

October / November 2023

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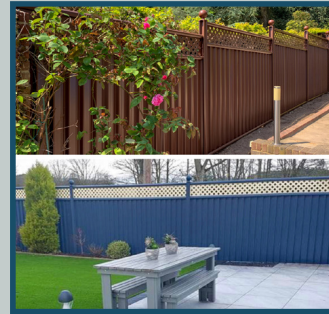


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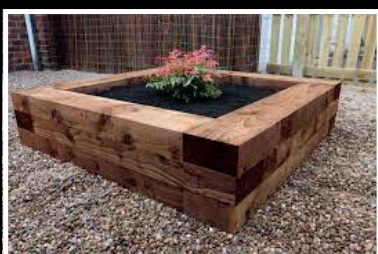
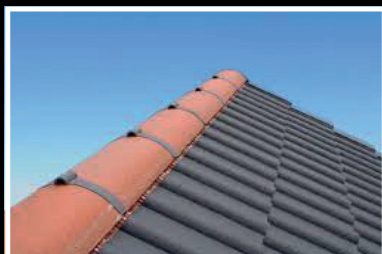


Wednesfield magazine

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OPENING TIMES - Monday to Friday 7.45am –16.00pm Saturday & Sunday – Closed



Wednesfield magazine

Part of West Midlands Magazines Ltd
Company No. 10452329
Registered office;
39 High Street,
Wednesfield,
Wolverhampton, WV11 1ST

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Send to; Wednesfield Magazine
16 Holberg Grove
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

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the October/November issue of the Wednesfield Magazine.

I don't think I'll be the only one who won't be disappointed to see the end of the summer. What summer? Exactly!

We had a week in Malta, when the weather was actually quite good, but since then, it's really gone to pot. We're now looking forward to a week in Turkey with some of the family in October and to be honest, I can't wait.

My parents have been raving about Icmeler [in Turkey] for about 20 years (they go for four weeks in May and another four in September) and for various reasons, we're the only members of the family who haven't been out with them, so we're putting that right this year.

My Dad celebrates his 92nd Birthday while we're there and I'd say he's as fit and healthy as any other nonagenarian and I hope he's still going abroad when he hits 100, but you never know.

I'm also being a good brother by taking my sister, who lost her hubby a few years ago and isn't comfortable travelling on her own. I know they say you can't choose your family, but mine aren't a bad lot, so a week away should be fine. I'm taking earplugs, just in case...

Talking of holidays, we had a few days in the Lake District in August. If you've never been, you're missing a treat – read about our visit towards the back of the magazine.

While I write this, there's still a lot of anger about the Spanish football official who kissed one of the players without consent. What was he thinking? Is it a culture thing? If so, it needs to change. I hope in the UK, we've come a long way in the past twenty or thirty years, but I'm pretty sure there's more work and education needed.

We can all do a bit more (me included). Be polite, be respectful and most of all, be kind. It doesn't cost anything.

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 December and January and will be out on 1st December, so if you want to be in it, please contact me by 10th November.

Enjoy your read!

Simon



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Wolverhampton Young Citizen of the Year Awards

"Wolverhampton's lights are shining bright, if these young people are anything to go by!"

Those were the words of special guest, ex-Wolves striker, John Richards at The Young Citizens of the Year Awards in early September. Ten young Wulfrunians were recognised for their outstanding community service at The Civic Suite in front of the Mayor of Wolverhampton, local dignitaries and friends and families of the inspirational young people.



The inspiring youngsters' stories were shared, about making a difference despite a wide range of challenges which many would find hard looking after themselves, let alone while helping others.

The Rotary Clubs of Wolverhampton founded the awards, which are in their tenth year and have become a highlight of the city's social calendar. There were three winners of individual categories on the night but everyone in the 75-strong audience agreed there were no losers.

The finalists were; Eva Abley, Luis Enache, Harman Kambo, Gabriella McKenzie, Dirran Mehta, Imane Sbihi, Shawna Gibbs, Karolina



Jaks, Chloe Lambert and Alethea Parsons. The overall winner of the 18-25-year-old category was Alethea Parsons who was nominated by Sarah Tulley from the Wolverhampton Music School for an outstanding contribution to music and the arts in the city.

There were joint winners in the 13-18 age group. They were Imane Sbihi and Eva Abley. Imane escaped from Morocco and since settling in Wolverhampton has immersed herself in voluntary work. Eva, who has cerebral palsy, came fifth in Britain's Got Talent last year. She uses comedy to inspire others to cope with disability.



John Richards presented each of the winners with a trophy and £100 for themselves and £100 for the charity of their choice. Special recognition awards were given to Chloe Lambert and Dirran Mehta for outstanding determination in the face of adversity.

Mayor Councillor Hardacre said: "I was absolutely bowled over by the high quality of the candidates and was disappointed that we could not give all of them the title Young Citizen of the Year in Wolverhampton."

Photos courtesy of Liza Lutton-Matthews at babytreephotography.com

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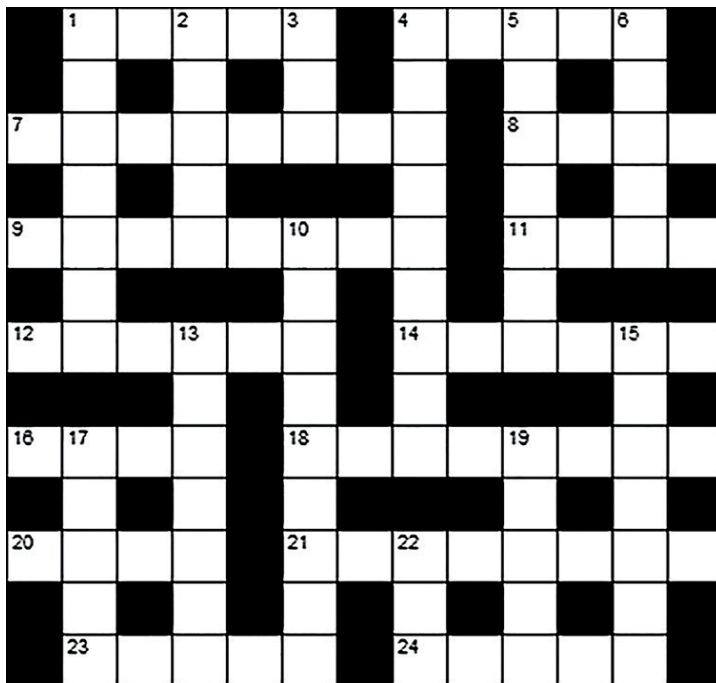
Sat 09:00-15:00

Sun Closed



Crossword

Please see answers on page 47



Across

- 1 Biblical grandson of Abraham (5)
- 4 Jolly outing or excursion (5)
- 7 Directly above (8)
- 8 Conservative (informal) (4)
- 9 Definitive (8)
- 11 Desert in Asia (4)
- 12 Silky wool (6)
- 14 Individual, organism (6)
- 16 Squabble, altercation (4)
- 18 Lesson, coaching session (8)
- 20 Indian garment (4)
- 21 Southern English county (8)
- 23 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 24 Pleasant, refreshing weather (5)

Down

- 1 Spear (sporting) (7)
- 2 Royal breed of dog (5)
- 3 Farewell (informal) (3)
- 4 Decision, opinion (9)
- 5 Tense, anxious (7)
- 6 Spasm, pound (5)
- 10 Girl's name (Russian) (9)
- 13 Sketch, rough plan (7)
- 15 Catastrophe (7)
- 17 Ancient Greek philosopher (5)
- 19 Bucolic, pastoral (5)
- 22 Angry group (3)

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Why Mindset Matters when it comes to getting healthier?

When I start working with a new Coaching Client one of the first things, I do is to explore their mindset. You see the “voice” that all of us will hear during our lives will be our own voice.

Each of us has a positive voice in our head that encourages us to try new things, take on challenges and try things outside of our comfort zone. You could call this positive inner voice our angel or inner advocate because it wants us to succeed, to do well, to be healthy and to be happy.

We also have a negative voice in our head that's always putting us down and telling us that we're not good enough. That we shouldn't try because it didn't last time or that there's no point because it will take too much time, energy, effort, or money. This negative voice is our inner critic or devil.

So, if you've struggled to get fitter and healthier in the past then it could be that your inner critic has the loudest voice in your head right now. How to change your Mindset?

The best way to start changing your mindset is to start by collecting lots of little wins at the beginning of your day as this encourage you to continue taking action.

So, for example if you don't currently set an alarm to wake up at a certain time then start setting an alarm to get up. If you normally hit the snooze button when the alarm goes off, then stop doing this and start getting up when your alarm goes off.

By doing these two things you'll be keeping a promise to yourself and start stacking wins.

Next start drinking some water every single morning before you start drinking tea/coffee or energy drinks. We wake up dehydrated after sleep so by drinking water each morning you're stacking another win.

Start reading a few pages of a book or listening to a positive podcast about something you're really interested in. Do 5 mins of light exercise, ideally outside if you to get some fresh air and sunshine



in face. Write down or think about three things that you're grateful for.

By doing these few quick and easy things every morning you'll be stacking so many wins within the first 20 mins of each day that you'll start to shift your mindset.

Your confidence will grow because you'll be keeping promises to yourself and will know that if you add more actions to get healthier that you're more likely to do them.

I hope you find this useful? You can let me know by emailing me at:
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News in Brief

History Fair

The FWA (Friends of Wolverhampton Archives) want to make everyone aware of Wolverhampton's own Local History Fair which is happening on Saturday October 21st. This all-day event takes place in the historic former Molineux House Hotel which was Originally built as a town house for the wealthy Molineux family in the early to the mid-1700's.



The FWA is an entirely independent group of volunteers supporting and promoting the work of the Archives. We have a full programme of events providing a range of speakers on a variety of history subjects, we organise occasional walks around areas of local historical interest during the summer months and hold regular 'helping hand' sessions for those who want to bring their own back stories to life through Family Trees.

The local History Fair is hosted by the Archives Service and offers the chance for you to meet with us and many local history and heritage societies, with expert historians from across the region on hand to discuss their work and research.

Come along and explore the local history displays – this event is a must for everyone interested in the history of our area. And when you fancy a cuppa, pop into the Wrekin View tea room on third floor, where the FWA are providing light refreshments. The event is on from 10am to 4pm.

Craft Fayre Sunday 5th November 2023

Wednesfield Conservative Club, Neachells Lane, Wednesfield from 1-4 pm

Raffle for Charity, Personalised cakes, Jewellery, Box Frames, Knitted items, Crystals, Wreaths, Painted Glass, Keyrings, Wooden Items, Wax Melts, Soaps, Home Made Chutneys, Jams, Hair Braiding / Face Painting, Candy Floss, Slush, Popcorn

Haven Wolverhampton's Trip to the Seaside

In August, local radio presenter, Dicky Dodd drove one of two coaches, taking women and their children who are service users of The Haven Wolverhampton to Weston Super Mare. Dicky said, "It was lovely to see the children's excited faces as they boarded and when we got to Weston they were all like little bottles of fizzy pop.

I want to say a HUGE thank you to some very special and generous people who responded to my social media post for food and drink donations.

Thank you to Simon Archer who kindly contacted Sainsbury's in Wednesfield and got a car full of goodies from Mandy, their Community Champion. Also thanks for Laky Singh for his kind food donation too. I also had a load of sweets from Jen at the Co-op store at Merry Hill.

Finally thank you to Josephine Devney and Mike Morgan for your kind and generous cash donations.

The day was all about making memories that the children will cherish forever.



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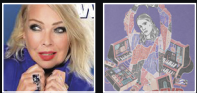
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Windrush Compensation Scheme Seminar Success

Wolverhampton's first event to help those affected by the Windrush scandal, took place at the Grand Station, Sun Street on Wednesday 6th September.

The event was not just to help people who had been affected by the government's tougher approach to immigration, around a decade ago, but also to celebrate African-Caribbean culture and to recognise those in the community that had worked hard to improve conditions for those that had come to Britain in the 40s and 50s and ever since.



An audience of over 250 people, including the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Dr Mike Hardacre and the Wolverhampton North East MP, Jane Stevenson, were treated to Caribbean poetry, music and food and given some useful information about the compensation scheme from a team from the Home Office, who also carried out 1-2-1 interviews with those requiring further assistance.

Bishop, Ruben King led the meeting and both the Mayor and the MP gave speeches, with Jane Stevenson also reading out letters from the Prime Minister and Lord Murray, the Home Office Minister responsible for the scheme.



Many of those who were asked by the government to come over from the Caribbean, to help rebuild Britain after World War II, were not given official documentation to allow them to prove their citizenship. From 2012, many of them were denied health care, were detained and some were sent back to Jamaica, because they couldn't prove they were British Citizens.

Event Organiser, Robert Allen, who owns Sian Computers in Bushbury, said, "I was really pleased with the turnout from the local community and with the support from the Mayor, MP and the council, who have all played their part in this event. We were so pleased with how things went, that we are now looking at future events and possibly doing something annually to ensure those affected are not forgotten.



Discussions about how this historical event can be harnessed to ensure the Windrush Generation is very much engrained in British History have begun. If you or someone you know were affected and would like help or advice on how to start an application for compensation, please email siancomputers.comm.init.cic@gmail.com or telephone **01902 651698**.



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Wildlife in Wednesfield

One of my favourite 'sounds of summer' when I was a child was the sound of grasshoppers. I spent most of my summer holidays in the Isle of Man, my father's home, and our ancestral home for well over 500 years. There was a meadow across the road from my grandma's house and it was teeming with grasshoppers during the day, and abuzz with cricket song in the evenings.

I was reminded of those happy times this summer when I heard a grasshopper in my own garden for the first time in several years. There are 27 native species of grasshopper and crickets in the UK and many more naturalised species. Grasshoppers are an important source of food for many birds such as Grey Partridge, Skylarks and Meadow Pipits and crickets are excellent controllers of pest species such as aphids.



Clockwise from top left - Field, Meadow, Stripe-winged Common Green Grasshopper

The key differences between grasshoppers and crickets are that crickets 'sing' by rubbing their wing cases together, have long antennae and are crepuscular/nocturnal (active in the evening and night), whereas grasshoppers 'sing' by rubbing their legs on their wing cases, have short antennae and are active during the day.

The four most commonly seen grasshoppers across the UK are the Field Grasshopper, the Meadow Grasshopper, Stripe-winged Grasshopper and Common Green Grasshopper, the last of which seems to have returned to my garden. All of these grasshoppers are of a similar size, being between 10mm and 25mm. Their songs are all slightly different, but I have to confess that being an urbanite I don't often get the chance to compare their songs in the field.

In the same family as grasshoppers are the crickets, much less frequently seen and not so often heard in Wednesfield, but they are present and I've heard them from time to time.



Dark Bush Cricket – notice the long antennae

Most recently, I heard a cricket singing on Amos Lane, the sound emanating from behind a telephone exchange box, but I couldn't for the life of me find it to identify it. However, I did listen to recordings of their songs and was able to identify it as a Dark Bush Cricket, which is found in Central and Southern England. They particularly like brambles so keep an eye out for them. I'd be very pleased to hear from anyone who regularly hears crickets locally.

There is one cricket however, that is now rarely heard and even less frequently seen and that is the Mole Cricket.

The Mole Cricket is one of our largest insects at 5cm and was a common sound into the 50s and early 60s. However, modern insecticides and habitat loss saw it declared extinct in the UK until a relict population was discovered in the New Forest in 2018. A small population is thought to be resented too at a private and highly secret site in north-west England.

Mole crickets are so named because they spend most of their lives underground, up to 60cm down, have a heavily armoured thorax and large, and spade-like front legs. They are chestnut brown in colour and quite unmistakable.



European Mole Cricket

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



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Blonde Ambition

Margot Robbie, at just 33, worries she may be on a downward career trajectory. The evidence, of course suggests otherwise, with the *Barbie* movie propelling the Aussie actress back into the box office elite.

It's natural for anyone, in any walk of life, to feel career anxiety and perhaps a sense of pessimism over their ability to perform.

When this is someone close to us or, worse still, ourselves, we accept the reality. We are, after all, just human, right?

Yet when the person is someone at the top table of the entertainment elite, we are maybe more surprised. How can someone who has everything feel that they might soon have nothing?

"The truth is most actors need constant proof or reassurance that they've still got it – whatever 'it' is," begins the brilliant Margot Robbie.

"I am no different on that front. I need to keep taking chances, because standing still with the same project or the same concept is, in fact, going backwards, and I have already



felt in certain moments that my career is at risk of a downward trajectory.

"It's fair to say I will do absolutely anything to avoid that from happening."

Her plan is working. For 2018 biopic-mockumentary *I, Tonya* – where she played the role of the film's central character, American figure skater Tonya Harding – Robbie received nominations from the Academy Awards, BAFTA, Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild.

The same four also nominated her two years for their Best Actress in a Supporting Role category for *Bombshell*.

The Queensland-born actress has been married to Tom Ackersley since 2016, and both helped co-found production company LuckyChap Entertainment, which is behind this year's megawatt-smile release, *Barbie*.

First introduced in 1959, Barbie has lived through and impacted most generations, continuing to sell globally to a fervent market of fans. At age 64 (technically), it was probably about time someone put the iconic doll on the big screen, and Robbie – along with director Greta Gerwig – was determined to be the first to succeed with a big-movie version.



"I think it's every girl's dream to be Barbie," she says excitedly.

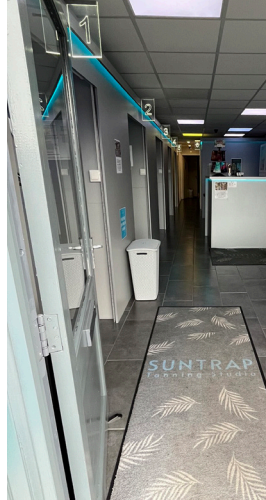
"It's also every adult's dream to make a girl's dream come true, so it was a very special project. Barbie has been with so many girls growing up and we know just how vital it was that we got this right."

And get it right, Margot Robbie continues to do. With so many scene-stealing roles in the likes of *Suicide Squad*, *The Wolf of Wall Street* and *Birds of Prey*, it may not be accurate to say *Barbie* will be the actress's most profitable venture yet; but in terms of being the most defining, perhaps...



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Willenhall Based Will Writer Jim Stanistreet, From BensonWilliams, On What Happens to An Inheritance if you are Convicted of Killing Somebody

“Forfeiture” is an ancient common law which bars you from inheriting from the estate of a person if you are convicted of killing them. At face value this may seem pretty obvious, but these things are rarely black and white, and the forfeiture rule throws up any number of problems and questions. Over the years many court cases have hinged on the concept of forfeiture and how and when it should be applied.

Many of you will be familiar with the story of Dr Crippen, the first murderer to be captured by transatlantic radio communication. Crippen was hanged in 1910 for the murder of his wife Belle, but before his execution he made a will in favour of his mistress Ethel Le Neve.

Bizarrely, in 1911, lawyers acting on behalf of Le Neve attempted to gain control over Mrs Crippen's estate, as well as that of Crippen himself, on the basis that she had died before her husband and therefore he had control of her estate at the time of his death! Unsurprisingly the court rejected their application.

So, the big question is what does happen to an inheritance after forfeiture has been applied? For many years the rule applied to your entire blood line, so not only would you lose out, but your children would too. This was because statutory succession laws enable your children to inherit in your place if you are already deceased, but in the case of forfeiture you are still alive.

Children paying the price for “the sins of the father” is a delicate subject, and in The Estates



of Deceased Persons Act 2011 this problem was rectified so that you still lose your inheritance, but your children do now inherit by substitution.

Another question is does forfeiture always apply? Essentially the answer is yes, but Section 2 of The Forfeiture Act 1982 does give the courts some powers of discretion. In the rather tragic case of *Amos v Mancini* in 2020 an elderly lady crashed her car killing her husband, her passenger at the time. She was convicted of causing death by careless driving and received a short custodial sentence.

However, the court did agree that it would be unfair to apply the forfeiture rule as she had not intentionally killed her husband, and subsequently she was allowed to inherit.

I've been in practice for almost thirty years now and thankfully none of my clients have been convicted of killing each other (yet). However, if you are thinking of “greasing the stairs” you might like to consider the above before making any moves!

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Two course £19.50 Three course £24.50

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Starters

Tomato & basil soup, herb croutons

Devon crab, chilled king prawns, pickled salad,
lime & dill crème fresh.

Brie & caramelised red onion quiche

Breaded mushrooms, herb mayonnaise, mix leaf

Duck liver, cranberry & orange pate,
toasted French bread slices

Mains

Roast Turkey Breast, sage & onion stuffing,
chipolata sausage, pan gravy

Roast sirloin of Herefordshire beef,
beef dripping roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding

Luxury shepherd's pie Slow braised pulled lamb
shoulder, in a red wine and mint gravy,
topped with cheese potato

Pan roast seabass fillet on a bed of creamed
shredded sprouts, chestnuts & bacon lardons

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melted brie, crispy pancetta, cranberry sauce, triple
cooked chips, beer battered onion rings

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Christmas pudding

Apple crumble, custard

Sicilian Lemon meringue pie, seasonal berries

Black forest baked cheesecake

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Tomato Bisque, toasted crouton, basil oil

French onion stuffed mushrooms baked with a
gruyere crust

Smoked beef brisket Macaroni cheese

Tian of Cornish crab, north Atlantic prawns &
avocado, lemon dressing

Pressed pork belly, seared scallop, king prawn
tempura, cider mustard and sorrel dressing

Trio of mini scotch egg, Turkey & stuffing, smoked
haddock, pork & black pudding.

Mini baked garlic & rosemary studded camembert,
warm onion marmalade, garlic dough balls

Mains

Hand carved Roast Turkey breast, sage & onion
stuffing, roast potatoes, chipolata sausage

Guinness braised blade of beef, Colcannon potato,
roast parsnip, kale

Sage & panko breaded pork tenderloin Medallions,
fondant potato, honey roast chanterry carrot, tender
stem broccoli, apricot & apple puree

Slow roast lamb shank, Dauphinoise potato,
red wine & mint jus

Beef wellington, rosemary & garlic fondant potato,
baked heritage carrots,
rioja jus **£9.50 supplement**

Festive Burger

Panko Breaded chicken fillet melted brie & cranberry,
crispy pancetta, triple cooked chips, beer battered
onion rings.

Desserts

Traditional Christmas pudding, custard

Sticky toffee pudding, biscoff butterscotch,
vanilla ice cream

Black forest cheesecake, baked chocolate
cheesecake, topped with black forest fruits, whipped
cream and shaved chocolate

Vanilla crème Brule, cinnamon & orange shortbread

Festive Eaton mess, Christmas pudding, orange truffle
baileys whipped cream, crushed meringue

Sicilian lemon meringue, seasonal berries

Warm chocolate brownie, vanilla ice cream

Chefs selection of festive cheese & port,
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Grill

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Canal Festival Fun

Crowds turned out to enjoy this year's Wednesfield Canal Festival, next to the Nickelodeon in Bentley Bridge, in August.

Despite a couple of light showers, the weather was fairly favourable and allowed visitors to enjoy the fun fair, canoe trips, music, food, drink and an array of market stalls with arts and crafts, tombolas and an airsoft shooting range [the Editor has found a new skill].

A Canal Festival wouldn't be the same without boats and over a dozen turned up for the event, selling; slates, jams, chutneys, breakfasts, mugs, pet accessories and much more.

James Clarke, Chair of co-organisers Hands on Wednesfield, said, "This year was probably our best Canal Festival to date. The weather certainly helped, as did all the volunteers who work on the day and in the months leading up to the event. We're now looking forward to next year which will be our 10th anniversary since the first festival."

Keep reading the Wednesfield Magazine for information about the next event.

Photos courtesy stugwilliams photography







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Links to the Past

For Art's Sake!



Hello, my name is Tim Hamilton. At my place of work, I have fried fish and chips, boiled and rolled Dandelion and Burdock flavoured suck and dressed up in Victorian costume... You guessed it; I work at the Black Country Living Museum.

I currently form part of the Collections Team helping take care of the 80,000 plus objects which have been acquired from local businesses and donated by people in the community over the last 50 years, all of which contributes to telling the story of the Black Country.

When we think about the Victorian period (1837-1901) we often focus solely on industrialised Britain. Mass production of consumer goods, the rise of infrastructures such as sewers, roads, rail, and the social and political unrest. But what often gets forgotten, or at least in my experience is art.

Wightwick Manor (pronounced Wittick) is a Victorian Manor house on Wolverhampton's Wightwick Bank. It was built by Theodore Mander (b1853 – d1900) between 1887 and 1893. The house was designed by Edward Ould, who having designed many churches and other public buildings in Liverpool, Chester, and Wales was an accomplished architect.

While the half-timbered house with its whitewashed walls and crown of barley-twist chimneys does incorporate part of a much earlier Jacobean Manor, you'd be forgiven for assuming the entire house was hundreds of years older than it actually is. Such was Ould's attention to detail in trying to create something which felt like it had grown and evolved over time; hence the quirky short flights of steps within the manor itself for example.



The property is set against the backdrop of picturesque orchards, and immaculately kept formal gardens that were designed by Thomas Mawson. But it also had all the mod-cons of a Victorian home such as central heating (that still works to this day) and electric lighting throughout – which was cutting edge for the late 1880's.

It goes without saying the mansion and its grounds are incredible; but it's the Aesthetic Movement interior design that brings the whole place to life. Aestheticism originated in the 1860s with a radical group of artists and designers such as William Morris and Dante Gabriel Rossetti (who also founded the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood). Aestheticism was an important and shocking movement in the world of art and design because it challenged the values of mainstream Victorian culture.

Where many Victorians believed that literature and art should fulfil a moral, ethical, or educational role. The aesthetic movement's principles and ideals stood in stark contrast to this championing 'art for art's sake' - beautiful art unaligned with morality, politics and without a utilitarian function.



One of the major proponents of this movement was Oscar Wilde who gave a lecture at the Wolverhampton Free Library on the subject of Aestheticism entitled 'The House Beautiful'. Theodore Mander and his wife were in attendance on March 10th 1884, and as they listened made copious notes on art, furniture, architecture, music, literature, colours, textures, and materials. As a result, Wilde's influence at Wightwick Manor can be seen in the timeless collection of objects, artwork and the famous and recognisable designs of William Morris and his British Arts and Crafts contemporaries.



The Mander Family

The Mander family themselves had a long history dating back to 1773 of entrepreneurship, setting up businesses in everything from baking, japanning and chemical manufacture. Theodore's Grandfather and great uncle built on their fathers already established varnish business to include paint and printing ink in 1845. So successful were

they that Mander Brothers became the largest manufacturer of paints and inks the entire British Empire which also made them one of the major employers in Wolverhampton.

The Mander family's wealth and influence weren't squandered though, many of the men used their status and privilege as vocal supporters of women's suffrage and held Suffragist meetings in their homes. Theodore's Uncle Charles Benjamin Mander (b1819 – d1878) campaigned for clean drinking water fountains in Wolverhampton, and for the Wolverhampton Free Library.

Theodore's cousin Sir Charles Tertius Mander (b1852 – d1929) served as Mayor of Wolverhampton four times before being made the First Baronet of the Mount, Tettenhall Wood in 1911.

Theodore's Eldest Son Sir Geoffrey Le Mesurier Mander (b1882–d1962) Labour Party MP for Wolverhampton between 1929 and 1945 gifted his father's home and its entire contents to the National Trust in 1937, just 50 years after it had been built. While it was unusual for them to take on a property that was so new, they accepted along with one stipulation; that it never become 'just' a gallery and always be displayed as a home.

Wightwick Manor helps tell the stories of an industrialist Black Country family and their political and social activism. It links the local area to the broader context of changing beliefs on the meaning and use of art across Britain at the time the house was built. But with all that said, if historic properties aren't normally your thing - I'd argue you could simply go to enjoy the beauty and art for its own sake, just as it was intended.

Share your photos of your favourite art with me on  **@MrTimHamilton**

See for yourself:

National Trust Wightwick Manor. Wightwick Bank, Wolverhampton WV6 8EE

Further Reading:

The Mander Family Tree:

www.historywebsite.co.uk/genealogy/Mander/history/ManderFamilyHistory.htm

Images used with courtesy of National Trust Collections- Theodore Mander Portrait c1900 object/1287884

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Luxuriating in Low Wood Bay

With spectacular views across Lake Windermere, it was easy to see why Low Wood Bay should be high on your list of spa hotels to visit.

Sitting on the A591, between Ambleside village, this lakefront resort and marina is a 3 mile drive from Windermere village and the train station.

This well-presented venue has it all, with Low Wood Bay Watersports Centre across the road, or a relaxing health and wellbeing spa, with outdoor infinity pool, several saunas and steam rooms, indoor pool or if you want to get your walking boots on, the possibilities are endless.

We arrived mid-afternoon and were shown to our room in the exclusive Winander Club, which allows guests access to Winander Club Lounges with free hot drinks and chilled water, a roof top terrace with panoramic views of Lake Windermere, Langdale Pikes and beyond and exclusive access to the Winander Bar and roof top terrace. The Winander Club private breakfast lounge serves continental buffet options and cooked breakfasts, which include vegetarian and vegan options. Guests also benefit from a late check out of 12 noon.



Our room had stunning views of the surrounding countryside and we decided to stretch our legs after the car journey and followed the well sign posted paths into the woods, where we found streams and waterfalls and felt like we'd well and truly arrived in the Lake District.

On our last visit, we sampled the delights of The W restaurant, so this time, we opted for the cosy Blue Smoke Restaurant, which offers a wide selection of local produce, to satisfy all tastes. I started with a spicy, crispy duck pancake and followed with easily the best lobster I've ever had. My wife had prawns first, which, in the interests of research, I had to try, followed by a rib-eye steak, which I was less fortunate with. It melts in your (her) mouth apparently. I'll have to take her word. The desserts didn't disappoint either – you can't beat a lemon



meringue, well, that is unless you try their chocolate brownie. You decide. We couldn't.

We were intrigued by the poster for 'wood-fired afternoon teas' (the wife is a connoisseur), so had to book one for the following day to see what that involved.

After a lovely breakfast, with views of the lake and surrounding scenery, we went into the main building to begin our three hour 'Thermal Spa Journey'. Having visited quite a few spas around the UK, we feel qualified to know a good one from a not so good one.

This one has it all. A good-sized indoor pool, outdoor infinity pool, where you can sip prosecco (they have it on draught, you know) and lose your thoughts while watching the paddle boarders and boat trippers on Lake Windermere. I know, sounds like heaven! The thing we liked best is that it's never over-crowded. Other spas we've been to tend to cram in as many visitors as they can, but not this one.

Lunch was the much-anticipated Wood-fired afternoon tea, which didn't disappoint. If I could design an afternoon tea, this would probably come close. The food came on a three tiered set of pans, which the waitress struggled to carry, with a mouth watering selection of tasty bites, including; pulled pork baps, tacos, nachos, spicy chicken wings, wedges, coleslaw, battered prawns and a few sweet treats of doughnuts with caramel sauce, custard tarts (possibly pastel de natas). They did keep one traditional item – scones, jam and cream. Or is it cream and jam. Let's not start that one!

To accompany the food, they offer a 'prosecco flute' which consists of four small glasses – three normal and one dessert wine, which the wife took advantage of and informed me that they were lovely.

I needed to give my liver a rest and also wanted to



appreciate (and stay awake for) my aromatherapy massage, which was to follow.

The other half had a back massage and facial and we both agreed that the treatments were top notch and we left our spa day feeling relaxed, refreshed and chilled.

There's so much to see and do around Windermere that we decided to go out for our evening meal and searched online for a restaurant that served local dishes. When in Cumbria...

I booked a table at the Lamplighter Dining Rooms in Windermere's High Street, which had a few good reviews and looked like it had a homely feel.

I started with the marinated pig's cheeks, apple sauce and home-made slaw, while the missus had her old favourite, chicken liver parfait, which we both happily devoured. The waiter had invited us to try the 'specials' of lamb rump and sea bass which were both generous portions and cooked to perfection. I'm not sure why, but I was most impressed with the presentation.

I think the earlier lunch and the portion sizes here, meant we couldn't do justice to afters, but it was a close run thing as I'm sure the 'local cheese' board was winking at me.

As I mentioned, there's so much to see and do in these parts and frankly, we hadn't seen and done enough, so we asked if our room was available for an extra night and luckily it was, so we were able to get the car out and go off exploring the following morning.

It's on trips like these, that I wish I could paint or draw.

If you can, there's no shortage of landscapes, hills, mountains or stretches of water to satisfy your needs. We had no plan and just went over hills and round lakes until we landed in the village of Coniston for a pit stop. The hill, rising above the village, known locally as the 'Old Man of Coniston' is strangely beguiling and somewhat scary. I'm not sure I'd like to live there with that sitting above me.

We had half an idea to visit Wordsworth Grasmere, but as we approached, we could see how busy it was, so decided to wander lonely as a cloud (see what I did there) over to Keswick for lunch. For such a small town, it has a plentiful selection of eateries, most with outdoor seating and as it was such a nice day, we plonked our bums on a bench by the Dog & Gun and had a lovely jacket spud.

For our last supper (I always over dramatize things!) we'd tried to get into the Old Stamp House, but the Michelin starred restaurant had been on Tom Kerridge's 'Hidden World of Hospitality' so the world and his wife had beaten us to it, so we went for a place a few doors down, which looked quirky (in a good way) with its witty description of each dish.

I phoned Lucy, owner of Lucy on a Plate and she booked us in for 7.45pm. I was surprised how chatty she was and how interested she was in taking our names (Carol without an e) and asking if we were celebrating anything.

All became clear when we arrived and were seated with our menus. At Lucy's, they print a new menu each night, with a front page which mentions some of the people dining there that evening. Halfway down the page I spot, "Simon and Carol are rejoicing after 34 years of matrimonial harmony". What a lovely touch and if I may say, a cleverly crafted unique selling point.

That finished off a most enjoyable visit, to what is fast becoming our favourite part of the country.

We're in good company as the list of royalty and celebrities, who have visited Low Wood Bay include; Prince (now King) Charles, Princess Anne, King Hussein of Jordan, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

I hope they enjoyed their stay as much as we did, but I bet they didn't get a mention on Lucy's menu!

Low Wood Bay Resort & Spa

Ambleside Rd, Windermere LA23 1LP

☎ 0333 220 3105

🌐 www.englishlakes.co.uk/low-wood-bay

Lamplighter Dining Rooms

High Street, Windermere, LA23 1AF

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Lucy's on a Plate

Church St, Ambleside LA22 0BU

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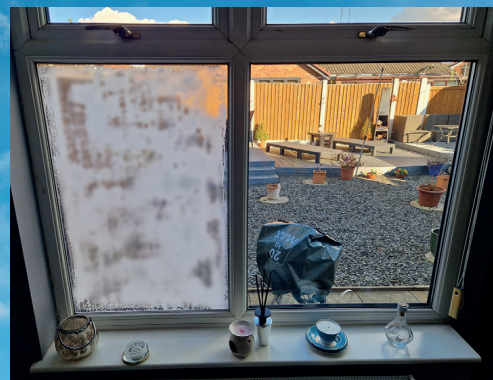
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Memories of Our Wednesfield



Local Historian Ray Fellows looks back at the opening of the Garden of Remembrance and the lock and key industry of Wednesfield.

The Garden of Remembrance opening ceremony followed the Armistice Service.

After the usual Armistice Day Service in the Parish Church on Sunday, November 8th 1959, held in the afternoon, the Clergy, Congregation, and members of the Council, moved across the way for the Official opening of the Garden of Remembrance.



The Chairman of the Council, Councillor, A. Johnson, expressed the hope that residents would respect this ground, and at the same time enjoy the pleasant layout, which he stated would be cared for by the local authority.

Councillors Wootton and Bargery supported the chairman in these sentiments. The Dedication ceremony was performed by the Vicar, The Rev. F. LeNoury, Methodist minister.

It was said that looking at the Garden, a focal point of suitable design would make it possible to hold a yearly remembrance service like so many of our towns and villages around the country, just previous to the morning service in our various churches, so

that at the appropriate time of 11.00.am people could stand in unison with our countrymen throughout the land and join in the national tribute. With goodwill and co-operation this could be a reality for next Armistice Sunday.

The Memorial stones were put there in grateful memory of the men of Wednesfield who laid down their lives during the first world war, 1914-1918, and the second world war 1939-1945.

The land where the Garden of Remembrance now stands was where the Old Crown public house once stood. The Old Crown had stood there since 1833 when John Marshall was a retail brewer. He kept it till at least 1850.

Enoch Peers kept it in 1922 and in 1927 the licence was transferred to the New Crown on Nordley Hill. The New Crown was sold in 2006 and was demolished in June 2008 to make way for Bentley Court care home.

Locks and Keys

Besides Trap Making Locks and Keys were another industry in Wednesfield from the late 1800s, although Willenhall will lay claim to being the main town producing them, Wednesfield played its part.

Willenhall was after all called "Lockland". It was also known as Humpshire, the latter name had its origins in that, in the bad old days many workers within the lock industry were hump backed, this was through working long hours bent over the workbench, with no breaks for meals, there was a time when master men could apply for boys, born and reared in the workhouse, to be bound to them as apprentices, indeed some of these

master men themselves had been workhouse born.

Many of these apprentices were terribly underfed, and overworked by their masters, the brave ones often made raids on the pantry, at night.

In Wednesfield, however, more were employed in making Keys than locks, the workers being known in the vernacular as “Kay Bodgeys”, and “Lock Bosters.”

Apart from a few places that employed a number of people, most key smiths worked on their own, in a small shop, in the backyard, assisted in some cases by members of the family, wives included.

Most of these small backyard shops did work for the large makers of keys and locks in the district, including Willenhall, and Wolverhampton.

They usually supplied the key blanks and paid when the work was returned completed. Money was often advanced on an order at the time it was issued, and it was not uncommon for such money to be spent by improvident men, in a few days, “on the beer”, so that by midweek the money was gone, and no work had been done.

Such mortgaged work was called “corf, to finish and deliver by the weekend, in order to get another order. A sub was often required on that one in order to keep things going.

To make amends candles and lamps would burn far into the night, so that work could be completed in time. A clever key smith was

offered a regular job at a very good wage, but refused it, yet this man could make keys by the hundred, all different, with a master key for the lot, rutting all the key words in the key bits, with small hand tools, and without reference to any drawings. He had no need for such things he said, because he had a box of wards in his head.

The leading employers in the Wednesfield key trade were Thomas Mason John Mattox and John Mattocks and there were others prominent in the industry. Some of the others were Davenport, Adey, Millichamp, Vickers, and Mason.

Locks were a natural sequence to keys, and cabinet cupboard, rim, mortice, padlocks, and latches, were made in iron and brass, by such people as, Hadleys of Graisle Lane, Sam Corbett of Hickman Street, Philip Stringer of New Street, and John Powell of Lichfield Road, and there were others. Practically all lock and key smiths wore a “flag”, a term applied to a bibbed white apron, which was almost the insignia of the trade concerned.

Many workers went to bed in them, all the same many a new clean “flag”, was pawned on a Monday to provide the means to get the owners feet in the sawdust and his hand on a pint jug.



The New Crown

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

What year did the official opening of the Garden of Remembrance take place?

Please send your answers to 24 South Avenue, Wednesfield WV11 1QL. Or email me at: fellows.raymond@yahoo.co.uk Entries must be received by Monday 23rd October.

The winner of the last competition was Julie Cooke.

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 18th October 11.30am in the lounge of the Vine Inn, all welcome.

Introducing 'Love Susan': A Heartfelt Exploration of Adoption Through the Eyes of the Adoptee



After the success of her last book, 'Traced', author and broadcaster Susan Vickers is set to send readers on an enlightening and emotionally resonant journey with her latest outing, 'Love Susan'. This powerful and insightful work delves into the world of adoption from a unique perspective, offering readers a deeper understanding of the adoptee's experience.

In 'Love Susan', Susan Vickers draws upon her own personal journey as an adoptee, weaving her poignant story into a tapestry of other individuals' experiences with adoption; inviting readers to step into the shoes of adoptees, providing an invaluable glimpse into their lives, thoughts, and feelings - a perspective rarely taken into account by mainstream media and prospective adopters.

"We often hear about adoption from the perspective of adoptive parents or birth parents, but the adoptee's voice is equally important," says Susan. "Through 'Love Susan', I aim to shed light on the complexities of adoption, offering personal insights that seek to touch the hearts of readers and broaden their understanding."

To celebrate the launch of 'Love Susan', a special event will take place at the Wolverhampton Library on October 14th, just ahead of National Adoption Week.

The event promises to be a gathering of minds and hearts, featuring esteemed speakers including the Mayor of Wolverhampton and Adoption @ Heart, also in attendance will be local councillors, including Chris Burden, the

cabinet member for children, young people, and education. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the author, delve deeper into the themes of the book, and connect with others who share an interest in adoption.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of a ground breaking exploration of adoption through the eyes of the adoptee. 'Love Susan' is set to inspire and touch the lives of readers far and wide. Join us on October 14th at the Wolverhampton Library and be a part of this transformative experience.

For more information about attendance and interview arrangements, please contact Julia Farrell: julia@susanvickers.com

Lady Susan Vickers

Broadcaster, Author

The Susan Vickers Foundation

Where Adoptees ARE Family

susanvickers.com



Kids' Page

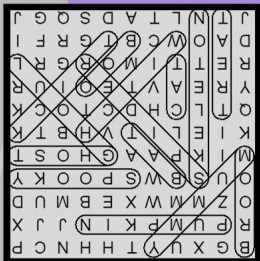
FIND 10 SPIDERS IN THE WITCH'S NOOK



Find all the creepy words in the letter grid

- Bat
- Boo
- Broom
- Cat
- Ghost
- Ghoul
- Mummy
- Pumpkin
- skeleton
- Spider
- spooky
- Treat
- Trick
- Witch

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



Creepy Word Grid Solution

What do ghosts wear when their eyesight gets blurry?
Spooktales!



Find the Spiders Solution

Thought of a night out each week to unwind and keep fit at a reasonable cost ~ why not try a yoga class

If you don't take time out, you can expect your health and relationships to suffer.

This yoga class is run for the community and participants can vouch for its benefits. It is held at Long Knowle Hub Woodend Road WV11 1YG each week on a Thursday and Friday 7 until 8 30pm. Cost? Even better news, it is non-profit making £4 a session, pay as you go. The money is put into a 'kitty' and is used for a night out socially (for those that want to go) after expenses have been paid out.

Yoga is not a sport or just a way of exercising to become more flexible...it comes as a whole package.

Yoga goes back into the mists of time...it is thought to be 5-6 thousand years old. The word yoga means to 'yoke' 'unite'....body, mind and spirit.

Yoga is the most effective form of exercise for health, fitness, and general well-being. Instead of isolating body parts and fitness components like conventional training methods, yoga uses the whole body and all its organ systems. Exercises are integrated with conscious direct breathing techniques, thereby integrating body mind and breath.

Muscles are stretched and strengthened through their full range of movement, increasing the body's ability to operate as one functional unit and improving flexibility.

The circulation is greatly improved.

Internal organs, muscles, nerves, bones and joints all benefit from the practice of yoga. Furthermore, yoga heals on all levels; physical, mental and emotional.

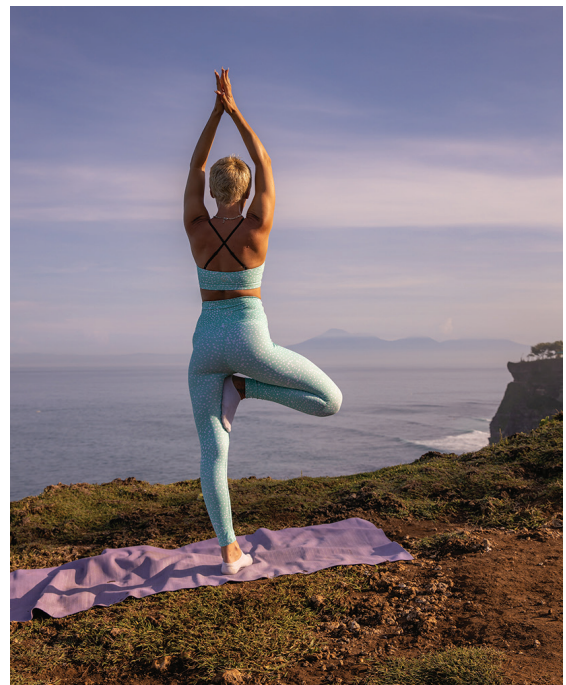
No expensive equipment or clothing is required to practice yoga. Yoga works by using the levers and counter-levers of the limbs, working the body in different body positions, and using the tension in one muscle group to stretch the opposing muscle group.

The changes in body position combined with deep conscious breathing dramatically stimulate the circulation, and helps nourish all body parts, and remove built up toxins.

Sessions end with a period of relaxation to calm the mind as well as the body...you will feel 'a new' you. The only way to know more about yoga is to try it for yourself, to have 'a go' You are invited to miss out anything that you feel is not for you. Chairs are around the hall too. Some sessions are seated yoga. Do check with your health professional if you have a health problem or are not sure yoga would be suitable.

The class is undertaken by Barbara Tarbuck who is a qualified Yoga Teacher (over 50 years experience) and Relaxation Therapist for NHS. All hand-outs, candles and CD are included in the price. Never tried yoga before? This is a unique opportunity to give it a try.

For more information Barbara can be contacted on **01902 724374** or text **07950 982281**
✉ **barbaratarbuck7@gmail.com**



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Nigerian Knighthood for W'ton Couple

Two Wolverhampton residents have been awarded a Knighthood in the Order of John Wesley by the Nigerian Methodist Church. Terry Braithwaite, a lay minister at St Alban's Church, Ashmore Park and his wife, Mavoureen were each awarded the Knighthood by the Prelate of the Methodist Church in a ceremony at Enugu Cathedral in Nigeria on 16th July 2023.

Terry and Mavoureen, who live in Penn, were given the honour for their charitable work in Nigeria. Their connection with the country came about when they established a friendship with Rev. Lambert Onoh who was studying at Wolverhampton University.

When Rev Lambert returned to his home to become Principal of St Christopher's School in Uzuakole they maintained contact and became increasingly aware of the needs in that area. They made an initial visit to Nigeria in 2017 to speak with people on the ground to establish what needed to be done. It was from there that a charitable foundation was established called the 'Lambert and Braithwaite Hope Foundation'.

The area had no fresh clean water and so the first priority was to provide the means to get a borehole drilled so that the school and the local community could access water.

Prior to the borehole being drilled the children of the school had to go searching for water and this



often put them in vulnerable situations. This borehole has been the catalyst for many things. We have now been able to establish a catfish farm which both provides food for the children but also enables fish to be sold at the local market. The proceeds from this have enabled a new generator to be purchased.

The waste water from the fish farm is used to irrigate the land to enable vegetables to be grown. Prior to the borehole none of this was possible.

Within the school there was a desperate need for computers. When Terry and Mavoureen first visited there was just one broken computer that was used to show the children what a computer looked like whilst they learned computing theory.

Through the Foundation ten computers have been supplied but there is a real need for more. The Foundation has been helped in all of these ventures by St Alban's Church, Ashmore Park and St Chads Church in Pattingham.

Terry and Mavoureen hope to use their Knighthood status to promote their charity.

The Foundation is a very small charity, but all monies raised go directly to the projects identified with no administration or salaries taken out.

If anyone would like to know more, they can contact Terry and Mavoureen at **teegebraithwaite@gmail.com** or telephone **07486 917863**.



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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

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Crime Stoppers (anonymous)	0800 555111
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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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Alfred Squire Health Centre.....	01902 575000
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

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National Domestic Violence	0808 2000 247
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RSPB.....	0845 1200501
Samaritans	116 123

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Dormition of Her Lady.....	01902 500216
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

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Coppice Performing Arts.....	01902 558500
Corpus Christi Primary	01902 866840
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
Wednesfield High School	01902 558222
Wodensfield Primary	01902 556350
Wolverhampton City College.....	01902 836000
Wolverhampton University	01902 321000
Wood End Primary.....	01902 558940

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Crossword Answers

From page 10

	J	A	C	O	B		J	A	U	N	T				
	A		O		Y		U		P		H				
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