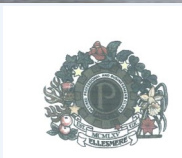




Probus Club Ellesmere



Covid-19 Lockdown 2020 Newsletter

Issue 31

Jan. 28, 2021

In issue :31

- From The Editor. *Paul*
- Speakers corner.
- From the Crow's Nest. *Jeremy*
- New member's Pen-Portrait of Celia Wilde
- My Motoring Years part 4. *Brian Rodgers*
- UK Citizens test *Annon*
- Governmentium *By Mike Grundy*
- Shropshire connections. *By Jeremy*
- Interesting facts. *By Jeremy*
- A few jokes. *By Mike Grundy*
- Extracts from the Memories Series of Booklets Book 5. *Published by the Ellesmere Society. Submitted by Paul*
- Global Shipping under Covid. *Annon*
- A few useless facts about February. *By Annon*
- Businesses Information during Lockdown. *Thanks to Nicky Stokes*

From the Editor

Dear all, I hope you are all keeping well, and have had your Jab by now. Just to note Shropshire Council are offering free transport to take people to a vaccination centre in North Shropshire. To book phone Shropshire councils Covid help line on **0345 678 9028**.

I think the Thursday meetings with a speaker are a great improvement, while it is good to see everyone on the screen to interact is at times a bit difficult with timings one needs to be quick to jump in and I know can put some members off. If you know any member who has not yet joined us please encourage them and tell them how easy it is.

Best wishes
Paul

Speaker's Corner

At our next Probus Zoom meeting on Thursday 4th February at 10.30am will have a speaker from 'Blood Bikes'.

Blood Bikes is a national volunteer association providing the delivery of emergency blood to hospitals helping to save lives and money for the NHS.

If you have not yet been able to join us at a Zoom meeting (a relatively simple type of on-line video conferencing) and need any help or advice do let us know and we will talk you through the process.

View from the Crow's Nest

Dear Probus friends, as ever I hope that you and yours' are keeping as safe and well as you can in these circumstances. I know that some are frustrated by delays in planned medical procedures and you are in our thoughts. It is good to see that the vaccination programme is developing a head of steam and let's hope that leads to some freeing up of the lockdown position safely before long.



The 'dump' of snow this week brought some joy to the local children with snowmen (or am I supposed to say 'snow-people'(?)) springing up all over the place. Sledges dusted off, it almost felt normal again briefly.

Sadly some of us said farewell to our fondly remembered friend Roy Allen at his funeral at Welshampton church this Tuesday with some of his family, friends and neighbours.

All change on the global stage in the last fortnight with signs of some sanity coming back 'across the pond' thankfully for us all. It is difficult to avoid wondering what will happen next but Carole and I are trying to make sure each day has some positive events to keep the spirits up.

I find it helpful to write myself a list of things to do on the following day then tick them off.

Is that the vaccination centre?

Even a sense of achievement over small things can be good. My brother and I have now put together our individual memoirs of motorcycling (triggered by Brian Rogers' superb articles on his motoring stories) which has caused us much merriment. He sent me a cutting from the latest 'Autocar' recommending that everyone make a list of all their vehicles over the years and challenging them to remember the registration numbers. My hyper-efficient brother of course has photographs of all his so it was a doddle for him. I will ask him if we can publish it in our next Probus Newsletter..

It is a joy to see the snowdrops bursting through and some daffodils in bud in the garden. Spring is on the move, the birds will be building their nests before long.

My very best wishes to you and yours, thanks to everyone for helping out each other in small and significant ways as ever. Stay safe, well and warm and let us know if you need help that you can't resolve easily.

Special thoughts to those of you dealing with health issues at this tricky time.

Jeremy

Ellesmere Probus New Members pen-pictures 07/01/21

At our Zoom meeting on 07/01/21 we were given very interesting and informative talks by our two newest members, David Lomas and Celia Wilde. Below is a summary of their presentations. We are very grateful to them for their time and effort.

Celia Wilde

Celia talked us through the various occupations during her active working life. Her first job was as a ledger clerk at a company which sold goods on rental, similar to the 'Bright House' of today. This was not what she wanted so moved jobs to be a hotel receptionist, carrying out the full range of hotel employee business jobs. The pay was poor and the hours terrible, working 48 hours per week until 11.00pm. Not ideal for a twenty year old young lady.

Thus Celia applied to an engineering company in Chesterfield where she lived and was appointed as a cost-clerk. The company manufactured heavy-duty castings for use in the colliery industry which then thrived in the area. It also manufactured huge parts for us in hydro-electric turbines, some of which were supplied for use in building the Aswan and Kariba dams as well as the Snowy Mountains project.

Celia moved on from this firm to work for the local advertising newspaper of which there were eight versions. In those days there was no digital facility and the papers employed photographers, print makers and proof readers for instance.

Then on to work for Avon cosmetics as a manager, running sales meetings for instance. Celia told us how she had always had a 'mission' to try to help women to earn a living and to develop their incomes. The company though wanted to focus entirely on profits rather than helping staff on their carer paths.

Unfortunately Celia's husband then became unwell so she had to take a break from work.

Her next job was working for Bassett's sweet factory in Chesterfield in the Customer Relations department. This was at the time that there were IRA activities on mainland UK and it was not uncommon for the police to be called in to blow up suspect packages. Celia unearthed a large fraud where sweets were being systematically stolen.

She then moved on to work for Trebor in Chesterfield running the archiving and recovery department, moving on to the buying dept then interviewing and training.

In 1986 she and her husband moved to Shropshire when he took early retirement to enjoy his hobby as an accomplished water-colour painter. Celia took employment in the Technical Literature dept of F. Jones in Oswestry. She negotiated a personal development system with F Jones whereby staff could take up relevant training programmes and if they passed the exams would have their fees re-imbursed by Jones'. Of her team that she enabled to take advantage of this scheme, one became a teacher, one joined Inland Revenue, one joined the Health Service and one other joined their husband's company.

In 1995, Celia retired and, having always been a 'political animal' continued to further the cause of women. She became an active member of Ellesmere Rural Parish Council and now sits on the 'Criffins Parish Hall Committee.

Her father was a professional cricketer playing at county and national level, her mother from a farming background. Celia's husband was a design engineer and specialised in the innovative design of gas cylinders, including the now-commonly used oxygen/nitrogen etc cylinders and those used for ejector-seats in military aircraft for instance.

Jeremy thanked Celia for sharing her fascinating and interesting life story with us today and following a number of questions 'from the floor' proposed a round of applause in our gratitude.

My not so early years of motoring: Part 5 *by Brian Rodgers*

In the 1950s and early 60s East Africa was best known internationally for its big game safaris, but “The Safari” was becoming a major name in the motor car rallying world. It was the ultimate event in the East African national rallying programme and although the majority of entrants were still local, considerable interest from Europe was being shown and international entries were being made by Ford, Mercedes, Rover and Saab. A good number of entrants, in theory, were still amateur but few could be considered as true amateurs because most of the competing cars were entered or sponsored by importers or dealers. The national rally programme was quite extensive and although our club did not organise any national events, we were able to take part in events put on by other clubs. It was in one of those that I learned not to take part in motor sport with completely unknown partners. In our club there was a youngster who wanted to take part in an event that started in Mombasa, 120 miles away. I was persuaded to navigate for him and we duly entered the event in his Beetle. On our way to the start I realised that he had very little experience of driving fast on gravel roads and I had to tell him to ease off on several occasions. About 30 miles before the start, we were going downhill on a left hand curve when a police Bedford 3 tonner came uphill close to the crown of the road. My would be rally driver saw the truck, panicked and braked very hard, locking the front wheels and losing all steering control. We went straight into the double back wheels of the truck, hitting it so hard that we broke one of its rear road springs, moved the rear axle back and dislocated the prop shaft. Luckily I was not hurt but the driver had the steering wheel come back into his face and upper chest, and he was quite badly injured. I administered first aid as best I could and waited until another police vehicle arrived about an hour later. We were taken down to a hospital in town, where the youngster was admitted and treated for his injuries. We never saw him again in the club and I never again navigated for anyone whom I didn't know.

After that incident my rallying involvement became solely marshalling, on the Safari and other major national events. Our club had to arrange the marshalling of the four Safari controls in our province, and that was a major undertaking. The Safari then was very different from the later rallies and was one of the great endurance events in the world. It travelled through all three EA territories for about 3500 miles in four days, and frequently in extremely heavy rain. It was meant to be an event for standard cars, such as could be bought from a local showroom. However, several of the works cars were prime examples of what could be done to a supposedly standard showroom car. With thinner body panels, hand assembled engines, revised gear ratios, lower ratio diffs and larger wheels, these cars would really go and no standard showroom cars could get anywhere near them.

Normally, after closing a control, we would drive to the next control in a 4x4 to assist any broken down or badly bogged competitors. On occasion we would find several cars blocking the route because of being bogged, and normally we would witness many demonstrations of good sportsmanship when all crews would work together to push each others cars through the mud. However, there was one well known local driver who did not have the same views about camaraderie, and who departed immediately after being pushed out by others. Word soon passed around and after that incident he received very little assistance from other competitors.

We were always interested to see how some of the international professionals contended with local conditions. A major difficulty with front wheel drive cars such as Auto Unions and Saabs was that since the back wheels only carried the weight of the vehicle and did no other work, the thick, cloggy African mud that was thrown up into the rear wheel arches eventually packed in around the wheels and locked them. Clearing the mud out could be a major problem but Eric Carlson showed the way with his Saab. He and his co-driver would push their car over on to its side and then with suitable tools remove the mud. (With its 2 stroke engine there was no engine oil to leak out) Then, in a very short time they would be on their way again.

All good things have to come to an end, and whilst I had really enjoyed my time in that part of the world, major political changes were taking place, and many people were leaving. Very sadly, when my contract finished, career prospects took me to other parts of the world.

A sample of questions from the UK citizen test. *Annon*

So you think you are British – take the test

1	How tall is the London Eye? 282ft; 373ft; 443ft; 552ft;	9	Great Britain refers only to England, Wales and Scotland. True or False?	17	Haggis is a traditional food of which country? England; Scotland; Wales; Northern Ireland;
2	When did Ake Dean Mahomet open the first Curry house in the UK? 1780; 1810; 1880; 1940;	10	Who was the tribal leader who fought against the Romans? Cleopatra; Claudia; Boudicca; St Augustin;	18	What does the York Minster have? Stained wood; Stained limestone; Stained glass; Stained bricks;
3	What was the last battle between Great Britain & France? The battle of Trafalgar; The battle of Waterloo; The battle of Hastings; The battle of Agincourt;	11	Who was voted the greatest Briton of all time in 2002? Isaac Newton; Winston Churchill,, Alexander Fleming; Mo Farah;	19	Which was the last successful invasion of Britain? Anglo Saxon; Norman; Roman; Viking;
4	Which flower is associated with Wales? Daffodil; Rose; Shamrock; Thistle;	12	When did Women get the right to vote at the same age as men? 1918; 1928; 1938; 1948;	20	Which of these is a British Overseas territory? Ireland; Hawaii: The Falkland Islands; Cyprus;
5	During the reign of Charles II parts of London were destroyed, what was the cause of this destruction? A war; a flood; a fire; an earthquake;	13	What county does Stonehenge stand in? Lancashire; Berkshire; West Yorkshire; Wiltshire;	21	Who is Sir Chris Hoy? A Scottish rower; A Scottish tennis player; A Scottish cyclist; A Scottish runner;
6	How often are general elections held in the UK? Every three; four; five or 10 years;	14	When were the Last Welsh rebellions defeated? 14th century; 15th century; 16th century; 17th century;	22	What do many theatres in the UK Produce at Christmas time? A pantomime A stand-up comedy show; An opera A music event;
7	Scotland has its own bank-notes which are valid across the UK. True or false?	15	How many colonies were granted independence in 1947 11; seven; 13 or nine.	23	What was the purpose of the Emancipation Act? Freedom of religion; Freedom of speech; No one could be held; prisoner unlawfully Abolish slavery in the British empire;
8	What charity works to preserve important buildings coastline and countryside in the UK? Shelter, Age UK, Crisis, The National Trust;	16	Which of these words is based on Norman words? Cow; Apple; Park; Summer;	24	Which of these is an Anglo-Saxon poem? Mr Hyde ; Jude the Obscure; Beowulf; Pride and Prejudice;

Answers for UK Citizen's -

1.443ft; 2.1810; 3.Waterloo; 4.Daffodil; 5.A fire; 6.Every five years; 7.True; 8.National Trust; 9.True; 10.Boudicca; 11.Churchill; 12.1928; 13.Wiltshire; 14.15th century; 15.9; 16.Park; 17.Scotland; 18.Stained Glass; 19.Norman;

Governmentium *By Mike Grundy*

On their day off from inventing vaccines Oxford University researchers have discovered the densest element yet known to science.

The new element, Governmentium (symbol=Gv), has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called pillocks.

Occasionally a pillock becomes, for reasons which are not clear, transformed into a neutron. Because it is totally unqualified to become a neutron and ignoring input from external sources the pillock sets the Governmentium lurching from crisis to crisis.

Often the effect of Governmentium results in the reaction going into reverse within days of the decision to start the action. The reaction on the action causes con-fusion which is the opposite of fusion and the energy is therefore dissipated.

Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact.

A tiny amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction, which would normally take less than a second, to take years to complete.

Governmentium has a normal half-life of 2 to 6 years. During this period it will undergo a reorganisation in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places.

In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganisation will cause more morons to become assistant neutrons, forming isodopes.

This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as a critical morass.

When catalysed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium (symbol=Ad), an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium, since it has half as many pillocks but twice as many morons.

As Governmentium decays, some of its morons are transmuted into Peerium, a noble gas distinguished by the bright corona on each pillock. Unfortunately as the amount of Peerium increases, the speed of the decay accelerates.

In a statement today the Chief Scientist at Oxford said 'We are pleased that the researchers have discovered Governmentium as that explains many of the problems the university has come up against in the recent development programme. We are now working on ways to isolate Governmentium so the experiments can proceed without interference to the benefit of the population at large.'

Some famous people with Shropshire connections

JO BRAND: The alternative comic, who was born in Tunbridge Wells in 1957, is a frequent visitor to the county - her mum lives in south Shropshire.

PIERCE BROSNAN: One of two James Bond actors with Shropshire links - his Irish-born cousin Anne O'Callaghan has lived in Brookside, Telford, for many years, and Pierce has been known to pay her a visit.

DAVID BLUNKETT: The former Home Secretary, who has been blind since birth, was educated at schools for the blind in both Sheffield and Shrewsbury.

MAX BROWN: The rising Hollywood star, who appeared in horror movie Paradise Lost and has also had TV roles in Hollyoaks, Grange Hill, Crossroads, Casualty and the Tudors, is from Porthill in Shrewsbury, where his family still live.

JOHN CHALLIS: Best known as Boycie from Only Fools and Horses, and sitcom The Green Green Grass, he lived close to Ludlow, and spent much time in the county. He is patron of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

IZZY COOPER: Much Wenlock-born opera soprano singer Izzy has enjoyed a series of hit releases since her debut CD, Libera Me, in 1998.

DANIEL CRAIG: The James Bond actor was born in Cheshire, but has family connections with Shropshire through his father Tim Craig, who lives at Hindford near Oswestry. His half brother has also attended Ellesmere College.

CHARLES DARWIN: The English naturalist, was born 200 years ago this year in Shrewsbury. His most famous work, On The Origin Of Species, formed the basis of modern evolution theory.

CAROL DECKER: The Wellington-based songstress was the front woman of the 1980s band T'Pau, alongside Shropshire-born band members Ronnie Rogers and Michael Chetwood. She also spent much time living in Shrewsbury.

BENJAMIN DISRAELI: The great Victorian, who was twice prime minister, was the MP for Shrewsbury, between the years 1841 and 1847. To this day he is the only British prime minister of Jewish heritage.

GABRIELLE DRAKE: The veteran Shakespearean trained actress, who appeared for many years in Crossroads, lives near Much Wenlock. She is one of the judges in the Shropshire Star's Star Woman of the Year awards.

NICK HANCOCK: Best known for hosting the sporting quiz They Think It's All Over and comedy show Room 101, Nick currently lives at Woore near Market Drayton. He also went to school in Shrewsbury.

TED HANKEY: The reigning BDO World Darts Champion, who won the title for the second time in his career last month, lives at Aqueduct in Telford. Known as "The Count" for his Dracula-style stage image.

PAUL HENDY: The Telford-based TV presenter is known for fronting shows such as Wheel of Fortune and Don't Try This At Home. He has also written a book, called Diary of a C-List Celeb.

MICHAEL HESELTINE: The former deputy prime minister is another familiar face to have passed through the gates of Shrewsbury School and went on to study at Oxford. Moved into politics after completing his national service in 1959.

IAN HUNTER: Oswestry-born Ian shot to fame in the early 1970s with his band Mott The Hoople, best known for the iconic tune All The Young Dudes.

PETER JONES: The actor, who died in 2000 aged 79, was born in Wem and went to Wem Grammar School and Ellesmere College. He appeared in movies such as Chariots of Fire, and The Return of the Pink Panther, and a string of TV shows.

SANDY LYLE: Born in Shrewsbury to Scottish parents, the famous golfer is best known for winning the UK Open and US Masters in the 1980s. He learned his trade at Hawkstone Park, where he father was the resident professional.

LEN MURRAY: The former TUC union leader, who went on to become Lord Murray of Epping, was the son of a farmworker, and born in Hadley in 1922. He attended Wellington Grammar School.

MELANIE NAKHLA: The 20-year-old singer is the Shropshire connection to classical all-girl singing group All Angels. Born in Shrewsbury, she played tennis and netball at county level, and is learning to become a pilot.

NICK OWEN: The BBC Midlands Today news presenter is a Shropshire lad who went to Kingsland Grange school in Shrewsbury, and later Shrewsbury School. He has worked at Midlands Today since 1993.

WILFRED OWEN: The acclaimed First World War poet and soldier was the eldest of four children who lived at Plas Wilmot, a house near Oswestry. He was killed in action in 1918, just a week before the Armistice.

MICHAEL PALIN: Probably one of Shropshire's best known scholars. The Monty Python star was a Shrewsbury School pupil who went onto Oxford University, and is now a celebrated globe-trotting documentary maker.

JOHN PEEL: The legendary radio DJ, who was one of the longest serving voices on BBC Radio One, was educated at Shrewsbury School.

ELLIS PETERS: The author, whose real name is Edith Pargeter, was born in Horsehay, Telford. She wrote the hugely successful Brother Cadfael medieval murder and mystery series.

PETE POSTLETHWAITE: The star of The Usual Suspects, Brassed Off and Jurassic Park is one of the county's most recognisable famous faces. He had lived in an eco-friendly house near Bishop's Castle for many years. He died in 2011

SIR GORDON RICHARDS: A horse racing legend who is often described as the world's greatest ever jockey. He was born in Donnington Wood, Telford, in 1904, and used to drive the family pony and trap taxi service around Oakengates.

SYBIL RUSCOE: Radio and television presenter, born near Wem, who worked for the Shropshire Star and BBC Radio Shropshire before working on an array of shows from the BBC's Top of the Pops to cricket on Channel Four.

WILLIE RUSHTON: The cartoonist and satirist met Richard Ingrams while they were being educated at Shrewsbury School. The pair of them went on to form Private Eye magazine in 1961.

HELEN SORAYA: Up and coming Shropshire actress, from Albrighton. The 29-year-old was one of the hen party guests in mega-successful Mamma Mia, and also had a role in the fantasy drama Inkheart.

CHRISTOPHER TIMOTHY: The Bayston Hill actor, best known for his role as Yorkshire vet James Herriott in All Creatures Great and Small, was educated at Shrewsbury School.

PETER VAUGHAN: The veteran actor probably best known for playing "Grouty" in hit comedy Porridge was born in Wem, and his aunt was instrumental in forming the town's amateur dramatic group,

MATTHEW WEBB: The first person to swim the English Channel unaided was born in Dawley, Telford, in 1848. He was one of 12 children, and son of a Coalbrookdale doctor.

ROY WOOD: The Wizzard guitarist, best known for I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day, lives on the border of Staffordshire and Derbyshire, but has a Shropshire bolt-hole in Wem.

RICHIE WOODHALL: The Olympic boxing bronze medallist, Commonwealth gold medallist, and former world super middleweight champion, is from Telford. Since his retirement, he has become a successful BBC boxing commentator.

IAN WOOSNAM: The Oswestry-born golfer still has strong ties to the county through his family who lived at St Martins. He won the US Masters in 1991 and captained the 2006 victorious European Ryder Cup team.

BILLY WRIGHT: One of England's all-time greatest footballers, who went on to captain his country and win top honours with Wolves, was born in Ironbridge in 1924 and went to school in Madeley.

With thanks to the Shropshire Star.

Interesting facts. *Thanks to Jeremy*

- ♦ The most commonly used letter in the English Language is 'E'
- ♦ The origin of the phrase 'knuckle down' comes from the game of marbles. Players would put their knuckles to the ground to make their best shot.
- ♦ 'Dreamt' is the only word in the English language that ends in 'mt'
- ♦ There are only four words in the English language which end in 'dous'. Horrendous, stupendous, hazardous and tremendous.
- ♦ The most commonly used word in English conversation is 'I'
- ♦ The longest one-syllable word in the English language is 'screeched'
- ♦ The dot on top of the letter 'i' in English is called a 'tittle'
- ♦ The past tense of the word 'dare' in English is 'durst'
- ♦ The word 'almost' is the longest in the English language to have all the letters in alphabetical order
- ♦ 'Bookkeeper' and 'bookkeeping' are the only two words in the English language to have three consecutive pairs of the same letters

A few Jokes *Thanks to Mike*

A man was walking down the street when he was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man who asked him for a couple of pounds for dinner.

The man took out his wallet, extracted ten pounds and asked, *'if I give you this money will you buy some beer with it instead of dinner?'*

'No. I had to stop drinking years ago.' The homeless man replied.

'Will you use it to go fishing instead of buying food?' the man asked.

'No. I don't waste time fishing.' The homeless man said. *'I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive.'*

'Will you spend it on green fees at a golf course instead of food?' the man asked.

'Are you nuts!' replied the homeless man. *'I haven't played golf in 20 years!'*

'Will you spend the money on a woman in the red light district instead of food?' The man asked.

'What disease would I get for 10 lousy quid?' exclaimed the homeless man.

'Well,' said the man. *'I'm not going to give you the money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a terrific dinner cooked by my wife.'*

The homeless man was astounded. *'Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that? I know I'm dirty and I probably smell pretty disgusting.'*

The man replied, *'That's OK. It's important for her to see what a man looks like after he has given up beer, fishing, golf and sex.'*

A man and his wife, now in their 60s, were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. On their special day, a good fairy came to them and said that because they had been so good each of them could have one wish.

The wife wished for a trip around the world with her husband. Whoosh! Immediately she had the tickets in her hands.

The man wished for a female companion 30 years younger ----- Whoosh ----- he immediately turned 90!!!!

The elderly Priest, speaking to the younger Priest, said, *'It was a good idea you had to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theatre seats. It has worked like a charm – the front of the church fills first.'*

The young priest nodded and the old Priest continued. *'And you told me a 'little more beat' to the music would bring the younger people back to church, so I suppose the Rock 'N' Roll Gospel Choir you brought in was another good idea – we are packed to the balcony.'*

'Thank you Father' answered the young Priest. *'I am pleased you are open to the new ideas of youth.'*

'Yes, but I am afraid you've gone too far with the drive-through confessional!'

'Oh come on Father, you have to admit my confessions have nearly doubled since I began that!'

'I know son,' replied the elderly Priest, *'but the flashing neon sign – "Toot 'n' Tell or Go to Hell" simply cannot stay on the church roof!'*

The Series of Memories of Ellesmere Residents Extracts from book 5 of the “Memories” Booklets Published in early 2000 by the Ellesmere Society

Memory 28

The Town in The 1920's

George Cleveley's memories By Peter Shepherd

George Cleveley's memories give a delightful insight into one of our main streets, what was the rest of the town like in the same period? The other shopping areas did, in fact, have a similar mixture of trades. For example, in 1926 a walk around the town centre revealed many activities.

High Street had eleven shops including several trades that had been there since the beginning of the 20th Century. Number four housed a ladies and gents outfitter's; number eight a confectioner's; number twelve a grocer's; number fourteen a ladies outfitter's; number eighteen a watchmaker's and number twenty a chemist's. F. Lloyd & Sons, Auctioneers, were in the same premises as the Midland Bank, whose manager was Mr. E. E. Lloyd The Town Hall was home to the Parochial and Circulating Library and Mr. W. H. Frost ran the Bridgewater Arms Hotel.

Market Street contained seven shops and Mr. B. Griffiths had dining rooms at numbers ten and twelve. Mr. C. Hill's stationer's shop at number one had been there since the beginning of the century; as had the White Lion public house, run by Mr. J Lewis. Fullwood and Bland's Rennet Works had been in existence since 1918.

Cross Street had at least nine shops whose occupiers had been trading since the beginning of the century. Two of these businesses were still there at the end of the century being, of course, Hawkins' at number four, and Roberts' at number seven. Of the other seven, there were grocers' at numbers three, six and twenty-five, with bootmakers' at thirteen and seventeen. Dawson and Owen, Drapers, were at number twenty-one. The Ralph family ran the shop at number thirty-nine, where in 1926 it was apparently a green-grocer's. Prior to that it was a newsagent's. In addition to all these there were another nine shops in the street.

Public houses were, of course, long-standing trades. The Old Vaults at number one as managed by Mrs. L. Edwards; The Swan by Miss F. E. Owen and The Railway Inn by Mr. W. H. Bennett In contrast, Mrs. R H. Harris was the secretary for The Temperance Refreshment Rooms, open on Tuesdays only. Captain H. Pearce was in charge of the Fire Brigade and Sergeant W. Hepwood controlled the Police Station. The National Provincial Bank was at number eleven Cross Street, managed by Mr. H. C. Bullock. By 1934 it had moved to Scotland Street.

Scotland Street was similar to Cross Street with also at least eighteen shops. Again several businesses had traded in the same premises since the beginning of the century, including W. Clay and Son, Ironmongers, at number seven, J.L. Hawkins, Grocer, number three, I. Cooks, Draper, number fourteen, and T. Thompson and Son, Nurserymen. Lloyd's was the only major bank in the street, managed by Mr.W. H. Gem. There was also the Savings Bank, but this only opened on Tuesday and Saturday, Miss R Trap being the secretary. The Post Office was in the capable hands of Captain G. Vickery, MC. Four licensed premises existed, the Brownlow Arms and The Victoria public houses, and The Black Lion and The Market hotels.

The Black Lion Hotel had been run by Mr. R Parry for at least twenty-seven years, but the others had new tenants. Education was to be obtained at number seventy-seven where the Misses H. and M. Jones provided a boarding school for young ladies. The Market Hall had eight permanent traders.

Cont. page 11

The livestock market was in the Smithfield and marketing was apparently thirsty work The sale of alcoholic drink was confined to the hours of 11.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. to 10 p.m, The numerous drinking establishments in the town did however. display notices to the effect that they were open all day on Tuesday for the benefit of persons attending the market!

Banking services were largely cash centred, receiving cash from their customers and paying it out on demand at the same branch. There were considerable problems in drawing money from a branch other than your own. Workers were paid in cash and for most people it was the only medium of exchange. Any surplus was either kept at home or entrusted to the banks. Relatively few people had current accounts and the personal cheque was a rarity.

The horse still dominated, thus farriers as well as vets were to be found. Agricultural machinery and implements were serviced by the blacksmith, as were some of the early motor cars until Tims Garage opened. Other tradesmen in the town included builders, carpenters, joiners and plumbers. Professional services such as solicitors, pharmacists and doctors were well established and there was the Cottage Hospital.

Industry, in general, was a small-scale adjunct to the main business of agriculture, Fullwood and Bland being the major firm. A specialised industry operated in the canal maintenance yard, and alongside the canal wharf, stood the Gas Works. Next door was the United. Dairies premises.

Housing consisted of a few privately owned, large houses such as Ellesmere House, Stanham (known as 'The Avenue' until around the mid-20's), The Hollies and The Laurels, plus a substantial number of 'middle class' houses and many cottages. All were mixed together with the workers' cottages scattered around between both the large and 'middle class' houses. Apart from the larger houses there were few owner-occupiers. The norm was to rent Property had been seen as good investment and those who were prosperous enough to have capital tended to convert it into housing for rent to others. This meant that a lot was owned by a few! However, the Rent Restriction Act, passed during the First World War, kept rents at 1916 levels. Gradually, this would make property an uneconomic investment and maintenance was neglected. Living standards were starting to decline and major improvements would not be forthcoming for many decades.

Global shipping under Covid-19—Annon

It has been rightly described as a humanitarian crisis and a modern form of forced labour.

There are more than 50,000 cargo ships, with about 1.6 million crew, and an estimated 400,000 of them stranded at sea. Before the coronavirus crisis, about 100,000 of these crew changed over each month, typically after serving contracts capped at 11 months under the United Nations Maritime Labour Convention.

But since March 2020, border closures have prevented many seafarers leaving their ships, forcing some crew into indefinite service, unable to even take shore leave.

Some of them have been on board for 18 months and the work on these ships is three grueling shifts of eight hour days.

With seafarers effectively trapped on their vessels, the safety issues that arise from requiring overly fatigued and mentally exhausted staff to continue operating vessels are a matter of great concern.

On December 1 2020, the United Nations General Assembly called on all governments to promptly take steps to facilitate crew changes, including by expediting travel and repatriation efforts and ensuring access to medical care.

A few useless facts about the coming month of February– Annon

- February is mostly recognized for Valentine's Day, flowers, and depending on where you are, being incredibly cold!
- Oddly enough, even though it's just another month, there's a lot of history behind this month of romance and love!
- Read on to find out some historical events which occurred in February, as well as how to come to be the shortest month of the year.
- February fluctuates between having 28 and 29 days per year. The 29th day only occurs every 4 years during leap years.
- The length of February was finalized when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 days and 29 days. In 713 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar.
- If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst and your flower is a primrose.
- The western zodiac signs in February are Aquarius which is until February 19th, and Pisces, which is until February 20th.
- Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days.
- In the Northern Hemisphere, February is the third month of winter. Meanwhile in the Southern Hemisphere, February is the last month of summer. Between the North and South Hemispheres, February is the equivalent of August.
- The name of February comes from the Latin word "februum" which means purification.
- February was named after a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring cleaning festival.
- In Welsh, February is sometimes known as "y mis bach" which means "little month."
- February and January were the last months added to the Roman numeral calendar.
- The Saxons called February "Sol-monath" which means "cake month" because they would offer cakes to the gods during February.
- Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language. Even the White House has misprinted the word "February" before in a press release!
- February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.
- February has been Black History Month for over 40 years.
- The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a "leaper" or "leapling."
- February, March, and November always start on the same day of the week unless it is a leap year.
- It was in February 1964 when The Beatles made their first American television appearance on the "Ed Sullivan Show." Over 73 million Americans watched!
- There are many U.S. states that entered the Union during the month of February. These include Massachusetts, Oregon, Arizona, and Mississippi, which was readmitted.
- Sadly, February 1st, 2003 was when the Space Shuttle "Columbia" broke apart in flight, which killed all seven crew members. The accident was believed to be a result of damage which occurred during liftoff. The tragedy occurred only 16 minutes before the shuttle was scheduled to land.
- On February 2nd, 1848, U.S. and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which ended their war. The U.S. paid Mexico \$15 million in exchange for California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas.

Businesses information during Lockdown

A huge thanks to Nicky Stokes for collecting the information and updating it on a weekly basis

Ellesmere's Takeaways				Update 18.01.21
Lockdown 3.0	OPENING HOURS	CONTACT	NOTES	COLLECTION/ DELIVERIES
Asian Spices	Sun - Thurs 5.00pm - 10.00pm Fri & Sat 5.00pm - 10.30pm	01691 623689		Delivery available 6.00pm - 9.00pm.
Cherry Tree	Wed - Sun 9.00am - 2.00pm	01691 624400	Facebook page has menus etc	Delivery possible with 24 hours notice.
Ellesmere Comrades, Sports & Social Club	Sunday Lunches 12 noon - 2.30pm	07871 733375		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	Due to Covid Lockdown closing times may vary, please phone	
Ellesmere Kebab & Pizza	Mon - Sun 3.00pm - 10.30pm	01691 624638		Delivery service available
Meze, Greek Restaurant	Thursday - Saturday 5.30pm - 8.30pm	01691 622660	https://www.facebook.com/MezeGreekRestaurant https://www.mezeellesmere.co.uk/	Delivery service coming soon, 40% off all takeaway meals. Menu on website.
More than a Sundae	Friday 2.00pm - 5.00pm Saturday 12 noon - 5.00pm	07711 986694	Facebook	
New Wan Loy, Chinese	Tues - Sun 5.00pm - 9.00pm	01691 623479		
Pete's Sandwich Bar	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	Mon - Sat 11.30am - 9.00pm Sunday 12 noon - 9.00pm	01691 624287		
Thai Gate	Tues - Sat 5.00pm - 10.00pm Sunday 5.00pm - 9.00pm	01691 239478	www.ThaiGate.co.uk	10% off for collection

Ellesmere's Shops & Businesses				Update 18.01.21
Lockdown 3.0	OPENING HOURS	CONTACT	NOTES	
A Mere Cycle	Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri 9.30am - 3.00pm Saturday 9.30am - 4.00pm	01691 622222 07988 842038	3pm onwards - collection and delivery of bikes	
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		
Ellesmere Post Office and Party Shop	Mon - Fri 9.00am - 3.00pm Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm, Sunday closed.	01691 622541	Post collections once a day, 12.45pm from PO counter	
Hawkins Butchers	Mon - Sat 8.30am - 3.30pm	01691 622329	Deliveries - ring for details	
Mere Motors	From Sat 9 January 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	Order by 1pm for home delivery	
Pets Pantry	Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.00pm	01691 624492	Deliveries. Click & Collect.	
Premier	Mon - Sun 7.00am - 10.00pm			
Princes LHS	Mon - Fri 8.00am - 5.00pm Saturday 9.00am - 12 noon	01691 624336	Electrical, heating and renewables	
Richards Autos Ellesmere Business Park	Mon - Fri 8.00am - 5.00pm Collection and drop off is offered free of charge for anyone classed as vulnerable or shielding and vehicles fully sanitised on return.	01691 622421	MOT - no extension given during this Lockdown. We can check your MOT status for you.	
Rightway Bevans	Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.30pm Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm			
Rodney Stokes Sausages & Park 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	
TSB, The Square	Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.30am - 1.00pm Wed 10.00am - 1.00pm	01691 594999		
Vermeulens, delicatessen and bakery	From Mon 11 January: Mon - Fri 7.00am - 4.00pm	01691 622521	Deliveries - ring for details	

Ellesmere's Shops "Appointment Only" and "Click and Collect"			Update 18.01.21
Lockdown 3.0			
APPOINTMENT ONLY	Please ring businesses or DM Facebook.		
Ortho-bionomy UK	07377 315865	Facebook	
S R Drinnan, Opticians	01691 623300	Facebook	
Shampoochies Dog Spa	07568 515093	Facebook	
Susan Haskey Chiropodist	07974 091984	Facebook	
CLICK AND COLLECT or DELIVERY		More details:	
JS Hair	07980 225672	DM Facebook/Instagram or text mobile. Can deliver.	
Lily the Pink, Florist	01691 623628	DM Facebook. Afternoon delivery available.	
Sweetmere Sweet Shop	07896 881242	Facebook/Instagram. Delivery available.	

Local information

Good news the Vaccine is here. **Please don't phone the surgery to book a vaccine.** You will be phone from the surgery and be offered an appointment at the RJAH hospital, or Prees surgery. The invitation could be from either Ellesmere or Whitchurch surgeries. If you receive a letter from the NHS offering you an appointment at one of the large vaccination hubs in Birmingham or Manchester etc there is no need to accept it, if you don't take up the invitation you will still be on the local practice's list.



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 have once again had to stop during this 3rd Lockdown.

However, some services are streamed and are on You Tube



The
**Cellar
Church**
ELLESMERE

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)

