summer and intended for this coming Winter's rations has been fed already to grazing livestock to supplement the shortage of grazing. So, the situation, not

only in the arable farming sector but in the livestock sector as well, is not looking all that good. And we are told by weather experts that a particularly high level El Niño, even though happening in the Pacific Ocean many thousands of miles away, could well affect the weather here over the coming Winter and then into another Summer with climate similar to what we have experienced in 2025 and 2026. Total grain and other crop harvests this year have been sharply down. Farming in the UK provides some 2/3rds of our basic food requirements and is a major contributor to the UK's favourable Balance of Payments figures; the NFU and CLA and other farming support groups remain hopeful that their continuing lobbying at the highest level will convince PM. Andy Burnham and his Government to adopt policies that support farming and allow it to provide food for this Country as much as it can. Faced with leadership in Countries like Iran and Russia, quite prepared to use control over essential basic requirements (such as energy and food) for military purposes, being as far as possible self sufficient in supplying our own food has



become really important. Looking at a tractor going backwards and forwards across a field, or watching a flock of sheep pacing around a field with noses to the ground, does not in all probability arouse questions in our minds of national security, but it should. To the UK Farming is a lot more important than most people realise. On a lighter note, some rain in recent times (not

as much as we really need!) but enough to soften the upper soil somewhat will mean that the local Crowle Annual Ploughing Match can go ahead soon this month (September). It was cancelled last year as ground conditions were much too dry and hard for a plough to penetrate easily. So, we local farmers will have at least one good day to celebrate this Autumn!

View from the boundary

Well, the cricket season is nearly over and, after another hammering from Northants, perhaps the sooner the better. There are still two Championship games to play, against Durham and Derbyshire, but another deeply disappointing season is drawing to a close. The ECB has agreed to leave the County Championship format substantially as it is for next season. The latest proposal for restructuring failed to obtain sufficient support from the counties, so we remain with ten counties in Division One and eight in Division Two. There will doubtless be further proposals for restructuring in the future, but Worcestershire first needs to make sure that, whatever the structure, it is competing at the right end of it. The Lord's square is clearly past its sell-by date. The ICC has already rated one of its Test pitches "unsatisfactory", and the MCC — and I am a member — needs to bite the bullet. There has been enough discussion, analysis and

experimentation. The square needs serious remedial work and, in my view, the sooner the necessary pitches are relaid, the better. If that means sacrificing fixtures in order to restore Lord's to the standard expected of the Home of Cricket, so be it. Locally, the Council continues to put up road closures and then apparently do nothing. A road is closed on a Friday morning and work does not begin until Wednesday. Where is the basic process control and management? West Midlands Trains seem to get worse: delays, cancellations and apparently very little running on time. Why? Lack of staff, equipment failure, strikes — and now a new one: "congestion". Perhaps somebody could explain to me how, if you have broadly the same number of trains running with the required separation between them, you suddenly acquire congestion. The new Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, is already showing

signs of changing direction. The prisoner-release proposals are a good example. He initially paused the scheme and ordered a review following the public outcry, and revised arrangements are now due to come into force in October. Some of the more serious offenders have been excluded. Whether one calls that sensible reconsideration or another political U-turn probably depends upon one's point of view. My concern remains that criminal-justice policy should be thought through before it is announced, not afterwards. Some time ago I suggested, tongue in cheek, that Chikurubi in Zimbabwe might be a suitable destination for foreign criminals who have no right to remain in this country. Perhaps it was less tongue in cheek than I thought. Leaving aside the obvious legal and diplomatic difficulties, the underlying question remains: why should the British taxpayer continue indefinitely to meet the

substantial cost of imprisoning foreign offenders who could lawfully be removed? Meanwhile, the boats keep coming — and they are carrying more people. The average number of people carried by each small boat rose to about 62 in 2025, compared with 53 in 2024. The figures are striking. During the five complete calendar years from 2021 to 2025, 182,025 people arrived in the United Kingdom by small boat. The annual totals were 28,526 in 2021; 45,774 in 2022; 29,437 in 2023; 36,816 in 2024; and 41,472 in 2025. That is not conjecture: those are the recorded figures. Immigration, border control and asylum have become subjects on which it is remarkably difficult to have a sensible debate. One side is too ready to exaggerate; the other sometimes seems equally determined to pretend that there is no problem.

Peter Jewell



Joe's Teenage Focus

New PM Andy Burnham - My Perspective.

On the 20th of July 2026, following Keir Starmer's resignation as Prime Minister and leader of the Labour Party, Andy Burnham became the Prime Minister. But what does this mean for England? Despite both politicians being from the same party, our new PM has put forward some slightly different ideas. As an example, due to his beliefs about the North-South divide, he will be attempting to increase investment in the North of England through new laws and plans such as the introduction of Number 10 North, in which there would be a unit in Manchester. Therefore, the

idea behind this is that it would supply more power and influence within Manchester. Along with this, he has shown his desire for nationalisation of certain industries such as water and energy as he stated they should be in public control.

This could mean that under Andy Burnham, private companies in certain industries may face stricter regulation within some industries transitioning fully to public ownership. Next, he has promised to implement an increased number of technical routes in schools in an attempt to lay them on equal footing with more academic routes as he believes they aren't viewed equally and are viewed with prejudice.

Joe Bowsher

As a student in education currently, I personally think this is a great idea and a long overdue reform to the education system. Whilst I don't pursue technical routes myself, I believe that they are important in shaping career paths such as architecture which is vital for England's urban environments whilst simultaneously aiding our economy. Furthermore, I think that to have a functioning and beneficial education system we must ensure it provides support for all students, not preferred demographics of the school. Policies such as this are beneficial for the long term and short term. As for his other policies for younger people, he has said he plans to address youth



unemployment, which I believe is a pressing issue. Yet, he hasn't laid out any specific plans for how he will tackle youth unemployment, but as a young person I feel interested in solutions to this problem, as I'm sure many others are. Overall, it's fair to say that he has made many pledges as part of his idea to hit the ground running and England can see how this develops.

Jars for the Honey Harvest

Martyn Cracknell



1lb Squat

=

12ounce Hex

+

another 4 ounces

'Less Honey is More expensive'

At this time of year many of us turn our attention to the local, County or National Honey shows to see whether the harvest from our bees can stand comparison with the best in the area. The first priority is to obtain a show schedule and carefully read the rules to ensure that your exhibits will comply, otherwise they will be automatically disqualified. Extracted honey will have to be shown in jars of an approved

design. The National honey show stipulates the use of a 1lb. squat jar with either a screw or a twist lid and this jar is still the most commonly used honey jar.

It was originally introduced as the wartime, Ministry of Agriculture austerity standard, and was later adopted by the British Standards Institution as the British standard squat Honey jar in 1981. This jar was designed specifically for honey which has a greater density than

jam. When filled with honey to just below the screw thread, it holds 1lb., but only 14 oz. of jam. If we used 1lb jam jars for our honey, each pot would hold an extra 2 ounces. This standard was withdrawn in 2002 and honey may now be sold in a range of jars of different patterns and sizes. In recent years the attractive hexagonal 12 oz jar has become popular. These jars used to be significantly more expensive than the squats, however they

are now comparable in price and are likely to be increasingly used. When seen side by side these and other modern alternative jars look very similar. Consumers do not readily realise that they hold significantly less honey than a standard squat (25% less), but the price is often the same or similar. For those who are not familiar with the units of weight, 1lb. or 16ounces is equivalent to 454 grams and the 3/4lb. jar which is 12ounces approximates to 340grams. Unfortunately these hexagonal jars were not designed for dense honey so when filled with 3/4 lb. or 340 grams, they often look underfilled. When trying to compare prices or to determine value for money you need to check the weight which must be stated on the label. It is inevitable that the smaller the size of jar, the higher the cost per gram of honey to cover the cost of the extra jars and labels.

It is a new twist on the saying, 'Less is More'

NHS Organ Donor Card



Yes I donate
ORGAN DONATION

For further information telephone 300 123 23 23
For enrolment information go to www.organdonation.nhs.uk

The Birth Flower Seed Calendar 2027

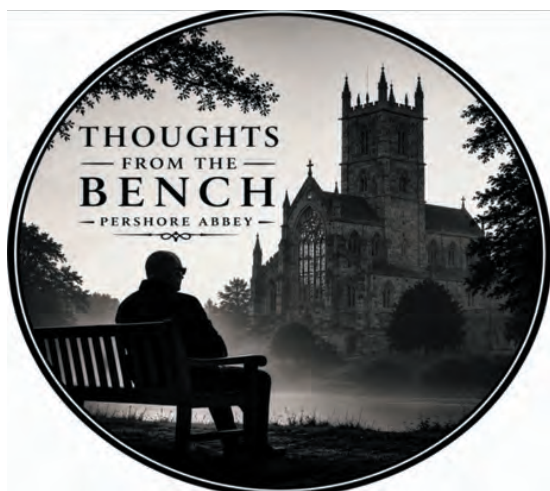
A beautiful gift for the year ahead.



Available from borderinabox.com

Thoughts from the bench: the power of tiny steps

Craig Powell



As I sit on the bench, a boy rides past on a cool BMX. Hands behind his back, balancing effortlessly as he performs what I used to call a wheelie. Not far behind is who I imagine to be his younger brother, helmet fastened, stabilisers rattling as he pedals hard, determined to keep up. Between them lie only a few years, yet it feels like a lifetime of learning. A lamppost separates them for a moment, but in reality it's practice, persistence and patience that create the true distance. Behind them, Pershore Abbey glows in pink against the fading evening sky. It has watched generations of children learn to ride, fall off, get back on and eventually glide past with confidence. Watching them, I found myself wishing I could tell the younger boy one thing: Don't worry about the stage you're at. His older brother wasn't born riding a BMX with confidence. He would have fallen countless times. He would have scraped his knees, become frustrated and perhaps

even wanted to give up. Yet every wobble, every failed attempt and every ride added another tiny step towards the skill he has today. We often talk about motivation, inspiration and success, but perhaps we've forgotten the simplest lesson of all. How did we learn everything we already know? One tiny step at a time. Whether it's learning a new skill, rebuilding confidence, improving our health, strengthening relationships or chasing a dream, the process is remarkably similar. Progress rarely arrives in giant leaps. It arrives quietly, through small actions repeated consistently. We celebrate the finish line, yet it is the ordinary days of showing up that make extraordinary achievements possible. After all is said and done, success is rarely about talent alone. It's about tiny steps.

*Photography and article from Craig Powell
Thoughts From the Bench
Because every lasting change begins with one tiny step.*

Late Payment Penalties when HMRC issues a 'Return Late'

Carol Draper



The standard payment deadline for Self-Assessment is 31st January. If tax remains unpaid more than 30 days after this deadline late payment penalties can be charged at 5% of the outstanding tax due. If tax remains outstanding at six and twelve months further 5% penalties arise.

So what happens if you receive a request from HMRC to submit a Self-Assessment return after the normal 31st January payment deadline has already passed? If the return subsequently shows tax to be payable, does this mean late payment penalties are automatic? The answer depends on whether there was any failure by the taxpayer to notify HMRC of their chargeability to tax. Just because you have not been required to submit a return before does not absolve you from telling HMRC your circumstances mean you are now chargeable to Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax and should therefore complete a Self-Assessment return. The normal deadline for doing so is 5th October following the end of the tax year.

HMRC's guidance explains notification is not required in certain circumstances, including where there are no chargeable gains above the relevant exempt amount and the individual either has no net Income Tax liability or has had sufficient tax deducted at

source to meet that liability. In these circumstances, if HMRC subsequently decides a return is required and there is a resultant tax liability HMRC treats the relevant date for the balancing payment as three months and seven days after the return was issued. Provided the resulting tax liability is paid by that date, a late payment penalty should not arise. The outcome can be very different if the taxpayer was required to notify HMRC by 5th October 2025 but failed to do so. HMRC's guidance states that, in a failure-to-notify case, the balancing payment date remains 31st January rather than moving to three months and seven days after the return was issued. If you have been charged late payment penalties and do not understand the reasons behind them, speak to your accountant.

Carol Draper FCCA
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd



**Clifton-Crick
Sharp**
Accountants

2a-3a Market Gate
Persnore
Worcestershire WR10 1DZ
01386 561100
mail@clifton-crick.co.uk
www.clifton-crick.co.uk

Village Life

John Driscoll



I seem to start most of these columns with the weather, and this is no different. As I write this the outlook is decidedly autumnal, with grey skies, rain and the prospect of more of the same. However, the big surprise has been just how quickly the grass has recovered from a seemingly terminal parched frazzle to verdant greenery. About a week of regular rain, mostly steady rather than torrential, and nature has done what it does best - it's recovered. Time to gently return to mowing to give it a chance to find its feet, removal of detritus from the surface, and it'll be set for winter.

And I've not been alone, with a seemingly constant drone of mowers around the village as we all no doubt wonder how many weeks until we can stop for a few months and really let the grass get on with it. What a funny year it's been. By mid August so many trees were turning to autumn colours and dropping leaves. Now they look set to revive and put off the inevitable for a few weeks longer. Nanny McFee warned "there'll be snow in August" - maybe not so far from the case - or are we looking forward to barbecues in December?! I've often referred to our village as sleepy, and I

feel that's very much the case at present. Our nearby church had a railway themed fund raiser during September, which included a magnificent model railway featuring the village station that was functioning until the early 1960's. Enthusiasts have evidently devoted much time and no doubt love to this project, and what a treat to see it working so well. Young visitors were able to drive the trains, much to their delight. I seem to be too old to qualify but hey-ho! Sadly we didn't have our little grandson with us - though he is a little young and perhaps the custodians wouldn't have appreciated a multi-train pile-up that may well have ensued! Next time maybe? Sad to say the ramifications of the planned new Wychavon Town development still exercise many of us and probably will do for some time to come. We're very close to the edge of the proposed development and our main concern revolves around the likelihood of greatly increased traffic during construction and subsequent occupation. We also have the very real fear that parts of the village will suffer flooding after so much land at higher level is built over. We are getting mobilised as a community and raising our objections to planning applications as they are submitted. However we are acutely aware that we are very small voices against

well resourced and experienced developers. No surprise, but the greatest challenge we have is wading through endless reams of documentation, much of which is probably generated using AI or by armies of professionals who know how to produce enough highly erudite verbiage to create a very effective smoke-screen. I seem to recall a past Prime Minister threatening to lie down in front of bulldozers rather than let a Heathrow development go ahead - suffice to say he didn't, but the inspiration is there for the rest of us. Any volunteers? As previously reported, our other little project is the need to re-paint our wonky telephone box to restore its former glory. The long hot summer days put us off, followed of course by rain to fuel our excuses. Not giving up hope just yet, and it really does deserve a refresh to match its new use as a well-supported book exchange! Again - any volunteers? We then need to think about planting some spring colour around the village and the rain will soon have softened the ground enough for us to mobilise. Watch this space and hopefully I can report progress on both these projects in a future column. Meanwhile enjoy autumn and the approach of winter, and dare I say we'll be charging head-first into Christmas before we know what's happening! Now, there's a thought. Ho Ho Ho!

Music Matters

In September 1955, a 23 year old Richard Penniman entered a recording studio and created a record that would change rock music forever and still influences music today. Recorded under his stage name of Little Richard, the energetic and urgent Tutti Frutti was recorded in just three takes and became his first major hit. Having become frustrated that the recording session wasn't going as he hoped, Richard started pounding on a piano and singing a song he'd been playing live for a while. The famous Wop Bop a Loo La line is his idea of how the drums would sound and once the lyrics were made appropriate for a wider audience the song was complete. His powerful vocals, loud percussive sound has become how rock music is made. The song has been named as "the sound of the birth of rock

and roll" and "announcing a new era in rock and roll"; it has been cited as influences by The Beatles, Jimmi Hendrix, Otis Reading and David Bowie and many many more. As well as the way it was performed, there are a lot of reasons this song remains so influential today, but there can be little doubt that over 70 years since it was recorded its DNA is still being felt in artists today.

Notable New Releases

- Before the world blows
by Erykah Badu
In her first studio album for 16 years, Erykah is feeling experimental. Hypnotic and atmospheric are the vibe for this album, with her still soulful voice. Standout track - Witch Doctor
- There near
by Dinosaur jr.
If you've enjoyed Dinosaur jr's

output in the past, this will sound familiar, the heavy sound, melodic guitars and vocal delivery that fans will instantly recognise
Standout track - No friends
- Cerebral Caustic
by The Fall
This is a re-engineered version of the 1995 album, but with extra material of rough mixes and demos. A must have for Fall completists, but also a good entry point for new fans.
Standout track - The Joke

Add to playlist

Jolene
by Dolly Parton
Furlongs 1
by Gilroy Mere
It takes two
by Marvin Gaye & Kim Weston
Fantasy
by Earth, wind and fire
Scottish Whiskey
by Chris & Reece

Steve Ide



Across

1. The sharp edge at the junction of two surfaces
 6. A country on the Iberian Peninsula
 11. French for "Friend"
 14. A large deciduous tree of the genus *Fagus*
 15. Latin for "The Earth"
 16. Concealed
 17. Opponents
 19. Function or role
 20. A region of Asia Minor
 21. Heart artery
 23. Highly seasoned sausage
 27. Every time
 28. Incapable of being explained
 32. Circular graduated indicators
 33. Postponement
 34. Which person?
 37. Nature of being
 38. Tartan skirts
 39. A European freshwater fish
 40. Perceive visually
 41. A stringed instrument
 42. A sedimentary rock made of clay
 43. Throughout recorded experience
 45. Putting surfaces in golf
 48. A gentle stroke
 49. Pumps blood
 50. Fire a weapon
 53. Towards the rear
 54. Obligated to answer to an authority
 60. Born
 61. Objectives
 62. Electronic letters

63. Arranger (abbrev.)

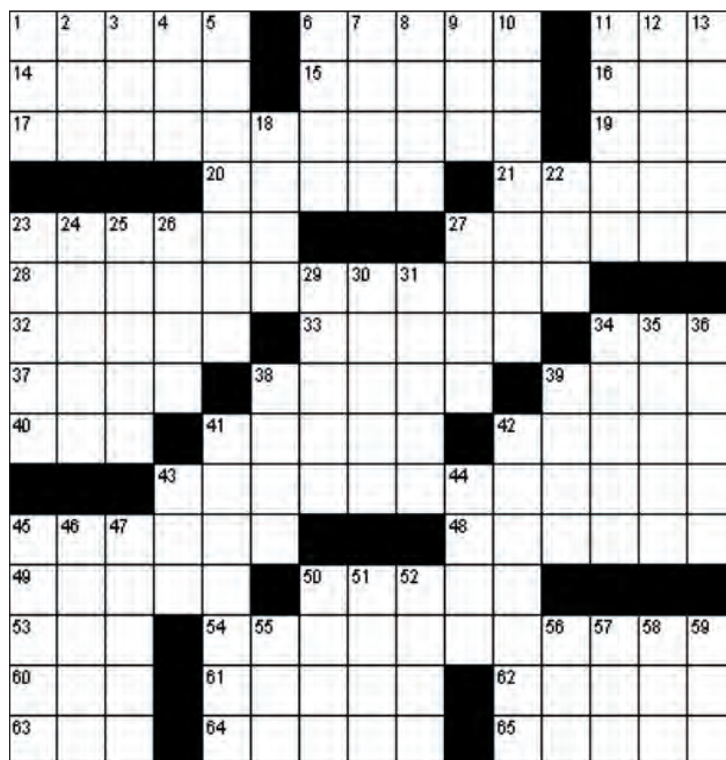
64. A type of heron

65. Felt intense anger

Down

1. Fabric made of camel hair
 2. The colour of cherries
 3. Reverend (abbrev.)
 4. Frozen water
 5. Prawns
 6. Anagram of "Ants"
 7. A beautiful and graceful girl
 8. Operatic solo
 9. Anger
 10. By the nose
 11. Title for benevolent deities (Zoroastrianism)
 12. Foggy
 13. Concepts
 18. Humus and dirt
 22. Obligate
 23. The borders of an object
 24. A plant that produces liquorice-flavoured seeds
 25. Rental agreement
 26. A shaft on which a wheel rotates
 27. Anagram of "Baas"
 29. Fool
 30. A large stringed instrument
 31. Communion table
 34. A large cetacean mammal
 35. Frames of ships
 36. Complies
 38. Smooch
 39. Blacken
 41. The age of wines
 42. Disperse
 43. Not him
 44. Image or symbol
 45. A republic in West Africa
 46. Send on or direct

Coffee Break Crossword



47. Consumer of food

50. Left by a wound

52. Expel

51. Cavity

55. Sprocket

56. American Medical Association

57. Sack

58. Untruth

59. Old age (archaic)

Sudoku

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

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

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

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

Autumn wordsearch

LEAVES
 ACORNS
 RAINCOAT
 PINE CONES
 HIBERNATION
 PUMPKIN
 BALE OF HAY
 SCARECROW
 SQUIRREL
 ORCHARD
 SPOOKY
 COBWEB
 APPLES
 MIGRATE
 JUMPER
 HALLOWEEN
 HARVEST-MOON

Brainteasers

- 1) What English word has three consecutive double letters?
- 2) What begins with T, ends with T and has T in it?
- 3) What word looks the same upside down and backward?
- 4) Name four days of the week that begin with the letter "t".

1) Bookkeeper
 2) A teapot
 3) SWIMS
 3) Tuesday, Thursday, & tomorrow

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

A SHROPSHIRE LAD

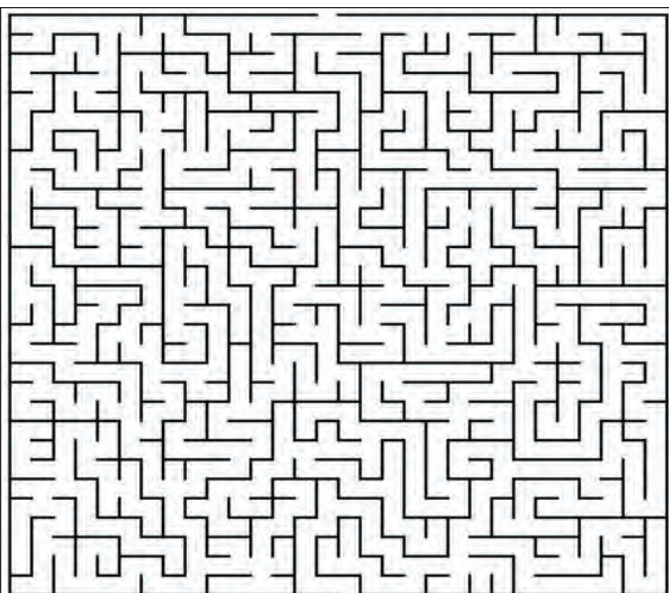


A.E. HOUSMAN
Photographs John Hayward

This is the only photographic edition of *A Shropshire Lad* in which the county's stunning landscapes, which have scarcely altered since Housman's day, have been matched with the stanzas on each page. The enduring appeal of this lyrical English poem, first published in 1896, lies in its exploration of the universal themes of loss, nostalgia and love. Certainly its international popularity today is undiminished. The rural landscape of the beautiful Shropshire countryside, from the bucolic Clun valley to the bleak hills of Stiperstones, is sympathetically captured by one of Shropshire's finest photographers, John Hayward. Over fifty stunning new photographs enhance Housman's popular work and this edition marks the 90th anniversary of his death.

Available from
Hughes & Company for £20
Tel: 01386 803803

The maze *Make it from start to finish, staying inside the lines*



Let's draw!

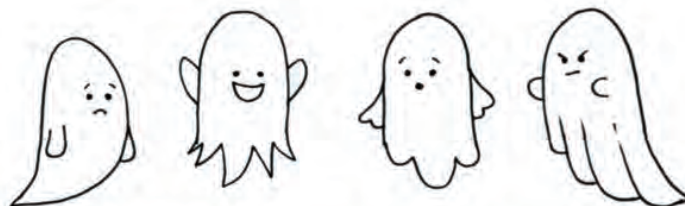


Nesta Munro
Friendly drawing fun
www.nestamunro.com

It's spooky season, and the ghosts are coming out to play! Grab your favourite pen and let's draw...



1. Start with an arch shape and add a wavy lower edge, then add a face and arms.



2. Now let's add some character! What happens if you change their expression or use a different edge?

Competition Time!

Now it's your turn- send us your best ghost drawing, and our favourite will win a prize!

Email: news@hughes.company | Closing date 20/10/26

Word of the Month 'Deipnosophist'

Definition:
Meaning a person
who is an adept
conversationalist
while dining

Flower of the Month Marigold

Symbolising joy, optimism, and creativity. The bright, colourful flower symbolises warmth and creativity whilst their sturdy nature represents stubbornness and determination.

Famous October Birthdays!

Julie Andrews
1st October 1934
John Lennon
9th October 1940
Julia Roberts
October 28, 1967
Guillermo del Toro
9th October, 1964

Did You Know?

The Orionid meteor shower (2nd October until the 7th November) will see a maximum rate of around fifteen meteors per hour

September Answers

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

Vacation or Staycation?

Brian Johnson-Thomas



In the Summer of 1909 it was a Frenchman, Louis Bleriot, who inaugurated the mass movement of people by air when he became the first person to fly over the Channel. He was responding to an offer made by Lord Northcliffe, who made his money by owning the Daily Mail newspaper, of a prize of £1,000 for the first person to do so (let's pause for a moment here and savour the thought of the Daily Mail paying a foreigner £1,000 to make an impromptu journey from Calais to Dover). A short half-century afterwards and the Age of Mass Travel had dawned with the advent of that icon of the skies, the Boeing 707. For millions of us it was goodbye to Weston and hello Benidorm. When the European Union loosened the regulations to allow for the advent of low-cost airlines, the picture was complete. To be fair to the Eurocrats they were trying to find a way to weld together a quite disparate Europe and they thought that favouring air travel was the way forward. That's why airlines don't pay tax or VAT on their fuel within Europe and airlines flying worldwide on international

flights are also exempt. It's also why flying within the UK is often cheaper than taking the train, whose operators don't have such tax breaks. Unfortunately for the wider environment aircraft are bigger polluters of the atmosphere than are railways – why it is that so often the things we like the most are the ones that are bad for us? If that's not a reason for flying less often then we might also consider the present situation where the imposition of the new European Union entry regulations is still causing long delays on arrival at popular holiday destinations because of the requirement for all of us to be photographed and fingerprinted before entry to Europe. Once that's sorted out then we will also have to apply in advance for a visa waiver, which will cost us around a tenner and last for three years or until our passport expires, whichever comes first. So you can see where I'm heading? Time to revert to holidays much nearer home perhaps? If you're a camper or a caravanner the you might think about the Camping and Caravanning Club's site at



Alton, on the edge of the Peak District and within easy reach of Alton Towers which is holding its' annual Scarefest this half term.

See campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk for details of all their sites and altontowers.com for details of their activities.

If you fancy a three hour trip west of here then you might fancy the Bluestone National Park resort set in the heart of Pembrokeshire. Throughout this month they're embracing Mischief Month with Halloween fun as standard. As well as the usual spooky things they also offer extra experiences like pumpkin carving. Bluestone offers a safe car-free environment once you've checked in and its' 500 acres have a range of accommodation options from cosy cottages to larger houses for bigger family groups.

See bluestonewales.com for details. For a final suggestion how about something a little nearer? The Whitmead Forest Park down in the Forest of Dean has a packed programme of activities including rhinestone crafts and

jewellery making via football tournaments, so there's something for the whole family.

For more details of this (cheaper) Centre Parks lookalike see whitmead.co.uk.

Now that the darker days are almost upon us I've signed up to an innovating way of learning a new language – using my smartphone, no less. Preply offers online tuition in almost every language you can think of using one to one teaching with native speakers. So, for example, my Arabic lessons have come three times a week from Fouad, who is living in Beirut but who pops up on my phone live and face to face every time.

See preply.com for details.

Really recommend it!

Also lightening the darker days to come I've just had my first Christmas goodie in the shape of an Advent calendar from Brewdog. It's certainly a substantial bit of kit as it has to hold 24 different bottles of beer – or, as they put it "25 doors of joy" as there's also a commemorative glass.

If you want to treat someone close to you then see brewdog.com for details.

Did you know

On Saturday 10th October 1903, the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) was formed.

Did you know

The month of October was known as Winterfylleth by the Anglo-Saxons. It contained the words for winter and the full moon in its name. The reason for its name: it was believed that winter begun from the first full moon of the month.

Are Your Locks Behaving Badly?

• NO CALLOUT CHARGE • FREE ONSITE ESTIMATES
• SAME DAY SERVICE* • NO VAT ON LABOUR

FIX AN ISSUE BEFORE IT BECOMES A PROBLEM..

Family Run Business With Traditional Skills & Workmanship
All Locks Opened, Serviced, Repaired, Supplied & Fitted
UPVC Multi-Point Lock Repair Specialist
Jammed & Dropped Doors Realigned & Adjusted
Security Surveys & Crime Prevention Advice Contact Stewart

.. THE LOCKSMITH ..

01905 570 999 07871 44 20 11

YOUR LOCAL, RELIABLE, INDEPENDENT SERVICE

WWW.WORCESTERSHIRE-LOCKSMITH.CO.UK

Tales from my travels

Lucy Clayton-Smith



Namibia is a vast and sparse country, supposedly home to more seals than people! As this was my first time exploring Africa alone, I based myself in Windhoek. It felt more

developed than Zambia, but was fairly typical of a capital city. What made it special was my host, Scholastika. We were like two peas in a pod and she took me under her

wing. Before long, we were hanging at the hairdresser and eating her favourite mopane worms in Katatura. A chance conversation with a local I met in a bar opened a few doors on my trip to the Skeleton Coast. Before long, I found myself welcomed like an old friend onto a boat tour, not once but twice, seeing dolphins, catching a glimpse of a humpback whale and kayaking amongst hundreds of seals. Two particularly curious seals took a shine to me, diving on and off my kayak. There was also an exhilarating jeep ride across the dunes where the desert meets the sea, with steep climbs, sudden drops and breathtaking views. But the trip I still find myself thinking about was into the Namibian desert. It came complete with an "Africa massage" - courtesy of some very bumpy roads - before we camped beneath a sky filled with more stars than I'd ever seen. I became friendly with an Italian traveller and together we sat astride the red dunes

watching sunsets and sunrises. As the landscape disappeared into darkness or burst into colour, there was something magical about the energy of that place. We also became rather fond of running down said dunes, where it feels like you are flying! We visited Deadvlei, where stunning scorched trees have stood for around 1000 years. Wandering amongst the remaining blackened trunks, set against the warm reds of the sand and brilliant blue sky, the landscape was almost empty but my heart felt full.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
I was just having another look through the magazine and wanted to let you know how pleased I am with our advert. I've really enjoyed reading through the whole publication as well, it's a fantastic issue.

Akeela Douglas

Dear Editor,
Thank you for giving positive publicity to Daffodil Bulb Planting throughout Kempsey and Severn Stoke. The fruit of our labours will burst forth next Spring.

All the best, Simon Bott

Dear Editor,
I was fascinated by Peter Jewell's statement that some central London properties valued at over £2 million "are given to migrants for free rent". I haven't seen this claim detailed elsewhere - can we please have full details?

Brian Johnson-Thomas

Dear Editor,
Peter Jewell raised a very interesting point regarding Probate applications - I'd like to add to his comments. Depriving others of their

property certainly looks like theft, and hidden tax charges feel like theft. Probate charges on estates over £5K can represent almost a 10% charge, so who sets the tax threshold so low? Not the private banking sector but the government backed NS&I!!! FCA and the private banking sector work to a far greater multiple when closing accounts with nothing more than a death certificate, no probate required. Only the Treasury backed NS&I require Grant of Probate on relatively small amounts! Depriving others of their property, well yes that's surely theft. Some say Dick Turpin had the decency to wear a mask and Victor Meldrew certainly wouldn't believe it, I found it very hard to 'believe it' until it was my turn to suffer it!

Victor Meldrew of Pershore

Dear Editor,
In response to the query from an undisclosed reader I give you two indicative examples from the Evening Standard, they cannot be classified as a "right wing" newspaper. The clearest identified example is from Kensington. The Evening

Standard reported that a four-bedroom news house valued at £1.5 million was being used by a council to accommodate a homeless mother and her children. The private owner was reportedly being paid about £1,125 per week (£58,500 a year). The paper also identified other high-value accommodation in South Kensington and Earl's Court being used for asylum seekers. There are historical reports specifically concerning asylum accommodation in London. For example, another Evening Standard investigation described numerous privately owned properties in Streatham being used for asylum seekers.

Peter Jewell

Dear Editor,
My name is Chris Burrows and I am a volunteer tour guide and speaker for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. I am researching a casualty who is buried at Pershore Cemetery: Sargent Thomas Henry Baldwin, who died on the 7th December 1947. His commemoration is noteworthy because he was among the very last casualties to be commemorated by the GWGC

before the cut off date of 31st December 1947. I would like to ask if any reader has any connection or information about Thomas. Perhaps he was a relative or you know someone who was. If you do have any information please do get in touch via e-mail:

chris.burrows11@btinternet.com.

Thank you in advance for any help you can give.

PS. If you are part of a local group or organisation you can book a free talk on the work of the CWGC or a group tour of Pershore cemetery.

Visit our website for more details www.cwgc.org/visit-us/war-graves-tours/

Chris Burrows



Hughes & Company

The Pershore Press

8 Church Street Pershore WR10 1DT

Tel: 01386 803803 Email: news@hughes.company

Photographs

*Printed from your mobile phone,
memory stick or email.*

*Old Photographs scan and print service
Photograph repairs available*

Photocopying

Black & White and Colour Copies



Printer Cartridges

Inkjet & Laser

*Available to order delivered to
your door or collect*

Recycling service available

Life is for sharing ...

A Lifetime of Stories

*Turn cherished memories and
thoughts into a beautifully edited
book for the family to enjoy.*



*Publishers of
Pershore, Upton, Powick,
Kempsey, Whittington &
Broadway, Tibberton Times
& Bredon*



To receive our monthly newspapers by email

**Email your request to:
news@hughes.company**

*Stating your name, which paper(s) you would like to receive and
the email address you would like them sent to.*

You will receive the next edition direct to your inbox!

Bring your memories to life!



We transfer to DVD, USB & Audio CD

VHS - Slides - Photos - Cine films

Camcorder tapes - Photos from video

Tape repairs / editing - Foreign tapes converted

Open reel audio, Dictaphone, Cassette &

Vinyl to CD or MP3

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



Bring it to us for a free quotation!

The Complete Package

*Free Monthly Newspapers
plus online versions*

Access to 100,000 residents

Advertisements from £15.00

Pay as you go monthly - No contracts

email edition

To advertise -

email: news@hughes.company

For FREE editorial - (250/300 word article)

email: news@hughes.company

Published by:

Hughes & Company

Telephone 01386 803803

Proprietor / Editor Alan Hughes

*Opinions expressed in letters and articles published are not necessarily
those held by the Editor or the Publishers, Hughes & Company.
The Publishers hold no responsibility for the accuracy of any
details contained within the advertisements.*

Copy Deadline for

November Issue - 15th October 2026

The Agency UK



A snapshot of the year so far. Bredon continues to command a premium over surrounding markets and is very popular. Latest evidence shows buyers are distinguishing sharply between well-priced homes and ambitious asking prices therefore ensuring a home is well marketed and well priced is key. From the start of the year to the end of August, the number of transactions is less than in the same period in 2025. Prices however have been resilient, with an increase, when compared with the same period in 2025. Sensibly priced family homes retain the broadest audience. Larger detached, rural and highly individual properties require more patience. This can be seen in the length of time taken for properties to sell in those price ranges. That suggests the upper market is selective, despite Bredon's enduring appeal, and is due to an increase in the properties available in the wider area. Prospective buyers have more choice. A village address

creates interest, but buyers still expect the price to reflect condition, plot, outlook and exact location. As we move into the autumn, the strongest results are likely to come from accurate valuation and decisive marketing rather than testing the market with an inflated asking price. Homes in the GL20 area are taking 41–60 days to secure a buyer, this is similar to Evesham and Gloucester whereas Cheltenham and Worcester are taking longer at 61–80 days. I have lived in a variety of the Bredon Hill villages over the years so, like you, know what a lovely place the area is to live in. If you would like a discussion about your home, at no obligation or cost, feel free to get in touch.

Roy O'Connell is a self employed personal estate agent with over 30 years of experience and can be reached at: 01684 217 671, 07779 111 230 or Roy.OConnell@TheAgencyUK.com.

Warm Welcome returns

Rain has returned (finally!) and the nights are drawing in. Autumn has arrived. October sees the return of the Warm Welcome community event in Bredon Village Hall. Run by Volunteers to help residents who are feeling isolated, or carers who would like a break; it's a great opportunity to catch up with other residents and enjoy a hot meal or a cuppa. We have use of a community bus if you require help getting to Bredon Village Hall. There will be a free hot meal served on the first Thursday of the month, from 12-2pm, supplied by a local business. A more intimate drinks and cake/biscuit meet up on the third Thursday of the month between 10:30-12am. Donations accepted. Dates for October: Thursday

1st October (meal) and Thursday 15th October (drinks) If you would like to know more about this, or how to get transportation to the village hall for you or your family member, then please contact Councillor Declan Shiels declan.shiels@bredonpc.org.uk



Poppy Appeal



Volunteers will again be manning a Poppy Stall for this year's Remembrance Poppy Appeal on Saturday 24th October. The stall will be located next to the Drapers Spar on Church Street, Bredon. Please visit, make a donation,

and collect this year's 2026 dated enamel badge, original poppy, or choose from a large range of Poppy Appeal branded items. Donations can be made via cash, cheque or contactless payment methods.

New Business!

Wedding & Event Photography
with Ellie Dailey
www.eleanordailey.com

Cover Photo Competition!

Winner of front cover
photography competition:
Cynthia Warden
Congratulations!

Bredon Parish Council (BPC)

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Monday 12th October 2026 - 7pm at Bredon Village Hall

BPC Contact details:

Email: parish.clerk@bredonpc.org.uk

Web: www.bredonpc.org.uk

Tel: 01684 773984

live JAZZ

Gupshill Manor
Tewkesbury GL20 5SY

Thurs 8th Oct

Music from 7.30pm
FREE ADMISSION
Free car park
Restaurant



Rod Kelly Trio

Rod - piano Clive Morton - bass Roger Powell - drums

Restaurant bookings: www.gupshillmanor.com or 01684 292278

Bredon Playgroup

Welcome back! The new term has started with a real buzz, and we are delighted to welcome lots of new little faces to Bredon Playgroup. We wish all our new families a very warm welcome and hope they enjoy their time with us.



As the children settle back into play with old and new friends, we have been eagerly sharing stories about our holidays, with lots of tales of sand, sunshine and sea!

We have also been learning more about ourselves, our families and where we live. Looking in the mirror and at each other, we have discovered that we all have similarities and differences - including our eye colours, which range from beautiful browns and blues to lovely greens.



With autumn just around the corner, we are looking forward to making the most of our changing environment and spending lots of time outdoors, investigating all that the new season brings. Will Jack Frost be making an appearance soon, or is it still too warm?

We are delighted to let you know that we currently have a few spaces available.

If your child is aged 2 to 4, or you would like to join our waiting list for a future place, please get in touch.



Bredon Playgroup is a community playgroup, providing wonderful learning experiences through play. Our nurturing staff create a warm and welcoming environment where children can learn, explore and develop, and we are very welcoming to new families.

We work closely with Bredon Hancock's First School, taking every opportunity to visit and play there. This helps our children become familiar with the school environment. Whichever school you choose for your child, we support a happy, confident transition to the next stage of their lives - "big school"!



If you would like your child to have the opportunity to learn, explore and develop in a stimulating and caring environment, where they can have fun while learning through play, we would love to hear from you.

Bredon Playgroup

Telephone: 01684 773536 (during session times)
Email: bredonplaygroup@gmail.com



FOLK MUSIC SESSION



All Sessions are open to both listeners and contributors

Wed 07 10 26 Celtic
Wed 21 10 26 Mixed Oktoberfest
Wed 04 11 26 Celtic
Wed 18 11 26 Mixed Remembrance
Wed 02 12 26 Celtic Scottish/Shetland
Wed 16 12 26 Mixed Christmas tunes
(No sessions in the Festive Season)
Wed 13 01 27 Mixed Wassail
Wed 27 01 27 Celtic

At the Royal Oak, Bredon GL20 7LW



Spot & Shop September Winners

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Rosemary Kingsnorth | 2) Mary Robertson |
| 3) Terry Baldock | 4) Brian Good |
| 5) Philip Highy | 6) Jill Hopkins |

Last month's answer: Worcester Podiatry

COMPETITION TIME!

Take a look at the anagram

The answer is the name of a business that is advertising in the Bredon Times this month

SPOT & SHOP!

Chance to WIN £50 CASH

This month's anagram
aid eel 10an r ye

This month's prizes!

1st - £50 cash

2nd - £25 cash

Donated by Hughes & Company

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

4th £10 Voucher
at Revills Farm Shop, Defford

5th £10 voucher
at Upper Crust, Pershore

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

Complete and return this form or email:
news@hughes.company for your chance to win!

Bredon Times closing date: 24th October 2026

Answer:

Name:

Telephone/email:

Return to: Hughes & Company/Bredon Times

8 Church Street, Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1DT

P. S. Miller

track on which it was descending dropped into a depression before rising again. Desperately, he tried to rationalize. His imagination must be playing tricks on him. After all, that Halloween party had been pretty riotous, with all his friends competing to scare him. Could it have been a deer that he had seen?

Viewed front-on, the silhouette of a deer might just pass for a human being. Yes, a deer: their bodies seem to remain still when they are moving rapidly. But why, then, had the legs not been galloping to propel it? His reverie was abruptly dispelled when the shadowy object rose back into view on the track, two or three hundred yards ahead. There was no doubt about it: it was of human shape, standing rigidly but somehow tracing curves and contours as it surged towards him. Its speed had not diminished, although the track was now almost level. He strained, but still he could hear no sound. His clothes clasped his limbs in a clammy embrace, and the warm sweat chilled on his forehead. What was this thing? He desperately scanned the side of the track for refuge, but there was no break in the thick-set hedge, teeming with brambles. He had only a few seconds left. Would he have to confront his dark-clad assailant head-on? The fast-approaching



shape now seemed larger than life against the hazy, moonlit backdrop. It must be substantial rather than spectral, for he could detect the faint hiss that it made, charging through the chill air. He was trembling and panting with horror. In a moment, it would be upon him. Raising his right arm to protect his face, he flung himself into the brambles, uttering an inhuman cry that he frantically hoped would terrorize his assailant:

'Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaarrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr
gggggggggggggggggghhhhhh
hhhhhhhhhh!

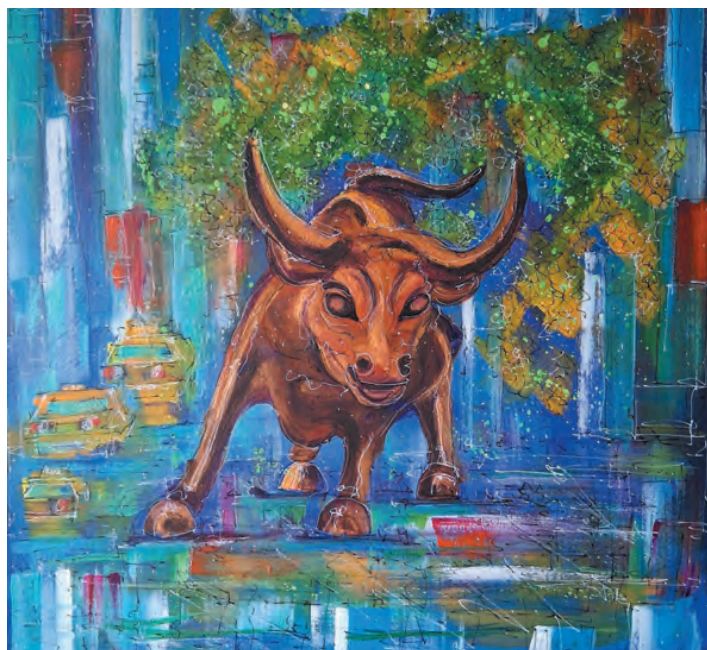
The thing swerved slightly as it raced past him towards the foot of the hill, a voice booming from the darkness: 'Wot's your problem, mate?' He cursed at the rapidly receding shape: 'You and that damned electric scooter are a damned menace!'

Coffee, Cake & Chat
2pm to 3.30pm at The Royal Oak



Affordable Art for All

Jane Ware



Charging Bull NYC



Plein Art Montpellier Gardens

I'm Jane Ware, a full time Creative Artist, having left my job of 30 years in finance to follow my dream! It's been a tough few years, especially as I started my business during Covid, with all exhibitions cancelled, and had a studio full of paintings with no where to publicly display them! I remained pro-active, optimistic and positive knowing that better days will come, and they did! Because I don't use Facebook or Instagram, my son helped me create an Etsy shop to showcase my original art, prints, cards and seasonal crafts:

etsy.com/uk/shop/JaneWareArt
My introduction to art started with an early education at Elmfield Rudolf Steiner School in Stourbridge. I moved to Gloucestershire as a teenager bringing with me a love and enthusiasm for all things creative. I have many diverse and varied interests, but all centre around art, music, literature and travel, involving visits to galleries, exhibitions, museums, theatres and festivals. My paintings are inspired by Cotswold landmarks, Jazz culture, cafe conversations, and

holiday memories from seagulls in St Ives to sunsets in South Africa. Painting mainly in watercolour and ink, I also enjoy experimenting with colourful acrylics and developing vibrant New York cityscapes from visits to my daughter who works in Manhattan.

I offer commercial artwork and cards for company hospitality, and these include the South West Ivy Restaurants, Christmas promotions, hotels and inns, and for enquiries, please contact me direct at

janewareart@hotmail.com

I am always seeking opportunities to exhibit my paintings, offering Affordable Art for All. I will be exhibiting at The Gardens Gallery, Cheltenham, 9th-14th December for 'A Winters Tale II' alongside creative friends showcasing original art, fused glass and textiles.

Full details can be found on the Exhibitions page of my website: www.janewareart.com Prior to this exhibition, as an active member of Kemerton WI, I will be displaying my art, cards and Christmas crafts, at Kemerton WI's Christmas Fair on Saturday 14th November.



New York Cityscape