

June / July 2023

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## Wednesfield magazine

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## Wednesfield magazine

Part of West Midlands Magazines Ltd  
Company No. 10452329  
Registered office;  
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Wednesfield, WV11 3LE

Magazine designed and produced by  
**Magazine Design UK**  
4 Wishart Drive, Fradley WS13 8GZ  
nicola@magazinedesignuk.com

Printed by **Buxton Press Limited**  
Palace Road, Buxton,  
Derbyshire SK17 6AE

*Front cover photo is Wednesfield at night by Paul (Billy) Turner. To see more of his work just Google PTAerialphotography*

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## Dear Reader,

Welcome to the June/July issue of the Wednesfield Magazine.

As I write this, we have just seen the new King crowned at Westminster Abbey. I think the general feeling is that the new monarch is not as popular as his Mother was, which could be partly down to the feeling that a Royal family is a bit outdated and partly because of the cloud still hanging over his previous relationship.

Personally, I think at the very least, there should be a major streamlining of those on the gravy train as it doesn't sit well with me, that there are millions struggling to keep a roof over their heads - or worse still, homeless - while the Royals discuss which castle to visit next.

Anyway, talking of extended families, I've been over to Norfolk to see some cousins, an Auntie and other relatives, many of who I haven't seen for 40 odd (I think that's donkeys') years. My parents were born and brought up in King's Lynn and Hunstanton and I have lots of memories of childhood holidays, visiting beaches, amusement arcades and funfairs. It really is a beautiful resort. Old Hunstanton's beaches are some of the best in the UK and for the Royalists among you, Sandringham is nearby.

The main reason for the visit, was to allow my 91-year-old Father, to see his old stomping ground and to visit his 86-year-old sister for the first time in over ten years. It's a bit far for him to drive now and neither of them are getting any younger, so it was quite an emotional moment when we left.

One of my other Aunties had eight children and we only managed to see two of them, this time, so another visit might be on the cards....or maybe that's me finding an excuse to go back.

My new gadget, the scarifier, hasn't really made much difference to my lawn, although what didn't help is having a skip sat on the grass for two weeks longer than we had been promised. I'm thinking I'll need a complete return, so that might be a job for one of my advertisers.

Due to the increasing cost of print, more than ever, our advertisers are vitally important to the to the continuation of this magazine. Please have a look at their adverts and if you do purchase anything from them, PLEASE TELL THEM YOU SAW THE ADVERT IN THE WEDNESFIELD MAGAZINE!

The next issue will cover August and September (doesn't time fly!) and will be out on 28th July, so if you want to be in it, please contact me by 7th July.

Enjoy your read!

Simon



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# Local Council Election Results

The Labour Party held on to power in the recent Wolverhampton Council elections, gaining three seats from the Conservatives.

This year, all sixty council seats were being contested and Labour now have a 47-13 majority.

There were many new names on the ballot alongside established councillors, with several soon-to-be former councillors who had stepped down, attending to cheer their colleagues on.

Turnout was low in certain areas, with Bushbury South and Low Hill seeing just 1,549 out of 9,476

eligible voters casting votes, just 16.35 per cent turnout, while Tettenhall Wightwick recorded the highest, with 3,523 out of 9,011 eligible voters casting a vote, with a 39.10% turnout.

Labour gained a seat in Wednesfield South, with Ciaran Brackenridge being elected alongside his father Greg as councillor.

See below for the elected councillors:



<b>Wednesfield North – Turnout 25.35%</b>		
Elected	Party	Votes
Mary Bateman	Labour	1151
Phil Bateman MBE	Labour	1213
Rita Potter	Labour	1153
<b>Wednesfield South – Turnout 25.96%</b>		
Elected	Party	Votes
Greg Brackenridge	Labour	1213
Ciaran Brackenridge	Labour	1168
Jacqueline Coogan	Labour	1167
<b>Fallings Park – Turnout 21.93%</b>		
Elected	Party	Votes
Steve Evans	Labour	1079
Val Evans	Labour	1037
Chris Burden	Labour	1061
<b>Heath Town – Turnout 18.76%</b>		
Elected	Party	Votes
Jaspreet Kaur Jaspal	Labour	873
Milkinder Jaspal	Labour	903
Jasbir Jaspal	Labour	910



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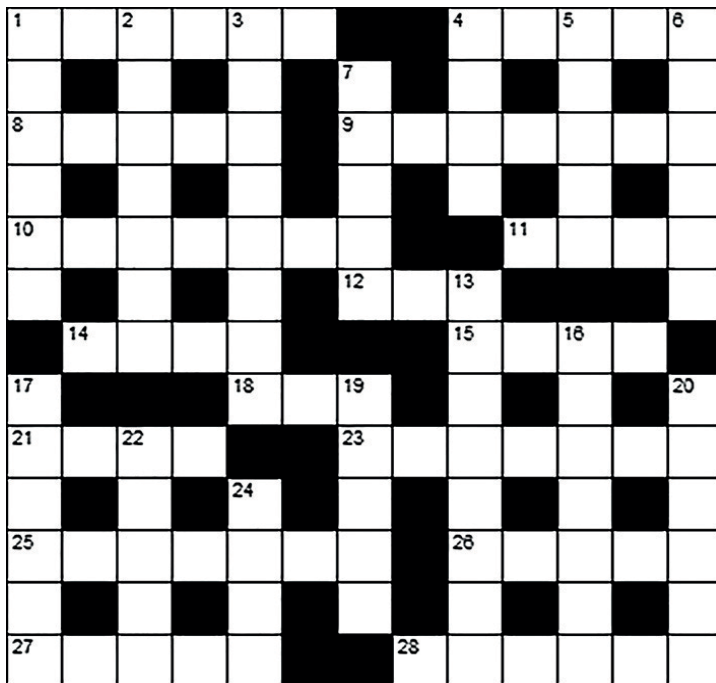
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# Crossword

Please see answers on page 47



### Across

- 1 Eastern European country (6)
- 4 Thin crisp biscuit (5)
- 8 Overhaul, modernise (5)
- 9 Loudly, uproariously (7)
- 10 Slim, lithe (7)
- 11 Skin irritation (4)
- 12 Top, cover (3)
- 14 Jealousy (4)
- 15 Type of goat (4)
- 18 Weep, cry (3)
- 21 Retort, riposte (4)
- 23 Guitar-like instrument (7)
- 25 Conceded, endorsed (7)
- 26 Emaciated, cadaverous (5)
- 27 Black (5)
- 28 Onset, arrival (6)

### Down

- 1 Church district (6)
- 2 Portable lamp (7)
- 3 In this day and age (8)
- 4 Lament, moan (4)
- 5 Pass out (5)
- 6 Beat pattern (6)
- 7 Growl, grumble (5)
- 13 Spilled the beans, disclosed (8)
- 16 Assassinate, kill (7)
- 17 Four-sided shape (6)
- 19 Chum, mate (5)
- 20 Group of six (6)
- 22 Eskimo house! (5)
- 24 Rock rhythmically (4)

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# Wednesfield in Bloom Latest



At the time of writing early May we have just taken delivery of our plants from Westcroft Nursery on the Cannock Road, (we try to buy locally whenever we can) they were ordered back in November and it's a bit like Christmas looking over everything we bought and trying to remember what the planting scheme was going to be.

We will then begin pre planting the liners for the railing planters and put them undercover, so they have chance to get a bit bigger before then placing them around Wednesfield when all chance of frosts are gone.

Our annual plant giveaway will be on Wednesday the 31st of May, as this is during half term week, we will be encouraging children to visit us on our market stall to decorate and plant up a pot that they can then take home with them.

We are keen to develop an interest in plants and pollinators with our local children from an early age and are always looking at fun ways to nurture their enthusiasm. This year we are asking our local schools and nurseries to take part in judging day by making a scarecrow which can be displayed in the Village and at Ashmore Park, they should be made of recycled material and include some living plants, and we are looking forward to seeing what they come up with.

We are fortunate this year to have been approached by two different organisations who wished to sponsor a planter. Inner Wheel, and Jennings Funeral Directors have both donated £100, and we are using this money to pay for the plants in two of the tower planters in the amphitheatre.

Inner Wheel is an international women's organisation whose main aims are to promote friendship and encourage service to the community. If you would like further information about the group and where they meet, please contact their President Judith Blount on **07786 490075**.

We also want to thank Jennings Funeral Directors for their kind donation and hope to collaborate with them on other projects that benefit the community in the future.

Contact us via our Facebook page or give Julie a ring on **07904 573443** for more information.



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# Wednesfield Aces are Back

With the days getting longer and the weather getting better (some days anyway) Wednesfield Aces Cycle Speedway Club is back up and running for the 2023 cycle speedway season.

With our regular club members returning but also welcoming new members again this season the season is off to a good start. It has been great to keep developing our local youngsters in the sport with developing skills such as over and undertaking, gating and defending. Seeing these techniques progress the club hopes to have some more champions coming up through its ranks as these skills are put into action on monthly club race nights including our Easter Eggs-travaganza race night! A night of racing that resulted in some close racing and healthy competition and sibling rivalry as brothers Greyson and Miller drew on 16 points for the 1st spot and 3 riders were joint on 15 points including twins Isabelle and William! Was a great night enjoyed by all.

It is not only the youngsters that have enjoyed getting back on the track, but the Aces senior team has also opened the season with a new race

formula and league with the first match taking place over at Leicester Monarchs Cycle Speedway Club where the Aces took the win following a very close match.

Getting the club off to a good start sponsorship from the Nisa Local shop situated on Ashmore Park, Griffiths Drive very kindly donated £500.00 to the club for this year. The club are beyond appreciative of this great donation which is going to advancements in the club's equipment and facilities as new seating stands are being finalised around the track. Thanks again to Nisa on behalf of Wednesfield Aces!

Training sessions will continue throughout the year and are open to anyone who can confidently ride a bicycle with no stabilisers. Training sessions are held on Tuesday nights from 6:30pm till 7:30pm.

For more information follow our social media pages Wednesfield Aces Cycle Speedway Club or our Instagram: [@wednesfield\\_aces](https://www.instagram.com/wednesfield_aces) or contact us via email [Wednesfield.aces62@gmail.com](mailto:Wednesfield.aces62@gmail.com).



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# News in Brief

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## Pickering Road Line Dancing



Would you like to join a line dance group in the Pickering Road Centre on Wednesday mornings from 10am till 11.30am – cost £4.

They recently had a little celebration for the coronation of King Charles.

---

## Wolverhampton Sea Cadets – The Big Help Out



Wolverhampton Sea Cadets is one of 400 sea cadets' units nationally; we have recently celebrated its 80th year since it being incorporated in the Sea Cadets Corps which is operated nationally by the Marine Society Sea Cadets (MSSC).

The unit is looking to recruit new volunteers into a variety of roles including the Unit Management Team (Trustees are registered with the Charity Commission), Fund Raising, Cadet Training, Administration, Building & Grounds Maintenance. A flexible volunteering scheme is operated however we require a regular commitment of 4 hours per week, which will vary depending on the role, full training is provided including access to a range of activities with the possibility of gaining

nationally accredited qualifications. All volunteers are required to complete a DBS and on-line training modules.

If you currently have skills or wish to gain new skills and experience in any of the above roles and want to arrange a visit to meet the team, please contact us by email at [wolverhamptonccc374@gmail.com](mailto:wolverhamptonccc374@gmail.com).

---

## Portobello Methodist Church, New Street (by Aldi)



**Coffee Mornings** fortnightly on Saturdays June 10,24, July 8,22 10.00-12.00

Hot and cold drinks, cakes and toasted teacakes on sale.

**Friendship Club** alternate Wednesdays June 7, 21 July 5, 19 2.00-4.00

**Table Top sale** June 24 from 10.00

**Boys' Brigade/Girls Association** is a uniformed organisation which meets every Wednesday in term time from 6.00. Children of school age are welcome to join.

Hall available for hire for Children's parties, etc. ring **01902 654650** for details.

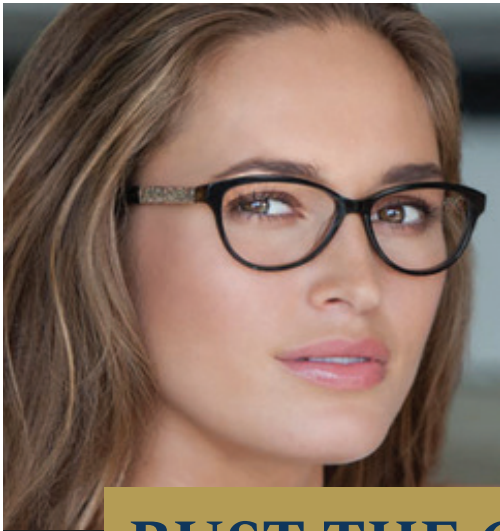
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## Ashmore Park Choir Concert

Ashmore Park Choir are performing a concert on 17th June, 7:30pm

St Alban's Church, Griffiths Drive, Ashmore Park. Tickets are £5 and there is everything from John Denver to Les Miserables.





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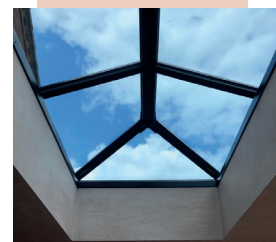
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# Health & Fitness

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As Spring moves towards Summer many of us will take steps to try and get healthier. But there are some common mistakes that people make when trying to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

## Not Getting Enough Sleep

Evidence suggests that sleeping fewer hours each night leads to poor health and weight gain. Sustained sleep deprivation triggers changes in our hunger and appetite hormones which can lead to people feeling hungry more often when they're not getting enough sleep.

Sleep helps to reduce stress, improve energy, boost our immune system, reduces inflammation and weight management amongst other things. Long-term sleep loss is linked to dementia, heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. You can also add problems with your immune system, depression and anxiety, and ongoing pain to that list.

Ben's Top Tip: To improve your sleep quantity and quality, make sure you sleep in total darkness while avoiding blue light from mobile phones and devices for a few hours before bed.

## Sitting Too Much

Many of us spend far too much time sitting all day indoors. The advent of homeworking has compounded this further with some people not even needing to leave their front room to start their working day.

If you do commute to work, perhaps you sit on the commute, sit all day at work and then come home to sit down some more before you do it all again. Higher rates of death from heart disease, cancer, and other health-related causes are linked to sitting for more than 6 hours a day.

But most of us could probably improve our health and mood by sitting less and spending an hour or a day outside in the fresh air and just enjoying the nature walking and exploring our local parks and green spaces.

Ben's Top Tips: Try and make a 15 min walk part of your daily morning routine as it will help your body and mind wake up and fire up every cell in

the body. Break up your sitting spells with 1-2 minutes of walking every half hour.

## Not Drinking Enough Water



As the average human body is somewhere between 45-75% of water, depending on your age, sex, body composition and fitness levels, it's important that we replace the liquids that we lose every day through breathing, sweating and pretty much every other bodily function. A massive 80% of people aren't drinking enough water with 20% of men and 13% of women not drinking any water at all.

Ben's Top Tips: As 20-30% of our fluids can come from food, so try and incorporate foods like seasonal fruit and vegetables into your diet.

Things like apples, pears and plums are great as well as lettuce, cucumbers and tomatoes and cress. As most of us wake up dehydrated start drinking a large glass of water in the morning as part of your routine.

## Massively Overestimating Calories Burned During Exercise

Studies find that most people overestimated the number of calories burned in an exercise session by three to four times. This critical mistake led them to consume almost triple the calories they burned during exercise which meant their health did not improve.

While regular exercise has been proven to be even more effective than medicinal treatments for many common health problems, including diabetes, high blood pressure and depression,

exercise alone is unlikely to be sufficient in achieving significant long-term health outcomes. So, just because you've spent time in the gym, running or swimming doesn't automatically mean you can treat yourself to whatever you want. For example, a chocolate bar or single slice of pizza can completely erase an hour's worth of physical exertion.

### Using 'Healthy Diet' Products

Stocking up on 'diet'-food products is one of the surest ways to fail in your mission to get healthier and lose weight. Eating 'low fat' food products may seem like a no brainer – but don't be fooled. To compensate for the fat that's removed, other ingredients are usually added to make the food taste like its full-fat counterpart.

These added ingredients don't replace the lost nutrients, however, so you just start craving more food, even though you've just eaten. Even with the best of intentions, you end up eating more than you would have if you'd just eaten the full-fat version in the first place.

Sugar is another culprit in low-fat 'diet' products. Even foods generally considered healthy, such as yoghurt and tomato sauce, are full of extra sugar, resulting in more cravings and usually more consumption.

Ben's Top Tip: Make avoiding diet food products your priority, and focus on eating plenty of vegetables, fruit (fresh or frozen), grains and pulses.

### Not Eating Enough

While drastically cutting calories or skipping meals may seem like a quick fix for getting healthier and losing weight, under-eating can sabotage your efforts to shed those extra pounds.

Ben's Top Tip: Getting healthier rarely comes quickly. If you want to achieve long-term sustainable results adopt the motto 'slow and steady wins the race'. This means making small, gradual changes to your daily lifestyle habits that will enable your new habits to easily become the new normal.

### Cutting Out Entire Food Groups

Many popular 'fad' diets instruct people to cut out entire food groups, such as fats or carbs. Carbohydrates are often blamed as a cause of weight gain, with "no-carb" diets becoming all too common. While it's true that refined carbohydrates like sugar and white bread and many,



many processed foods can spike blood sugar and lead to weight gain, complex carbs such as wholegrain rice and quinoa, are in fact very healthy.

Another major concern in eliminating entire food groups is the risk of developing nutrient deficiencies, such as a lack of dietary fibre or protein. Unless you have an actual food allergy or intolerance, be wary of embarking on any diet that requires you to ditch important staples of a healthy balanced diet.

Ben's Top Tip: Instead of cutting out entire food groups, try swapping out specific unhealthy elements of these groups for healthier alternatives. For example, replace white bread, pasta and rice with their wholegrain counterparts; swap the unhealthy fats in processed foods with avocados and nuts.



Ben Mescam is a Certified Health & Wellbeing Coach helping people become healthier by improving their habits.

For a completely FREE chat about improving your health call Ben on **07876 493 125**.

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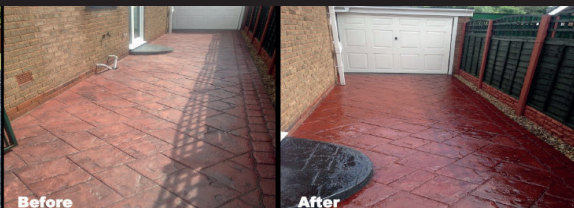


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# Low Hill Community Centre



Low Hill Community Centre, opened in 1937 as a Community Hall, and was built on the original grounds of Low Hill Manor.

It became known as the Community Centre from 1950 and was run by volunteers from the local area. The centre was managed for many years by local Councillor Chris Laws and his wife Dora.

Current Chairman, Tony Blakeway, joined the centre in 1991, having previously run the Magic Gardens in Leacroft Avenue and was also Chairman of the Moreton Community Association.

In the following years, Tony and the rest of the volunteers, set about attracting funding from various sources, to make the necessary changes in order to attract local groups, clubs and visitors.



As Tony says, "At that time, the centre was in need of significant investment in order to improve the facilities." This was very successful, with money coming in from the European Social Fund and the Local Council amongst others.

In 2004, the centre closed for 18 months, to enable work to take place to bring the centre up to the required standard.

Fast forward to today and the centre is flourishing with a busy schedule of activities, such as bingo, karate and tai kwan do lessons, worship groups, NHS help groups, pensioners groups along with many birthday and special occasion parties.

In 2013, the centre with the help of the city council acquired £70,000 to bring in an automated seating system, which has 128 seats, increasing the capacity to 220, creating a theatre and conference room which is used by many of the groups and local schools.

The centre is now home to a Community Shop, which has a range of food and household items. This was set up in partnership with Wolverhampton City Council to aid families in the current financial crisis. The shop is open to all local residents, no matter what their status or financial circumstances. It's open Mon to Thurs (various times – please check the website for details).



The centre, now known as Low Hill Community Centre, is open seven days a week, and whilst there are many groups already using the facilities, The Committee are keen to attract new groups to fill in the gaps during the week.

Tony and Vice Chair, George Marston, are keen to point out, that they couldn't do this without the support of the committee, who are all volunteers and undergo regular training sessions in matters such as health and safety and health and hygiene, to ensure the centre is compliant with legislation.

For more information on the facilities, costs and availability, visit their facebook page Low Hill Hub, the website, [www.lowhillhub.com](http://www.lowhillhub.com) or email [fine.lowhillca@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:fine.lowhillca@wolverhampton.gov.uk) or ring, **01902 552 312**.



# Low Hill Community Centre

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# Kids' Page

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Can you Find all the insects  
Hiding in our Letter grid?

- ant
- bee
- bluebottle
- butterfly
- dragonfly
- gnat
- grasshopper
- hoverfly
- ladybird
- moth
- shield bug
- wasp

Bert the butterfly  
and his twin brother  
Bill are not identical.  
Can you spot all their  
differences?



What goes 99-clonk, 99-clonk?  
A centipede with a wooden leg!



Spot the difference

Letter Grid Solution

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

# Wildlife in Wednesfield

About 3 weeks ago I found myself awake at 5am and unable to get back to sleep, dressed and took myself for a walk along the canal.

It was one of those mornings when there was mist along the surface of the canal and you just knew it was going to be a lovely day. There were plenty of coot and moorhens calling, a few quacks from some sleepy ducks and then, suddenly, a flash of blue as a kingfisher sped away in front of me.

Although I didn't see it again, that flash of iridescent blue gave me such a thrill, it lifted my whole day.

And here's an interesting fact about kingfishers; the lower part of the bill on the female is pink and on the male it is all black! The one below is female.



Kingfishers are of course one of our most colourful birds, but at this time of year there are many other birds whose colours can run them a close second. Some of these birds are quite drab in the winter so that they blend better with the duller colours of the countryside, but in Spring they are looking for mates to breed with.

If you feel inclined to walk across the Linthouse fields look out for linnets, yellowhammers and the summer visiting whitethroats in the hedgerows and field margins, and of course swallows, skimming across the tops of the crops. All provide a colourful accompaniment to a walk in the sunshine. I especially enjoy watching male yellowhammers sitting at the topmost point of a hedge and singing their 'little bit of bread and no cheese' song.

Many of the finches and buntings are particularly colourful and easily seen locally. Take a walk

through Fibbersley Local Nature Reserve and there's a good chance that you will see bullfinches and chaffinches, possibly a greenfinch if you are lucky or a Reed Bunting, the male of which is a very handsome brown, grey and black.



So, it is a very colourful time of year for our feathered friends and there are plenty of other colourful birds to look out for in the garden. Starlings seem to be very plentiful this year and are easily tempted close to windows. Just take a look at the adults shimmering green and their star markings; absolutely beautiful.



Well, that's it for this issue, so don't forget to look up, look down, look all around and keep enjoying our wildlife.

Dave H – [wildlifeinwednesfield@google.com](mailto:wildlifeinwednesfield@google.com)

# Still having a laugh

He's the celebrity that celebrities avoid, and one of our finest exports.

Many regard Ricky Gervais a national treasure; a select few consider him a national disgrace. Either way, it's hard to avoid the magnitude of the man. In his typical black t-shirt and jeans uniform, the actor, stand-up comedian, writer, producer and director is a melange of passionate sentiment, delivering fix-eyed intensity followed by a howling hyena cackle.

A one-time aspiring singer and band manager (he looked after indie outfit, Suede, back in their earliest incarnation), Ricky flitted around the bounds of entertainment with guest spots on Channel 4's *The Eleven O'Clock Show* before landing pay dirt with self-scripted mockumentary series *The Office*.

An overnight household name, the gritty comedy launched an unstoppable career.

Follow-up series *Extras*, parodying the movie industry, was another smash hit, featuring A-list contributions from Kate Winslet, Ben Stiller, Patrick Stewart and Samuel L. Jackson.

It was the perfect introduction into Hollywood, and he went on to star in a series of big budget comedies - *Sky Kids*, *Ghost Town*, *Night At The Museum*, *The Invention of Lying* and *The Muppets*. Some topped the box office, others crashed

and burned badly, yet all of them satisfied in Gervais a yearning for originality and creativity, and that flame has never lessened in its



intensity, even in returning to small screen projects such as *Life's Too Short*, *Derek*, *Special Correspondents* and the recent *After Life*, which garnered rave reviews.

No matter what he takes on – his Netflix project *SuperNature* last year brought him back to the brilliant stand-up he is renowned for – Gervais, who lives with long-term partner Jane Fallon, is a bastion for freedom of speech and common sense. He has unapologetic honesty that permeates every conversation, whether discussing the “scourge” of religion, or admiring the majesty of the



natural world, or calling out nationalities, races, genders or persuasions, Gervais takes offence at people being offended.

“It's a disease that's getting worse,” he says. “It's not healthy and it's not even real. Most of the people who claim to have taken offence by a statement someone makes on Twitter are

actually some of the most offensive people I have ever encountered,” he laughs.

As for where 2023 will take this creative powder keg. “As always, I have a few things on the go. I've had time to sit back and raid all those little nuggets of ideas that have been scattered in the back of my mind for too long. Some are pretty good and deserve fleshing out a bit, others are rubbish.

“The challenge is always to keep trying, keep things original, keep the creative processes rolling, and stay ever so slightly controversial!”

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## Willenhall Based Will Writer Jim Stanistreet, From BensonWilliams, On Potential Issues Caused by Previous Relationships



A number of years ago I wrote a will for a man who had five children from four different women. The most recent of them (over twenty years his junior) was his current wife and the mother of the youngest child, although they were now separated but not divorced. First things first I wasn't quite sure whether I was supposed to be disgusted or jealous, but his circumstances did open up several issues from a Will writing perspective.

My first question to him was whether he owned property jointly with his wife (and indeed with any of the previous women) or whether his assets were solely in his own name. Jointly held assets pass automatically to the surviving owner when one dies, so we have to be careful to ensure that assets are "severed" if this is not what a client wants.

Next was the issue of dependency. Statutory law does allow his wife, all three of the previous women, and any of his children, to claim against his estate if they can demonstrate a level of financial dependency which his Will fails to recognise.

No two cases are ever going to be the same on this one, and the success of a claim will come down to the specific circumstances, but our conversation had to be quite detailed to establish levels of dependency and his ongoing financial obligations, if any, to his children and their mothers.

Following on from this we also had to discuss his own personal views on the matter. He was still very close to some of the children, but others had distanced themselves from him. One was estranged altogether, and they had barely seen each other from birth. In the light of this it is perfectly normal that he may wish for some children to inherit more than others, or for some of them not to be mentioned in his Will at all.

Clearly this case was an extreme example, but it is very common these days for people to have been in more than one relationship, and to have children from their previous relationships.

Doing nothing can lead to unwanted claims against your estate and disappointment for those closest to you.

Getting your paperwork in order now will ensure that, whilst adhering to any existing financial obligations you may have, your own wishes are met and your family are protected.

For more information you can call **07789520910** or email **info@bensonwilliams.co.uk**.





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**Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton:**  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wightwick-manor](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wightwick-manor)



Wightwick Manor © National Trust Images Andrew Butler

With the promise of warmer weather arriving, now is the perfect time to explore the outdoors and find a nice spot to relax in the gardens. Follow the knitted blossom trail until 29 May, made by Wightwick's talented volunteers, and learn some facts about blossom before admiring the real thing in the orchards

Until the end of May, spectacular blossom displays can be seen throughout the gardens at Wightwick. Why not take a stroll through the orchards, see the varied fruit blossom of the apple trees and venture up into the Kitchen Garden where more fruit varieties grow showing the diversity of colour in the blossom.

Celebrate World Bee Day on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 May, 11am – 2pm and have a go at making a wildflower seed bomb to attract bees to your own garden, or will you be buzzing around in bee headgear you've made yourself?

This May half term, bring along the family to have a go at one of our craft activities and try some of our outdoor games. On Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 May, 11am – 3pm, join in one of our craft sessions; those with green fingers can plant a seed using peat-free soil in a paper pot to take home and grow, or why not make your own animal mask to wear. Families can also have a go at some of our outdoor games, such as sack racing, tug-of-war, egg and spoon race and much more! Follow us on Facebook to find out more. All family craft sessions are £1.50 per crafter, normal admission costs apply, no booking required.

**Moseley Old Hall, near Wolverhampton:**  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/moseley-old-hall](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/moseley-old-hall)



Moseley Old Hall © National Trust Images James Dobson

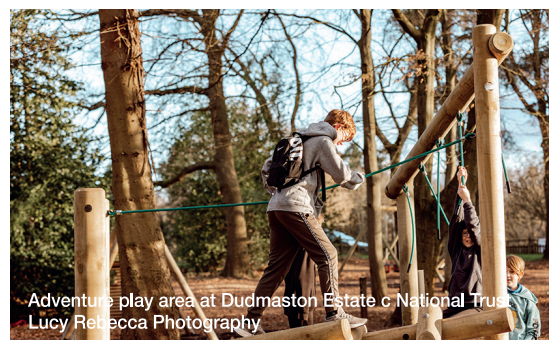
## *May half term at Moseley Old Hall*

Join us from Saturday 27th May to Sunday 4th June for our family Elf and Fairy trail – the Goblin King has taken the elves and fairies from their homes and you must solve the riddles to free them and claim your prize.

As well as the adventures that await in the woodland with the treehouse, den building and mud kitchen, there will also be traditional lawn games for all to enjoy throughout the week (weather dependant).

The trail will cost £2.50 per trail to include sheet, pencil and a prize. Normal admission applies. On Monday 29th May we will also be celebrating Oak Apple Day – the day that Charles II returned to England in 1660 and the monarchy was restored.

**Duddmaston Estate, near Bridgnorth:**  
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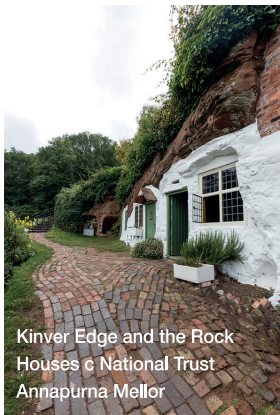
Adventure play area at Duddmaston Estate © National Trust  
Lucy Rebecca Photography

## Plant a seed at Dudmaston

Get green fingered at Dudmaston this May half term. Plant a seed, take it home and watch it grow. Complete 'No.41 Help a Plant Grow' from the National Trust's 50 things to do before you're 11 and ¾. A range of different seeds will be available and we'll tell you how to take care of your plant as it grows. £2 to take part plus admission fees. Free entry for National Trust members. Please note that Dudmaston Hall is closed on Fridays and Saturdays.

### Dudmaston After Hours, 21 June 5.30pm (summer solstice)

Spend the longest evening of the year at Dudmaston. Visit after hours and see the garden and galleries in a different light. Top off a relaxing summer's evening with some food and drink from the Orchard Tea-room. The Ronnies, a vocal harmony group, specialising in the sounds of the 1940s, will perform in the Orchard at 6pm and 7pm. Free entry for National Trust members or £6 for non-members. Booking essential via the website.



**Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses, near Stourbridge:**

Details on Forest School Sessions | National Trust

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kinver-edge](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kinver-edge)

### Shugborough Estate, near Stafford: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shugborough-estate](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shugborough-estate)



Shugborough Estate c National Trust David Goacher

## Blossom at Shugborough

Until 4 June, visit the Blossom inspired art installation created by ProteanArt with the help of local community groups.

The installation has been created using recycled materials to reflect the Blossom around Shugborough Estate.

Each letter, forming the word BLOSSOM, will be in various locations to spot around the estate.

Outdoor Cinema with Adventure Cinema  
Join us here at Shugborough Estate for a mix of outdoor cinema experiences for all the family:

- Fri 19 May 2023 at 20:00 - 22:00 - Top Gun: Maverick Outdoor Cinema with Adventure Cinema
- Sat 20 May 2023 at 11:30 - 16:00- The Greatest Showman Outdoor Cinema Sing-A-Long
- Sat 20 May 2023 at 18:00 - 22:00 - Mamma Mia! ABBA Outdoor Cinema with Adventure Cinema
- Sun 21 May 2023 at 11:40 - 15:45 - Encanto Outdoor Cinema with Adventure Cinema
- Sun 21 May 2023 at 18:00 - 22:00 - Grease Outdoor Cinema with Adventure Cinema

Booking is essential via the website.

With 900 acres of estate to explore there are new adventures to experience every time you visit. You can follow a circular walk from Park Farm that leads back to the car park via the hill to Hadrian's arch. There are great views over the parkland, and the hill to Hadrian's arch is perfect for rolling back down again. Look out for the blue and red bridges on the circular walk through the gardens and arboretum.

This natural play area inspired by ocean-faring patron, Admiral George Anson, is filled with fun things to do like a zip-wire, climbing logs and a climbing wall.

### Park Farm

The working model farm is home to the Southdown sheep and Longhorn cattle that graze the parkland. They are often out and about across different areas of the estate so look out for them on your walk. There's also a large coop containing Dorking chickens within the farm yard itself.

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# A Midland Meander

By Brian Rance



Author Brian Rance has published a book, which reveals his walks around villages and hamlets in Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, towards the end of the of pandemic.

Following on from Brian's previous escapades, this ramble of 150 miles circumnavigates the West Midlands conurbation. Being closer to his home in Birmingham and partly undertaken over two covid ravaged years, this walk is a testament to the author's resilience and determination to complete the project. In this book, in travelogue-style, Brian shares his experiences of walking around the built-up area in a clockwise direction.

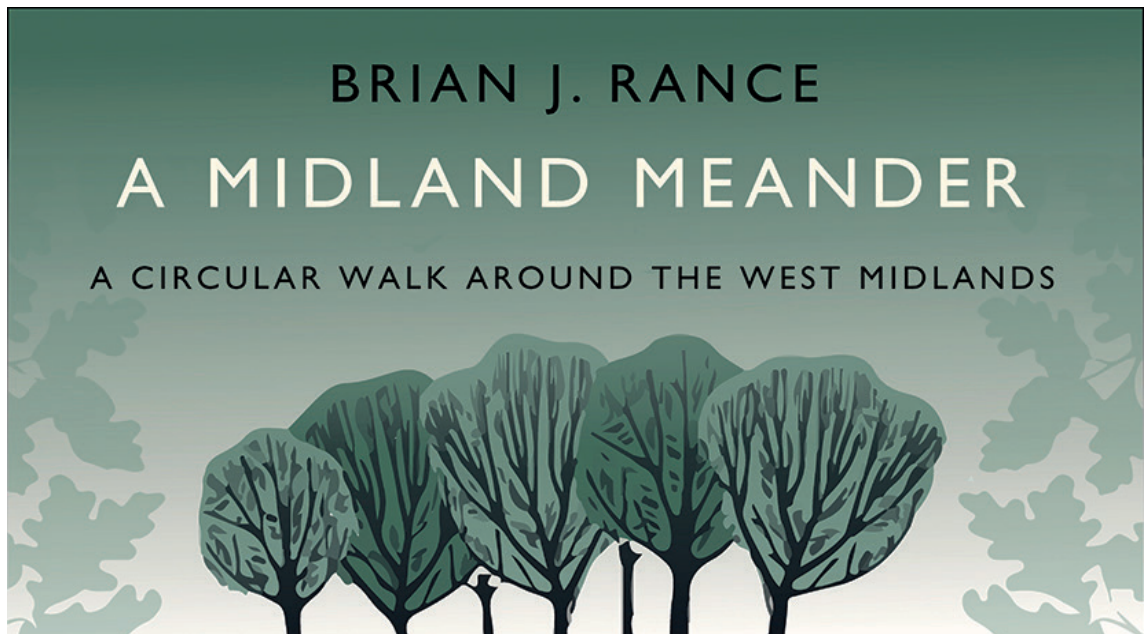
Brian delights in sharing anecdotes with his readers gleaned from various observations and encounters on the journey. A Midland Meander is an examination of the geography, geology and landscape, the history, the people and places of this heart of England, ranging from the River

Severn to the River Tame.

Typically he would walk around six to ten miles a day. He adds, "I used to walk further but now in my 70's I prefer to amble and take in the sights rather than cover the ground."

It's also not a testing route for those less able. As Brian puts it, "The South Staffordshire countryside is a gently undulating plateau. Only Cannock Chase could be described as hilly."

Visit [www.bookguild.co.uk](http://www.bookguild.co.uk) for more information.





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# Memories of Our Wednesfield



Local Historian Ray Fellows looks back at  
The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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Local Historian Ray Fellows looks back at the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Street parties and Carnivals that took place in Wednesfield. Victoria Wright got in touch to tell us about Wodensfield 90th Year Time Capsule.

The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II took place at Westminster Abbey on Tuesday June 2nd 1953 and of course, typically for Britain it rained on the day.

The Queen celebrated her 96th birthday with family and friends on 21st April 2022.

Thursday June 2nd 2022 marked the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II being the 70th Anniversary of her accession to the throne on the 6th February 1952.

King Charles III's coronation took place on Saturday 6th May, 2023, alongside his wife, Camilla, Queen Consort, at Westminster Abbey.

## Coronation Street Parties

Many streets in Wednesfield held Coronation day street parties, Mattox Road held theirs on Monday June 1st 1953 at 3.00pm. Each child received a mug filled with sweets, the streets were floodlit after dark and dancing took place in Mattox Road, all the good work had been done by the families; Butler, Long, Essex, Newton, Turner, White and Rose.

Mr and Mrs Hadley and staff of the Cross Guns Pub, held a party for the customers on the day, and also held a party for the children on the following Saturday.

The customers of the Castle Pub made a

grand effort to give some 130 children a party which was held at the pub, by kind permission of Mr S. Hargreave, the licensee, on Saturday, May 30th. The committee, which consisted of Messrs Rumford, Hancock, Buckley, Parker and Mr F. Peplow, left no stone unturned in their efforts to give the children a good time.

## Coronation Carnival

On Saturday, 4th July 1953 one of the largest and most successful Carnivals ever held in Wednesfield took place on the King George V Playing Field. The colourful procession which toured over four miles of the Urban District included 26 Tableaux, 3 bands, the Standard Motor Works Pipe Band, the North Staffs Regimental Band and the Church Lad's Brigade. One of the most entertaining members of the procession was the King of Mirth, Mr. J. Leighton, of Wood End Road.

The Queen of the Carnival, Miss Margaret Higgs, of 14, Woden Crescent rode in state with her retinue. The Herald was John Fletcher, the Maids of Honour, Christine Brooks and June Fletcher and the Pages were Christine Chapman and Sylvia Goodman. On Thursday, 2nd July the Queen was crowned by Mrs. B. Purshouse, wife of the Chairman of the Carnival Committee, in a ceremony on the King George V Playing Field.

The entertainments held on the Playing Field during Carnival Day attracted nearly 8,000 people and consisted of a Baby Show, Gymnastic and Club Swinging Display by the Heath Hayes Brotherhood, a demonstration by the British Alsatian Society's Team of Trained Dogs, a display of marching by the various bands, a Civic Cricket Match, Sports and Variety shows.

### Some of the Prize winners were as follows:

Baby Show: Under 6 months, Michael Fuczko, Ronald Fellows, Susan Wootton. 7 to 18 months, Barry Phillips, Stuart Griffiths, Martin Yeomans. 19 months to 3 years, Lyn Barnes, Christine Morgan, Robert Hutton.

Did you go to the carnival and do you remember any of the people mentioned?

### Wodensfield 90th Year Time Capsule Closing Ceremony

Wodensfield Primary School was 90 years old on 24th April 2022. Throughout the 90th year, the children have done lots of work to find out about the history of the school and have also learnt what life was like at Wodensfield in times past, by interviewing former pupils and making comparisons to the present day! The culmination of the project has been to create a time capsule which will be opened on the schools' centenary, giving those children a wonderful resource to start their own research!

In the time capsule, we put memories from our 90th Year, to give a glimpse of what life at Wodensfield is like now, which included the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, The Commonwealth Games, Gymnastics Competitions, Visits and Day to Day School life.



In addition, we put in a collection of memories and images from throughout the 90 years of Wodensfield. Former students, who are now

parents and grandparents, friends and teachers (past and present) all contributed.

As the 90th Year drew to an end, on Friday 21st April, there was a special assembly to officially close the Time Capsule. Former pupils, staff and Ray Fellows (from Wednesfield History Society) all attended to be part of this important event. At the assembly, memories were shared, the school songs (written by Mr Fred Phipps, the former pianist at the school) were sung and the children explained all of the things that they have been doing in school throughout the 90th Year. It was a memorable occasion that was enjoyed by all.

Thank you Victoria. It was great to be there to witness the event and everyone had a good time. A little bit of Wodensfield History was made on 21st April 2023.



To win a £20 Sainsbury's gift card, just answer the following question;

### How old was Queen Elizabeth II on the 21st April 2022?

Please send your answers to 24 South Avenue, Wednesfield WV11 1QL. Or email me at: [fellows.raymond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fellows.raymond@yahoo.co.uk)

Entries must be received by Monday 19th June.

The winner of the last competition was Glinys Cunnett. If you have any stories or photo's you want to share, just send them to the above address.

There is a History Society meeting on Wednesday 14th June, 11.30am in the lounge of the Vine Inn, all welcome.

# Useful Information & Telephone Numbers

## Community Hubs/Centres

Ashmore Park .....	01902 552490
Long Knowle .....	01902 552442
Low Hill .....	01902 552312
Wednesfield .....	01902 552218

## Local Councillors/MP

MP Jane Stevenson .....	01902 722026
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### Wednesfield North

Cllr Mary Bateman.....	01922 403960
Cllr Phillip Bateman .....	01922 403960
Cllr Rita Potter.....	01902 654599

### Wednesfield South

Cllr Greg Brackenridge .....	07552 211600
Cllr Ciaran Brackenridge .....	07890 964296
Cllr Jacqui Coogan .....	07919 626063

### Long Knowle

Cllr Steve Evans .....	01902 861498
Cllr Val Evans.....	01902 861498
Cllr Christopher Burden.....	07971 843811

## Emergency Services

Anti Social Behaviour Unit.....	01902 551188
Crime Stoppers (anonymous) .....	0800 555111
Electrical emergency.....	0800 328 1111
Flood line.....	0845 9881188
Gas emergency.....	0800 111 999
Police/Fire/Ambulance .....	999
Police (non emergency).....	101
(Out of hours emergency) .....	01902 552999
Water emergency .....	0800 7834444

## Health Organisations

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Dr Libberton & Dr Ram - Cann Rd.....	01902 739973
Heath Town Medical Ctre .....	01902 456211
Mayfield Medical Centre .....	01902 351666
New Cross Hospital (switchbrd) .....	01902 307999
NHS non-emergency number .....	111
Raynor Road Medical Ctre .....	0844 3879400
The Surgery, Woden Road.....	0845 0724628
Tudor Medical Ctre .....	01902 384999

## Help Lines/Others

Citizens Advice Bureau .....	03444 111 444
Childline.....	0800 1111

National Careers Service.....	0800 100900
National Domestic Violence .....	0808 2000 247
RSPCA .....	0300 1234 999
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## Places of Worship

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Corpus Christi RC Church.....	01902 732713
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Fallings Park Methodist.....	01902 733574
Gurdwara Sikh Temple .....	01902 730774
Holy Trinity Church Street .....	01902 722840
Old Fallings Utd Reformed .....	01902 861961
Our Ladys Presbytery .....	01902 731189
St Alban's C of E .....	01902 732317
St Gregory's C of E .....	01902 783342
St Patrick's RC Church .....	01902 736440
St Thomas's C of E .....	01902 723310
Wednesfield Christian Ctre .....	01902 689957
W'field Methodist Comm Church .....	01902 727130

## Schools

Ashmore Park Nursery .....	01902 558116
Coppice Performing Arts.....	01902 558500
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D'Eyncourt Primary .....	01902 558778
Edward the Elder Primary .....	01902 558765
Heath Park High School .....	01902 556360
Long Knowle .....	01902 558985
Oak Meadow Primary .....	01902 558517
Our Lady St Chad's.....	01902 558250
Perry Hall Primary .....	01902 558538
St Alban's Primary.....	01902 558825
St. Thomas' C of E Primary.....	01902 558963
St Patrick's Primary.....	01902 556451
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Wodensfield Primary .....	01902 556350
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Wolverhampton University .....	01902 321000
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## Crossword Answers

From page 10

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

The next issue of the

**Wednesfield**  
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