



Probus Club Ellesmere



Covid-19 Lockdown 2020 Newsletter

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From the Editor

Dear all,

I hope you are all keeping well, as new tier rules and Christmas freedom are being introduced . Just to remind everyone that the winter issue of the Mere News is out and available it the usual shops in town. If anyone can't get out for one please let me know and I will pick one up and bring it round.

Also late night shopping in town is on 10th & 17th December. If you can please Support your Local shops.

Keep safe

Paul

View from the Crow's Nest

Dear Probus friends, I hope that you are keeping safe and well and have felt encouraged by the good news this week about the imminent first release of Covid-19 vaccine and the UK showing that we can still be top of the tree in some respects. It's going to be a strange `Christmas 2020 for us all with infections and sad deaths amongst friends and family as well as across the world. But there is hope on the horizon alongside the developing economic downturns. I feel so much for those prematurely losing loved ones and those losing their businesses, jobs and incomes.

Here in our Probus Club we have begun to arrange our Speaker Programme for the beginning of 2021 which will include RAF Shawbury, Bloodbikes, Samaritans and Shropshire Fire Service amongst others. We will let you have a list of the Jan/Feb/March speaker confirmations shortly. Members are always welcome to offer up their services as speakers to Paul or me. Thanks to everyone who has paid their subscriptions over to Michael, our Treasurer. Do remember to get in touch with Fred Williams, our Almoner if you have any news or concerns over any of our members who may be in need of particular contact resulting from either arising or ongoing health issues. So line up your glasses and mince pies for our Zoom 'virtual President's Drinks' on 17th December 2020 at midday - please encourage anyone who you may live with to be involved also on the day. Sadly I can't deliver the drinks and nibbles to your front door so instead this year I am sending everyone a Christmas card and best wishes on behalf of all of our members. Hoping to see you on 17th, feel free to wear something 'Chistmassy'.

With very best wishes,

[Jeremy](#) .



My early years of motoring: Part I—By Brian Rodgers

My motoring has taken place in many countries and it started when I learned to drive at an early age in Western Tanganyika (now Tanzania) in my father's ex WW2 Willys Jeep. What a marvellous car in which to learn, with its large, low-revving engine and bags of torque and an easy 3-speed box, plus a very logical transfer box. Also, its very soft suspension made riding over the prevailing rough roads very comfortable. Unfortunately, when Dad's Jeep started to use almost as much oil as fuel, and needed its spark plugs cleaned every 50 miles, it was replaced by a Series 1 Land Rover. I should not be too critical of the Rover but, after the Jeep, it was something of a disappointment. Its small engine, not very straightforward auxiliary transmission controls (one lever and a wire to pull through the floor) and its short, very stiff road springs that were not suited to local road conditions, all combined to make a much less effective vehicle. (Those stiff springs may have been a contributing factor to my mother's departure over the side of a Land Rover one night)

In those very free and easy days I also learned to drive Bedford QL ex-army 4x4 trucks and even Caterpillar dozers. I did try a Diamond T tank transporter, with its compound gear boxes, but it was to be many years before I learned to reverse a trailer. During the following years, until I was old enough to obtain my own transport and a driving licence, I drove my father's many, varied motor cars. Unfortunately, a little matter of schooling came along and I had to forget motoring for several years, until I returned to Africa, to the then Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia).

When I started to earn a living I decided that a good fast motor bike would be better than an old car, such as a Ford Anglia (1172 side valve), which was about as much as I could afford, and I bought a Triumph Tiger 100 bike. In its day, that was a superb 500cc twin. Although its road-holding left something to be desired, I never took a tumble from that bike. The engine had been designed to have both pistons going up and down together and the resultant vibromassage at speed was strong enough to make my spectacles vibrate considerably and blur my vision. Despite these short-comings, I really enjoyed that machine. While I owned that bike, I became friendly with the owner of the Triumph motor cycle dealership in our town. He was also chairman of the local combined car and motor cycle club, and he persuaded me to join. That was a good move, and I soon met a member who was interested to sell his MG TC, at a very reasonable price, or so I thought. I sold the Tiger 100 for 10% more than I had paid for it, and after borrowing several months' salary from a family member, I bought the TC.

The fact that it had been raced, used almost as much oil as petrol, and had some very rough welds on the chassis, did not worry me at all. It was super and, sitting in it and looking at the 6" chronometric rev counter, I felt that I was a new world champion in the making. However, I soon realised that it did need considerable work doing, if it was to go any farther. I don't know where I found the money to do so, but I started a major rebuild. The engine needed a complete overhaul and so I took the opportunity to have it bored out from 1250 to 1365cc, the safe limit to avoid going into the water jacket, and I had German graphite-impregnated pistons fitted. (They may have been Mahle) I managed to replace the pair of 1¼" SUs carbs with 1½" versions and I did quite a lot of tidying of the car, including replacing the pea-shooter exhaust pipe with a 1½" copper straight-through pipe. That might not have been completely legal but, to me, it sounded beautiful.

After two years work on the car, I had almost completed the rebuild when three other MG owners told me that they were forming a team to compete in local races, and that BP had agreed to sponsor the team. They would pay for the cars to be resprayed in their shade of green (close to BRG) and provide a gallon of engine oil for each car for every event. Sad to say, all my hard work to turn the car into concours condition came to a very abrupt end and I joined the team. I cut and shut the bodywork by welding the doors shut, removing the wings, and replacing the 12 gallon slab fuel tank with a 5 gallon tank. By the start of the season the team included 3 TCs, a TD and a TD Special. The last had had the MG power train removed and an Austin Atlantic (similar to a Healey 100/4) engine and gearbox shoe-horned in. To get the power down on to the road, he locked the differential. When that car was going, it was very fast but it was a brute to handle.

We all made various mods to make our normal MGs go faster, or to try to make them more reliable. A problem in that part of the world, with its much higher ambient temperatures, was oil pressure. The normal mod was to put a heavier spring under the pressure relief valve. Nick, the owner of the TD put in a spring that gave him 60psi hot! (Normally we had 25psi if we were lucky) Just before one sprint meeting, Nick also fitted an oil cooler made from refrigerator parts.

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He was something of a dandy and always turned up for meetings with glamorous girl friends. At the start of the latest sprint he was on the line and his latest girl, in a lovely white dress, was standing close to the front of his car. Nick, doing his best to impress her, revved the engine hard but disaster, a connection to the oil cooler parted company and a spray of hot brown engine oil went all over the lovely white dress. A very irate girl departed, never to be seen at the motor club again.

Racing in that part of the world was mainly on gravel tracks. At the beginning of each season they were graded, oiled and rolled, but as the season went by, they became rougher and rougher, until at the end of the season they were not unlike a rally special stage. I had a lot of fun racing but did not achieve any notable success. My poor TC displayed numerous defects that I had not known about, and which would not have shown up, had I not raced it. As for the brakes, they left a lot to be desired, even when they worked. During a race at the end of the season, when I was on the downhill approach to a hairpin, I found the pedal going down to the floor and the car not slowing much. I pulled hard on the fly-off handbrake and then changed down from 4th, to 3rd to 2nd but, when I glimpsed the rev-counter, it showed about 6,000 rpm, and then a not very amusing noise was heard from the engine. I did come to a stop but, when I did so, the engine was no longer in good running condition. I could not afford another major engine rebuild and that spelled the end of my racing and of the TC, and I sold the remains for peanuts. Oh to find a TC for even 100 times the amount nowadays.

I'm sure you'll be delighted to learn that our good friend, Effie Cadwallader has not only hit her target of raising £10,000 for a dedicated response vehicle, but she's actually exceeded it.

Effie's appeal for a rapid response car gets swift response

A fund-raising campaign to provide a Community First Responder with a dedicated car to attend life-threatening medical emergencies has exceeded its £10,000 target only two months after being launched.

Welsh Ambulance Service volunteer Effie Cadwallader is preparing to take delivery of the rapid response vehicle which will be used to answer calls along the Wrexham-Shropshire border.

Effie began her campaign in September with an online crowd-funding appeal. She has since received a massive boost when the Welsh Lottery fund decided to give her a grant for the whole £10,000.

As a result, the Wrexham Rural CFR group has been able to purchase a Skoda Fabia estate car, meet the first year of annual running costs including tax and insurance, and pay for the car to be emblazoned with high-viz markings to ensure it can be seen easily when responders are out on a 999 alert.

During 15 years of volunteering as an unpaid Community First Responder, Effie has answered more than three thousand calls from her home in St Martin's, responding to emergencies such as strokes, heart attacks and domestic accidents.

Though still based in St Martin's, she switched earlier this year from a neighbouring ambulance service to become part of the Welsh Ambulance Service's Wrexham Rural CFR team which covers the border area including Chirk and the Ceiriog Valley, and extending to Llangollen, Overton, Penley, and as far as Bettisfield and the outskirts of Ellesmere.

The move to the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust meant that she had to find a replacement vehicle, because although CFRs are given specialist training and supplied with medical essentials by the ambulance service, the volunteers still have to self-fund the cost of transport, uniforms, kit bags and equipment such as a defibrillator.

More than 100 donors contributed to Effie's crowd-funding appeal, raising well over two thousand pounds. Other donations were also received from Ellesmere Probus Club, The Keys, St Martins, Stan's Superstore, and Selattyn Community Group.

The car itself has been generously supplied by the Mitchells Group at Cheshire Oaks, and extra help has been given by Perrys of Gobowen and Ifton Garage.

"I'm enormously grateful to everyone who has made this possible," said Effie. "I hadn't expected to reach the target so quickly, let alone exceed it. The Lottery grant was an unexpected bonus and I'm deeply touched by the extremely generous response I've had from the community. Many people clearly realise the value of this service.

"The Covid lockdowns in Wales and England have meant a delay in putting the car on the road, but we in the Wrexham Rural team have been responding throughout the pandemic, using our own cars. Hopefully the new car will be ready soon and it will make such a difference.

"As the first dedicated CFR car in Wales, it will enable a faster and more efficient response to calls because it can be loaded, packed and ready to go with all essential equipment, without having to transfer things from car to car, and running the risk of leaving something vital behind.

"Once the Covid crisis is over, the car will also be used when we are delivering CPR and Defibrillator Awareness courses in communities on both sides of the border once again."

More information about Wrexham Rural CFRs can be found at <https://www.wrexhamruralcfr.co.uk/>

News release issued on behalf of Effie by John Shone

Miss World, her Mum and me --The untold story

Beauty competitions are a thing of the past. Times have changed and although they're still held in many countries, including the UK, they no longer attract much media attention. But I guess many of you will have memories of watching the Miss World contest which was held at the Royal Albert Hall in London every November and televised by the BBC.

Back in 1974, I found myself caught up in the competition, or rather its' unseemly aftermath, when the newly-crowned Miss World, Helen Morgan, suddenly resigned... only four days after she'd won the title in front of a world-wide television audience of 13 million viewers.

It happened like this...

It was 7 a.m. and at my home on the outskirts of Cardiff, I'd just woken up to the headline news on the radio that 22-year-old Helen, from the nearby town of Barry, had mysteriously vanished. She'd fled in tears from a promotional event in Scotland where national newspaper reporters questioned her over the revelation that she was an unmarried mother with an 18-month-old son. There were also rumours, which she denied, that she was involved in a pending divorce case.

Of course, this was a story that would hardly rate a mention in these more enlightened days. But it was a different era then and the papers were making the most of the 'scandal.'

The newsreader had hardly got the words out of his mouth when my bedside phone rang and a man with a rather menacing Glaswegian accent gave me a blunt instruction: "Find her!"

It was one of my bosses, Ron Neil, the duty editor in charge of the BBC's nightly Nationwide programme, which employed me as its' researcher in Wales to cover stories that would appeal to viewers across the whole UK.

Ron was a tough task-master who never took 'no' for an answer. So within an hour, I was knocking on the door at Helen's mother's home in nearby Barry to enquire if she could shed any light on the whereabouts of her daughter, who had just been voted the most beautiful girl in the world after previously becoming Miss Wales.

Elizabeth Morgan was upset and angry. She'd just received a phone call to say that Helen was being 'safely looked after' by the Daily Mirror after one of its reporters had intercepted her at Newcastle-upon-Tyne as she travelled south by train to hand in her resignation to Miss World organisers Eric and Julia Morley.

The tabloid had offered her a not-inconsiderable- sum to serialise her story over several days, but it meant Helen going into hiding to prevent anyone else speaking to her, including her Mum. The Mirror feared that its' exclusive buy-up would be spoilt if Mrs Morgan was tempted to sell her side of the story to one of its rivals, such as The Sun. Incensed at the thought of it, Mrs Morgan was more than happy to invite me in-- and she agreed immediately to appear live on Nationwide that evening to voice her displeasure and demand that she should be allowed to know where her daughter was being kept...and to speak to her.

I stayed with Elizabeth all day. While she brewed coffee and rustled up baked beans on toast for lunch, I was kept busy answering the constantly-ringing telephone and fobbing off other journalists hammering on the door, asking to speak to her. When there was no response, they pushed notes through the letter box offering money for an interview. With a growing media 'circus' besieging the house, I phoned for a taxi to ferry us to the BBC's Cardiff studios in plenty of time for her to make her televised appeal. As soon as we stepped through the door, we had to battle our way through a noisy mob of reporters, photographers and an ITV camera crew as they bombarded the poor woman with questions and tried to take pictures. I have to confess that some of those involved were reporters I knew as friends. In fact, in other circumstances, I could have been one of them.

After a bit of argy-bargy, we scrambled into the taxi and looked back to see some of the more insistent 'snappers' chasing the car down the street until we were out of sight.

On air, Elizabeth Morgan didn't mince her words when she spoke to Nationwide presenter Michael Barratt; she accused the Mirror of behaving disgracefully and insisted that she should be allowed to speak to Helen. But the newspaper was adamant that she wasn't being held against her will and used the broadcast as an opportunity to gain a free advert by announcing that the first instalment of Helen's story would be published exclusively next day.

Later that night, events took a very bizarre twist.

Lino Ferrari, my Nationwide colleague who covered part of the West Country, from Bristol, happened to be working on attachment for a fortnight at Nationwide's Lime Grove headquarters in London. It was all part of giving regional researchers like us some much-valued production experience.

opposite at the table in the shape of... the newly-abdicated and much-sought-after Miss World, Helen Morgan!

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Lino was staying with his parents at their home in Kent, and when he arrived in time for a family dinner, he was astounded to discover a stunningly attractive young lady sitting opposite at the table in the shape of... the newly-abdicated and much-sought-after Miss World, Helen Morgan!

Lino's father was Dan Ferrari, the legendary news editor of the Daily Mirror, and, while the rest of Fleet Street was trying frantically to find her, he'd decided that the best hide-out for Helen was in his own home.

Now this presented Lino with a real dilemma. Where did his loyalties lie? To his father, a powerful newspaper executive, or to the BBC and its flagship current affairs programme where he was forging a promising career?

In the end father and son agreed that Lino would tell his programme editor about his discovery of Helen's whereabouts, but she would stay in hiding until the Mirror had completed its tell-all exclusive a couple of days later. In the meantime, arrangements were made for Helen to speak to her Mum by phone on condition that she didn't reveal her whereabouts.

A plan was drawn up for Helen to return to London towards the end of the week. Once she had been to the Miss World organisation's West End headquarters to formally resign, she would be met by a member of the Nationwide production team. Then she would be rushed to the programme's Shepherd's Bush studio for an on-air reunion with her mother, who would be 'live' in the Cardiff studio, with me still acting as her 'minder.'

Except it didn't work out like that.

Because of a mix-up, the assistant producer who had been sent to rendezvous with Helen simply failed to recognise her. And so, one of the most famous faces in the UK, if not the world -- a young woman who had been sensationally featured on front pages and TV over several days -- quietly slipped out of the building unrecognised. She quickly disappeared into the rush hour crowds and eventually made her way back to Wales. Her contract with the Mirror prevented her from doing any more interviews.

So although I'd spent hours looking after Miss World's Mum, I never had the chance to meet her darling daughter. You win some, you lose some!

Helen Morgan, went on to have two more children and after a successful career in modelling, films and TV, she settled in Spain with her husband Ronnie. Now a 68-year-old grandmother, she was invited to be a VIP guest at the 2011 Miss World competition. But the oldest beauty pageant in the world will not be held this year, due to the Coronavirus pandemic.



Helen Morgan 2011

Philosophers

Jean Kerr...

The only reason they say 'Women and children first' is to test the strength of the lifeboats.

Prince Philip...

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.

Harrison Ford...

Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself.

Spike Milligan...

The best cure for Sea Sickness, is to sit under a tree.

Jean Rostand...

Kill one man and you're a murderer, kill a million and you're a conqueror

Arnold Schwarzenegger...

Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million.

WH Auden...

We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea.

Jonathan Katz...

In hotel rooms, I worry. I can't be the only guy who sits on the furniture naked.

Johnny Carson...

If life were fair, Elvis would still be alive today and all the impersonators would be dead.

Steve Martin..

Hollywood must be the only place on earth where you can be fired by a man wearing a Hawaiian shirt and a baseball cap.

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Jimmy Durante...

Home cooking. Where many a man thinks his wife is.

George Roberts.

The first piece of luggage on the carousel never belongs to anyone.

Jonathan Winters...

If God had intended us to fly he would have made it easier to get to the airport.

Robert Benchley...

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.

John Glenn...

As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder.

David Letterman...

America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked.

Howard Hughes...

I'm not a paranoid, deranged millionaire. Dammit, I'm a billionaire.

Old Italian proverb..

After the game, the King and the pawn go into the same box.



Ellesmere

Late Night Shopping

Thursdays 10th & 17th Dec.

The following businesses, along with others not listed, will be participating in one or both evenings.

Contact the businesses directly for their individual opening details.

We hope that the hospitality businesses will be joining us by the 17th - Have a wander around to see the window displays & you may find more places open!

*Ismays Ladies Clothing / Sweetmere Sweet shop /
Moolah / White Lion Antiques / Courtyard Interiors /
Sanchi Jewellers / Pets Pantry / Cherry Tree Cafe /
League of Friends shop / Js Hair / Pure Beauty /
More than a Sundae / Coco Coffee Bar / Meze /*

Apologies for any errors in addition or omission of businesses.

Memory No 21

ELLESMERE MAGISTRATES

Remembered by Ruth Lea

There were many changes over the last fifty years in the magisterial system, none more so than at Ellesmere. At one time, magistrates were selected with great secrecy from a narrow band of the community, mainly land owners and professional people.

Ellesmere had four or five magistrates who sat on the first Monday of the month dealing with perhaps ten cases, also administering the licensing laws for public houses, hotels and social gatherings. Law breakers were prosecuted by the police and dealt with in the Court Room. The time taken from the offence to Court appearance was relatively quick.

The Old Town Hall, in the square, held the Court Room on the upper floor, but when the latter was found to be unsafe the Court moved to St. Mary's Hall. This was not a good venue as when it rained on the tin roof court proceedings had to come to a halt. It was also very noisy due to the close proximity of the traffic. Eventually, the Court was moved to the New Town Hall where two court rooms were in use. This was not always satisfactory, as there was only a sliding screen divider between the two rooms. The retiring room was in the kitchen but was useful for making a quick cup of coffee. It was during this time that the Prosecution Service was founded with solicitors and barristers taking on all the Police Court work. A system that sometimes caused long delays in cases coming to court.

In 1993, Ellesmere Court was closed much to the disappointment of the Ellesmere people. This meant that Ellesmere magistrates had to work in Oswestry, with a much greater work load, and were expected to do over twenty four sittings a year.

The selection of magistrates changed, and people interested in becoming one were able to apply for themselves, going before a panel of magistrates. When selected all magistrates went through an approximately ten week training period, as well as training sessions throughout the year.

Magistrates are not paid for their work, but are given travelling expenses. During my twenty six years on the bench I watched as the Court lists grew longer and crime increased. It was a worth-while job and I learned a great deal about human nature, and during my many experiences I felt that magistrates needed the following attributes: - common sense, patience and the wisdom of Solomon.

Memory No 22

Ellesmere Cottage Hospital

Remembered by the late Olga Cureton

Ellesmere Cottage Hospital was built in 1906. The money used to start the building was left to Louisa Jebb, the Benefactor, by her sister Emily and her brother-in-law who was a Master at Marlborough College. The Hospital was designed to look like "Hallam", the house of Emily and her husband. The name still survives as we have Hallam Cottage in Sparbridge.

The Hospital was to be served with ten beds, but only 1\10 wards of two beds were opened at first, and one Private bed. At this time the estimated cost of a bed for a year was £50. The Council refused to help as it would be a burden on the Rates, but gifts of money, food and equipment came from the people, and the Hospital survived.

August 1907 - Louisa Jebb conveyed the premises to a Trust - it would cover a five mile radius providing proper medical attendance, nursing, food, medicine and accommodation - the minimum charge being 6 pence per day. The first patient was Mr. Jenks from Knolton suffering from severe concussion after being kicked by a horse. The Outpatients day book shows a very busy Department - some panel patients, funded also by landowners, Gas Board, McAlpine, and many private patients. During the first World War the facilities were used for convalescing soldiers, and also to treat soldiers and A.T.S. from Oteley Camp during the second World War.

Operations were carried out by local doctors - Dr. Casper, Dr. Melville, Dr. Burton. Staff were Red Cross and VAD.

August 1948 - the property was taken over by the National Health Service, a free service run by doctors from local practices - Overton, Hamner and Ellesmere. It was closed as an acute Hospital, with only minor operations in a very busy Casualty Department and had 24-hour cover. The Hospital fulfilled a need for respite-terminal, post-operative and acute care for local people, but on occasions took patients from Telford., Shrewsbury and other parts of the county.

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The League of Friends of E.C.H. was formed in November 1971 after the disbanding of the Welfare Committee. It was formed from a nucleus of people representing Round Table, Mothers Union, Carnival Committee and other organisations. Its aim was to provide comforts and improvements to benefit patients and staff, but over the years greater demands were made to improve the building as well as updating the furnishings. Two day rooms were built on and furnished with enormous support from the local community.

In 1987 the closure of ten Cottage Hospitals in Shropshire was high on the agenda as part of a rationalisation of services consequent on the opening of a New District General Hospital in Telford in 1989. From then on the County League of Friends held a succession of meetings with Shropshire Health Authority, a deputation to London to see the Secretary of State, and numerous visits to Birmingham Regional Headquarters to meet with Sir James Ackers. Despite the unprecedented outcry Secretary of State approved the closure of six. Ellesmere had a reprieve, but future lay in the balance although we had been told many times because of geographical location there was a need for that kind of service in the area. continued expressing our concern and in 1989 began working towards a Governing Hospital. After a great deal of work preparing a business plan, meetings with Regional representatives we were told that because of the financial difficulties in which Shropshire D.H.A. found itself this would not be possible (Ellesmere was called a maverick hospital by Robin Cook, Shadow Health Minister, in the House of Commons. After all the coverage we had by the media Ellesmere was on the map).

We battled on until 1990 when in April a new Consultation Document was produced. The concept then was to form a Nursing Home Trust run by a local management team, but the D.H.A. would fund Nursing Staff and the Casualty Department would be retained. We again produced a new business plan and at I felt we were winning - we were told our plans were workable by the D.H.A. only to have our hopes dashed five days later when we were told there was overspend of £1 1/4 million. The closure of the Cottage Hospital was brought forward to December 1990. We were offered the property at District Value price of £250,000 which had to be found by June 1991, otherwise the property would go on the Open Market. Even though it was given to the Town, after pursuing it through a solicitor and the help of Lionel Jebb, the money had to be found.

During that time Social Services were looking to closing their residential home the town. The League of Friends were asked if we would consider funding the sum of £150,000 to provide Day Care in part of Ellesmere House with the County Council using the rest of the property for other use. After due consideration we decided the town would benefit far more if we raised the money to buy back the property. We had already spent a vast amount of money at E.C.H. and had closed around our ears, and we felt the same could happen to this venture.

The League was instrumental in calling Public Meetings and with such enormous support from the whole community, we were encouraged to carry on and raise more money. Social Services would not be providing Day Care without a base a would only have an office in the tOW11. A Trust was formed and work continued towards providing a base for Social Services Day Care as well as providing nursing beds for Respite-Terminal and Long Stay patients. Improvements had to be made to meet all the requirements by Registration, a new kitchen for Social Services and raise funds to bring the first floor up to Nursing requirements, this meant further fund raising and as is customary in Ellesmere, people responded.

Day Care opened in 1991. The Nursing Home with seven beds opened in October 1994. To further enhance the facilities for the Nursing Home a Dining Room and Kitchen were added on the first floor. In total we have raised and spent in the region of £750,000, and great credit for this must be to the way everyone has responded in supporting us. We are very fortunate in having an excellent Matron and Staff. and the Trust is mindful of the fact that we are only the Stewards of this enterprise. We are a charity and non-profit making - in fact the Charity Shop and League of Friends fund-raising is vitally important to the future, unless of course we succeed with the Lottery, after two attempts it may be third time lucky!



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RECOLLECTIONS

A Letter from BERNARD BIGGS

Your Number I and II copies of Twentieth Century Ellesmere brought back many memories of my childhood in Ellesmere prior to the war. I have a brother, Roy, who still lives in Beech Drive and it is him who I must thank for sending me your excellent copies.

I used to live in Victoria Street, I think quite close to Norman Dawson who, if my memory serves me well, was also a talented violinist. Talking of football, other names come to mind Frank Humphries, a goal keeper who I recall having his false teeth smashed as a result of a heavy tackle; Frank Morris, Wharf road; "Tinker" Davies, also Wharf Road, and Ron Carsley, a goal keeper who had a trial 'with Stoke city. I went 'with Ron and we met Stanley Matthews, and the two Skeel brothers, and Frankie Soo, who I believe was the only man with a Chinese surname who played for England, at right half, and later played for Manchester United. The other notability I recall was a man called George Nunnerly who lived in a red-brick house on the corner of Watergate Street and St. John's Hill, and he apparently refereed an England International in the 1930's.

Talking of characters, there was a man known as Arthur who was always dressed smartly, and, as befitted his time in the Army, was always spotlessly clean, trousers pressed etc. But his weakness was beer and he would get well lubricated, proceed to the Square, and blow his bugle for all and sundry to hear. There were also two gentlemen from Tetchill; by name, Frank Skitt and Phil Walsh, who were rabbit trappers by day, and beer drinkers at night, Phil Walsh in his better days was a well-known professional sprinter and regularly ran in the famous Powderhall Sprints in Edinburgh. About this time, if mothers had naughty children, they would tell them to behave, "or the black man will have you". Well, Ellesmere had a coloured man, who lived in Birch Road, called George Goodwin and he without doubt, was one of the best liked men in Ellesmere; and there were many people in Ellesmere who would have gained in popularity by following his code of conduct to his fellow beings. His niece, Shirley Strong, represented England in the Olympics some years ago, I think as a sprinter.

The chip shop has been mentioned, but there was one additional character also from Lancashire called Cliff Clegg, commonly known as 'Cleggy', and his doubtful claim to fame was that his clothing always smelt strongly of fish and chips, but he himself was a great lad and very popular. You could then go in the chip shop having fish, chips and peas, with bread and butter for 6d(2Yzp). I, too, recall 'Weg' and another teacher called Stanley Hooson, who lived in Willow Street and was something of a hero to motor-cycle fans because he owned a big machine, the make of which I do not remember. The school playground was muddy after rain and a ploy, in order to dodge classes, was to push someone over make their trousers muddy and then to say you had to scrape all the mud off with penknife, which, in effect, meant you missed one lesson.

Talking of the railway, I had an uncle who was a signalman at Ellesmere, before the closure, along with a Mr. Howell of Victoria Street. He used to come to me, Somerset, on holiday, and was intrigued and gob-smacked when I, whose working life was spent as an engineer in B.R, took him into the signal box of the bigger junction in the S.W., which had 131 levers, as against about 15-20 at Ellesmere. Incidentally, when visiting Wrexham General to check on the progress of a major relaying programme, I was surprised to meet Bob Martin, who lived in Cross Street near the Railway public house.

I, too, recall the cinema at Trimpley Hall in the days of Tom Mix and Hoot Gibs silent films. The entrance was curtained and in darkness, so we used to go to around Mrs. Butler, and while one was paying I and, the others would push past the curtains without paying. Because it was totally dark inside, it was near impossible to pick out those who had not paid. I sincerely hope that you are able to decipher this scribble. I am 82 years old, find difficulty in writing, but, in spite of that, I was so intrigued and thrilled to able to relive some of my childhood. So, more power to your elbow, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely and gratefully, Bemard Biggs.



Site of old Trimpley Hall Cinema

Details of Businesses open in Ellesmere during this lockdown

Ellesmere's Shops offering "Appointment Only" and "Click and Collect"		
Lockdown 2.0	Update 08.11.20	
APPOINTMENT ONLY	Please ring businesses to make an appointment.	
ADT Carpets	01691 624422	Facebook
Bowen Son and Watson, Estate Agents	01691 622534	Facebook
Ortho-bionomy UK	07377 315865	Facebook
S R Drinnan, Opticians	01691 623300	Facebook
Shampoochies Dog Spa	01691 238288	Facebook
Susan Haskey Chiroprapist	07974 091984.	Facebook
CLICK AND COLLECT	More details on:	
Barlows Electricals	01691 624427	www.barlows-electrical.co.uk
Ceris Hair Salon (GHD electricals)	01691 622114	Facebook
Courtyard Interiors	01691 622550	Facebook
Ismays, Ladies Clothing	01691 623931	Facebook: Ismays Ellesmere ismaysclothing@hotmail.com
Lily the Pink, Florist	01691 623628	Facebook
Sweetmere Sweet Shop	07896 881242	Facebook/Instagram
Vito Sanchi, Jewellers	01691 622282	Facebook
White Lion Antiques	01691 623835	

Ellesmere's Takeaways - Food and Drink				
Lockdown 2.0		Update 15.11.20	DELIVERIES	
Asian Spices	Sun - Thurs 5.00pm - 11.30pm Fri 5.30 - midnight Sat 5.00pm - midnight	01691 623689		
Black Lion	Mon - Sun 5.30pm - 6.30pm	07932 625777 01691 622937	Ale/Lager only.	Pre-orders only on by prior arrangement.
Ellesmere Comrades, Sports & Social Club	Sunday Lunches 12 noon - 2.30pm	01691 622419		Collection or delivery.
Coral Chinese	Sun & Mon 5.00pm - 9.00pm Thurs 4.00pm - 9.00pm Fri & Sat 4.00pm - 10.00pm Sunday 5.00pm - 9.00pm	01691 622853		
Ellesmere Kebab & Pizza	Mon - Sun 3.00pm - 11.00pm	01691 624638		Delivery service available
Meze, Greek Restaurant	Wed Street Food only 12.30pm - 15.30pm Thurs - Sun 5.30pm - 8.30pm	01691 622660	Facebook	Delivery service coming soon
More than a Sundae	Fri & Sat 2.00pm - 5.00pm	07711 986694	Facebook	
New Wan Lay, Chinese	Tues - Sun 5.00pm - 9.00pm	01691 623479		
Pete's Cafe	Mon - Sat 8.00am - 2.00pm	01691 623414	Facebook	Free delivery in Ellesmere for orders over £10.00; other areas considered for charge
Pete's Meals on Wheels	Service as usual.	01691 623414		Monday - Wednesday - Friday
Shropshire Fish Bar		01691 624287		
Thai Gate	Wed - Sun 12 noon - 3.00pm Tues - Sat 5.30pm - 10.00pm Sunday 5.30pm - 9.00pm	01691 239478	www.ThaiGate.co.uk	

Ellesmere's Shops - Business as usual (hours may vary).			
SHOPS	HOURS	CONTACT	NOTES
A Mere Cycle	Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri 9.30am - 3.00pm Saturday 9.30am - 4.00pm	01691 622222 07988 842038	
Co-op	Mon - Sun 6.00am - 10.00pm	01691 622560	No deliveries
Ellesmere Newsagents	Mon - Sat 5.00am - 5.30pm Sunday 6.00am - 11.00am	01691 622498	Deliveries - ring for details
Ellesmere Pharmacy	Mon - Fri 9.00am - 6.00pm Sat 9.00am - 5.00pm. Sunday closed.	01691 623359	
Hawkins Butchers	Mon - Sat 8.30am - 3.30pm	01691 622329	Deliveries - ring for details
Mere Motors	Mon - Sat 6.30am - 8.00pm Sunday 7.30am - 8.00pm	01691 622343	
Moolah, local food and delicatessen	Mon - Sun 9.30am - 6.00pm	01691 623532	Will bring out to your car.
Pets Pantry	Mon - Sat 9.00am - 3.00pm	01691 624492	Deliveries
Premier	Mon - Sun 7.00am - 10.00pm		
Rightway Bevans	Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.30pm Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm		
Rodney Stokes Sausages & Pork Pies	Ellesmere Market Every Tuesday 8.00am - 12 noon	01691 622404	Deliveries - ring for details
Tesco	Mon - Sat 7.00am - 11.00pm Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm	0345 671 9355	Online deliveries
Vermeulens, delicatessen and bakery	Mon - Fri 8.00am - 5.30pm Sat 7.00am - 5.00pm.	01691 622521	Deliveries - ring for details
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			
Concept Town Planning	Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm	01691 622500 07890 428918	
Greenspace Architects	Mon - Fri 9.00am - 6.00pm	01691 623889	
Halls, Estate Agents	Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.15pm Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm	01691 622602	ellesmere@hallsqb.com
Morris Cook Accountants	Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm	01691 622098	megan@morriscocook.co.uk

Local information

Did you know...

If you have an admin request?

There is no need to book an appointment:
Go to our practice website
Click on the eConsult banner
Click 'I want administrative help'

Sick notes
GP letters
Fit notes

NHS econsult



Take 1 minute each day and help fight the outbreak.

Get the Covid 19 Symptom Tracker App from the App store or Google

Urgent Care Centres

Urgent Care Centres (UCCs) at Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) in Telford and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH) will temporarily relocate to the Minor Injury Units (MIUs) in Whitchurch and Bridgnorth to form two Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs).

PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Key contact details: Ellesmere Covid-19 Community Support Group:
01691 596290 / 622689

www.ellesmerecovidsupportgroups.org.uk

Shropshire Council Helpline: 0345 678 9028

For people living in the Welshampton or Lyneal area - please contact the Parish Council on 01948 710672 or go on their website <https://www.welshamptonandlyneal-pc.gov.uk/> where you will find information about their local Community Support group



Pastoral Support from the Churches in Ellesmere

Rev'd Pat Hawkins St Mary's Church

Tel [01691622571](tel:01691622571) email revpat.hawkins@gmail.com.

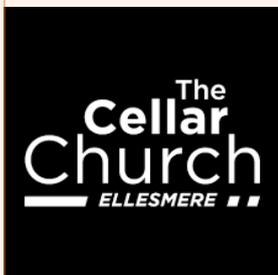
St Mary's Ellesmere:

Weekly services from 25th July:

Saturday 17:30 Said Holy Communion in the Nave
Sunday 08:00 Said Holy Communion in St Anne's
Sunday 10:15 Said Holy Communion in the Nave
Sunday 16:00 Said BCP Evening Prayer in Quire
Numbers are restricted.



Pastor Phil Wright 'The Cellar Church'.



[07711 986694](tel:07711986694) email: pastor.phil@me.com

The Cellar Church online every Sunday 10am and Wednesday 6pm

Follow the link Directly on our Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmxif6AT5w7IJH4Yxkbi6tQ>

On the cellar church website: <https://www.cellarchurch.co.uk/audio-video/>

Rev Julia Skitt Ellesmere Methodist Church

[01691 657349](tel:01691657349) email: rev.julia@mail.com

Ellesmere Methodist Church Services can be streamed from:

Wesley's Chapel in London - on Wednesdays 12.45, Thursdays 12.45 and
Sundays 9.45 and 11.00am

<https://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/livestreaming/>

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster - Sundays at 11.00am

[https://www.youtube.com/user/MCHWevents?](https://www.youtube.com/user/MCHWevents?utm_source=Methodist+Church+House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11417259_Update)

[utm_source=Methodist+Church+House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11417259_Update](https://www.youtube.com/user/MCHWevents?utm_source=Methodist+Church+House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11417259_Update)



Ellesmere Catholic Convent Chapel

The Chapel is open, the building on the left as you drive in. 8:30am - 6pm.

If you have anything that you'd like to ask the sister to pray for you: Phone [01691 622 283](tel:01691622283)

