



Issue 8

June 11, 2020

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From the editor

I hope you are all keeping safe and well, and are not too overwhelmed by all the advice from our dear leader, on whether to mask or not to mask.

I will keep trying to keep you entertained, and amused through this organ.

Keep safe

Paul

PS

**And Please keep sending in your articles for the newsletter.**

Views from the Crow’s Nest

Dear Probus friends,

As ever, I hope that you and your’s are keeping well, safe and enjoying the brief break from the incessant heat. Our garden is sighing with relief at the recent rain and cloud-cover. This week has seen a gentle releasing of the Covid-19 lock-down and allowed some of us fortunate enough to meet up with our temporarily estranged families outside in a ‘responsible socially-distanced’ way. It was a joy for us to see our local four grand-children each of whom seem to have grown several inches since March! Doubtless there are challenges ahead for us all in many ways but we will win through one way or another. Thanks again to Paul for his excellent Newsletters, we can always do with your article input, memories, pictures, jokes or puzzles.

I wonder what new words and phrases have entered our language since Covid-19 appeared? Let us know your thoughts..

Keep safe and well at a social distance and get in touch if you need help with anything you can’t resolve.

Very best wishes

Jeremy,

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Who Is This?

One of our members sent me the photo below of him at about 5 years of age. Can you guess who it is?

Please send in a childhood photo of YOU for us to try and identify ?



To watch Tony Hancock the Radio Ham  
click here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkF2y9fdGpk>



## From Beeswax The Bloody Butcher.

My great grandfather was a surgeon in Kidderminster hospital and his nick name was "The Butcher ". I leave it to you to work out why.

That's my earliest knowledge of fishing references in our family. Every time I tie one or look at a Butcher in my fly box I have a picture in my mind of his operating theatre. Medical practice and fly fishing have been in our family for generations until this one.

But we still trot the fly.

It was a Wednesday evening in late April when my father first drugged me Thursdays were his day off from general practice and Wednesday evenings in the season were when his operating theatre moved to our kitchen. Tools laid out, strong smells, utter concentration and the fascination of a bewitched onlooker.

I must have been five or six at the time. I don't remember which, but I do remember the intoxication of the smell of melting Beeswax in a tin lid on the cooker and silk line strewn between every available hanging point. The rituals fascinated me.

I watched him as if he was someone other than my father, in touchable silence as he clamped his vice deliberately onto the kitchen table and ritually placed the silks, feathers, furs and wires in front of where he was sitting. It all seemed like the practices of some African Witchdoctor preparing a potion.... I wanted to ask him what he was doing..... I had wanted to for a year or more but feared I would not understand the answers, so I kept silent.

No doubt he wanted me to ask, or maybe not, for then the mystique may be diluted!

Suddenly, I no longer had a choice: " Dad why do you need to put that stuff onto your fishing line”?

" It's so the line doesn't sink when I cast this ( holding up a newly- hatched Cochybonddu from his vice) over the fattest trout on the Onney tomorrow morning".

Tomorrow... too far- away-tomorrow, I thought.

“I'll take you back, I know how you love the river”, he said. I smiled.

My mind smelt the water. my sanctuary of tumbling water, rippled gravel colours, my elusive Loaches and Bullheads that darted teasingly away from my net. But I felt tonight a step closer to understanding the real life picture of that silhouetted figure upstream with the swishing - wishing line easing its way back and forth through a cloud of gnats, mustered by some telepathy between man and fish. The proof would show in the bag tomorrow.

Bath time, toothtime and bedtime all came and went with irritation. Still light outside. Eyelids as relaxed and ready for sleep as a thruxton gale. Eventually I must have drifted off.

I woke like a Thunderbolt... dashed to the window.. knowing full well that I'd relish whatever weather was put upon us but still in awe of a ditched adventure. All the routines of the morning were a battle against a mythical clock. From the moment I woke, part of me was sitting, nets, jam jars and wellies in hand, in a driverless car just in case I was left behind.

Breakfast came and went, like a week.. After feeling sick with the need to 'get on ' , I came close to believing that the rest of today would never happen.

I was so wrong.☹

The car had never gone so slowly.

We arrived and went through that frustrating palaver of having to check that everything was with us and after seemingly hours, I followed Dads waders through the meadow towards the beckoning music of the gravel rapid.

" Welcome back ", Dad said. or was it the water, or both, as I put my faltering wellie of excitement on the shingle beach. It was now time for us to go our specialist ways.. both equal experts in our way, though I envied his magical skills.

***Cont. page 3***

the thought of lunch was like thinking of tomorrow... how could there be time, or hunger ?

swished my net into the crevices, along the bank, but my heart was in watching the silent stalker upstream, silhouetted inside a cloud of gnats.

He stood as a sentinel. He could have been a heron in another life. watched . entranced as usual.

The line Whisssshhhhhhed through the air.

I wished through the air. And then ---

The Rise--<sup>2</sup>

The TAKE\*

The Russshhhhh,--

The SplAsh--

The Silence.

The mixed feelings.

I was seventeen, fishing a Scottish free-water near Loch Lochy when I caught my first trout golden dappled brown leviathan of about half a pound... downstream from my father like before. The excitement and pride was so great that I had to keep it to show him. All I could think of was to take off my sock, slip the trout inside and hope it survived. It didn't. I felt dreadful.

In the following years I polished the art, my fishing experiences blew up like a gale in their diversity: every road bridge I crossed was a sleeping policeman to me begging me to see what was beneath. I angled in every conceivable piece of water with equal delight: still, running, salt, fresh you name it I fished it

At the age of 36 I first practised my few skills of wild -brown -trout - stream- stalking in front of my mother in my paradise of North Wales. I treasured the privacy and closeness of the fisher and his quarry .. suddenly I was upstream, as I'd seen my father. Every sinew-movement was learned or inherited from him. Just as the wily trout had learned to evade almost every presentation of the fly, so had the fisher learned from his mistakes. just like the Bloody Butcher.

Thirty five years or so on, the heart-pumping thrill of netting on Onney Loach (which seemed like an anaconda) as a boy is still equalled by every take from an enquiring rise.

That must be the magic of it all.

***Jeremy Stretton 1997***

***Dedicated to Lionel James Stretton***

## A refugee's story

To mark Refugee Week, starting next Monday, (June 15), Ellesmere Sculpture Initiative is promoting the story of one refugee -- entrepreneur-turned-philanthropist Dame Stephanie Shirley. As the five-year-old daughter of a Jewish lawyer, she fled the Nazis in 1939, arriving in Britain, penniless and without a word of English. After being educated at Oswestry Girls' High School, she went on to set-up an IT company and became a multi-millionaire. In the past thirty years, she has given away a large part of her fortune to charity. Dame Stephanie was due to return to Shropshire in April to speak at a seminar at Ellesmere College, organised by the sculpture group as part of its project to mark the centenary of the Save the Children charity founded by Ellesmere sisters Eglantyne Jebb and Dorothy Buxton But the lock-down prevented her from sharing memories as a Kindertransport refugee. You can read her moving story here...

<http://www.ellesmeresculpture.co.uk/dame-stephanie-shirleys-speech>

Many thanks to Ivan Jasper for submitting this poem

*“If” by Rudyard Kipling*

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too:  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim,  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same:  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,  
And never breathe a word about your loss:  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much:  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!

As a footnote to “If”, you may like to know that the line —

“If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two imposters just the same “  
is written on the wall of the player’s entrance at Wimbledon.

## 750 Motor Club - Austin Seven

The Austin 7 was produced from 1922 to 1939 and was the first truly affordable mass-produced vehicle of British design and manufacture. The importance of the



heritage of the Austin 7 cannot be overstated as without it the Austin company would have financially failed, the pre-war population would have been deprived of the chance of owning their first motor car and the 750 Motor Club would probably not have come into existence. In fact several well-

known companies might not have succeeded if they had not been able to become licenced manufacturers of the design.

The first BMW was a 7, known as a Dixi in Germany, and in Japan, Nissan based their first cars on it. The Swallow version of the Austin 7 laid the foundations of the Jaguar Car Company.

Some 290,000 Austin 7 cars were produced by Sir Herbert Austin's company and about 11,000 are thought to still exist worldwide. They came in a variety of models that included saloons, tourers, sports cars and vans. When launched the Austin 7 cost just £165. Its original 696cc engine of 7.2 horsepower was quickly enlarged to 747cc. The revised four cylinder side-valve engine gave a very modest 10.5 brake horse power but it was enough to propel the little car to a top speed of 50 miles per hour. Many a 1930s family packed children, luggage, mum and dad into the tiny cabin and set off on holiday to far flung parts of the country – and abroad.

Since its birth the Austin 7 has been driven up mountains, across seas, through rivers, around racing circuits, into war zones and into history books. It is still being used for adventures all over the world.

Today the Austin 7 is as popular as ever and it provides one of the most inexpensive of routes into pre-war and vintage car ownership. Useable examples of later models such as the Ruby can be found for under £3000 whilst top quality restorations of early models like the Chummy will run to £15,000 and more. Rare models or those with a competition pedigree command still higher figures.

The running costs of a road going Austin 7 remain very much at the budget end of the classic car spectrum. There is no road tax to pay, no MOT test required (though an unofficial annual check is a wise precaution) and insurance is very inexpensive – often less than £100 per annum including European cover and breakdown service. A network of cherished suppliers provides owners with a comprehensive range of spare parts for their vehicles and almost all replacement items are readily available. It is even possible to purchase newly manufactured parts for the Austin 7 and there are many companies and individuals who will undertake work on the cars if the owner doesn't want to tackle the job themselves. However, the Austin 7 is one of the most straightforward of cars to work on and there are very few jobs that a reasonably competent enthusiast could not undertake. Unlike modern cars every bit of an Austin 7 can be fixed, fettled, maintained or modified. It makes running one a joy – and you'd be hard put to find a friendlier and more welcoming bunch than a group of A7 owners. You can use a Seven for gentle meandering through country lanes, thrashing round a racing circuit, sliding along a trials course, or racing up a hill climb. Whatever you choose there's an A7 for you and it will rise to meet any challenge.

One of the best places to see many Austin 7s together is the National Austin 7

Rally, organised for all A7 owners and clubs by the 750 Motor Club, and held each year in the grounds of the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu in Hampshire. The first such rally took place in 1963 and no other single marque club has ever kept to the same venue for such a long and continuous period.

For those contemplating ownership of an Austin 7 the first point of contact should be the local centre of the 750 Motor Club (details on this website). There you will find friendly and helpful advice and perhaps even a car to buy.





## General Knowledge Quiz

1. What is the surname of the last British player to win the Wimbledon womens single title?
2. St George is the patron saint of England but in which country is he buried?
3. Where was Marc Cohen walking when he put on his blue suede shoes?
4. Which American singer was born Eleanora Fagan?
5. Hepatitis affects which organ of the body?
6. The Rolls Royce radiator ornament is called 'The Spirit of .....' what?
7. No 617 squadron of the Royal Air Force is better known as the what?
8. Which Bill played the role of Compo in Last of the Summer Wine?
9. In which US state would you find Suffolk County on an island?
10. What type of car was KITT in the original Knight Rider TV show?
11. Who wrote the 'Famous Five' series of books?
12. What is the fourth book of the Old Testament?
13. Rob Andrew was director of rugby at which Premiership team until 2006?
14. To what country does the island of Elba belong?
15. What is the real surname of Sting from The Police?
16. Which film has the phrase ' Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get'?
17. Where were the Bee Gees born?
18. What is the name of the sequel to the film and book 'Twilight'?
19. Sarah Palin was the first female governor of which state?
20. The Great Orme is a prominent feature in which Welsh seaside town?

BONUS QUESTION - WHAT DOES THE FIRST LETTER OF EACH ANSWER SPELL OUT?

Answers page 14

## What happened in History this day 11th June

**1776** Continental Congress creates committee (Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston) to draft a Declaration of Independence

**1963** US President JFK says segregation is morally wrong and that it is "time to act" **1666** Battle at Dunkirk: English vs Dutch fleet **1871** Paris communards revolt put down

**1987** Margaret Thatcher is 1st British Prime Minister in 160 years to win a third consecutive term

**1993** "Jurassic Park", directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Sam Neill and Jeff Goldblum opens, sets box office weekend record of \$502 million



## **Brief History of Park Hall Camp, Oswestry. By Ivan Jasper**

In spring 1915 a military camp was constructed to train troops at Park Hall.

During the First World War the owner of the Park Hall estate, Major Wynne Corrie, gave Park Hall over to the military as their local headquarters, and in the spring of 1915 a camp was constructed to train the troops. This spilled out onto the Oldport Farm site, with the area to the east of Old Oswestry Hillfort being used for excavating trenches and setting off explosives. Following the death of Major Corrie, the estate was conveyed to the War Office in 1920. The training camp was used once again from the start of the Second World War up until 1968, after which it continued to be used for training Junior Leaders up until late 1975.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Park Hall was handed over to the Military for local headquarters and an army camp was constructed in the grounds in 1915. The camp was constructed during the winter of 1914/15 during which 900 labourers were employed. By July 1915, the camp was opened to the first 4,000 troops. From July 1915, the camp was in constant use until 1918. During the latter part of WW1 it was also the site of a military hospital, housing up to 866 beds. At the bottom end of the camp, adjacent to the railway line, there was a small cemetery containing the bodies of a number of German Prisoners of War who had died from the 1918 Spanish flu (pandemic, what pandemic!), they were later moved to the German War Cemetery on Cannock Chase. The hall itself was destroyed by fire on Boxing Day 1918 but the camp continued to be used for many years until its final closure in 1975.

Following the end of the Great War, the now ruined hall and its surrounding military establishment began to fall more and more into disrepair. The camp hospital, however, was still in use, and the Baschurch Convalescent and Surgical Home, set up by Dame Agnes Hunt, moved here in February 1921. It then became known as the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital. Since that time it has become world renowned for pioneering work in the treatment of all forms of physical disablement.

The land became the property of Oswestry Borough Council. One of the main uses of the land in the 1930s was for motor cycle racing, and it became quite a well known circuit, with Isle of Man TT racers occasionally competing. In May 1939 the land was once more earmarked for military use, with the expectation of four battalions coming to the site by the following July. As a result construction crews moved in and within a very short time the camp began to take on the shape that it was to retain for many years.

To assist the movement of troops, a small station, the Park Hall Halt, had been built on the nearby Oswestry to Gobowen branchline in the early 1920s. This was now re-opened and was in regular use throughout the war. By mid-July 1939, the first batch of 2,500 Royal Artillery Militiamen was installed, learning basic skills and gunnery. This was the start of a 30 year Royal Artillery association with Park Hall.

Park Hall Training camp was re-activated for military use in July 1939, three months before the outbreak of World War II. The site was divided into Birch, Butler, Milne and Wingate lines, with barrack huts, lecture rooms, messes, workshops etc spread over the whole area. Initially, the camp was home to 2,500 Royal Artillery recruits and No 1 Plotting Officer's school.

The camp continued to be used for training for many years to follow. The Royal Artillery were joined by the Infantry Junior Leaders until the Artillery left in 1968. The Junior Leaders continued at the camp until its closure in December 1975. Eventually a lot of the land reverted to farmland, and light industry started up on the site of the old encampment. The sports facilities were excellent, so the grounds and pitches were retained and still used today as a part of the local sports environment. Park Hall Farm became a visitor attraction in 1998 and is now home to the Museum of the Welsh Guards, continuing the link with the military started so long ago in 1915.

### **Author's Note:**

*I worked at the camp from 1961 until 1968. I was employed by the War Department Works Organisation as a junior Electrical Engineer, responsible for the installation, repair and maintenance of all internal and external electrical installations and equipment on the camp and Married Quarters. During this time the camp was occupied by the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion and the 17<sup>th</sup> Training Regiment Royal Artillery.*

Another peep into the speakers archives—

This one is from March 2016 and is about how the Llangollen railway was saved as a heritage tourist attraction.

March 17th Meeting 2016

The meeting on 17th March saw George Jones giving a talk about the restoration of Llangollen railway station, and the line to Corwen.

George explained that after the Beaching Axe the Flint And Deeside Railway Preservation Society negotiated with Llangollen Town Council to get the station transferred to them, to start a heritage railway, after a lot of negotiation the local council granted a lease of the Llangollen railway station building and 3 miles of track to the society, with the hope that the railway would improve the local economy and bring more tourists to Llangollen.

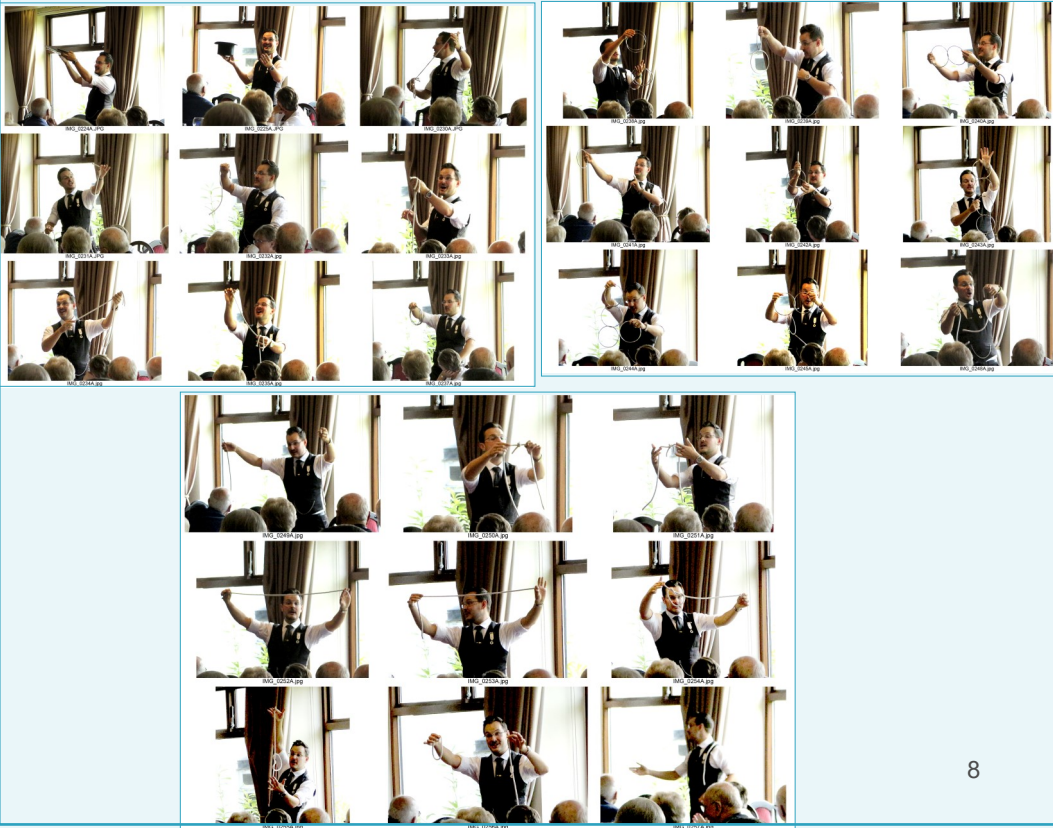
The station reopened on 13 September 1975, with just 60 feet of track. Early progress was slow due to a lack of funding, though in 1977 Shell Oil donated a mile of unused track. Volunteers started laying the track with the aim of reaching Pentrefelin, 3/4 mile (1.2 km) from Llangollen.

Work finished in July 1981 with the remaining quarter mile of track used to lay sidings at the old Llangollen Goods Junction to house the railway's growing fleet of rolling stock. The working railway attracted the interest of many private companies, as well as the local council who renewed the lease of the land to the railway for a further 21 years.

The Llangollen Railway Trust was gifted significant amounts of track, allowing the next extension of the line to Berwyn. This involved a refurbishment by the local council of the Dee Bridge, which had fallen into disrepair since the commercial closure of the line. The first trains operated over the newly extended 1.75 mile (line to Berwyn in March 1986. As rebuilding work progressed train services were later extended (via the 689 yard long Berwyn Tunnel) to Deeside Halt (in 1990), Glyndyfrdwy (in 1993) and finally into Carrog on 2 May 1996.

Work had been in the later stages of being carried out on 2 1/2 miles (4.0 km) of extension from Carrog to a new station (and western terminus) on the outskirts of Corwen which has now brought the railway's total operating length to 10 miles.

A few photos of the from our annual lunch of the Conjuror at work - Courtesy of David Atkinson





## A book I have Recently read *by Paul*

### The Women Who Flew for Hitler by Clare Mulley

The Women Who Flew for Hitler is a fascinating true historical account of the lives of Hanna Reitsch and Melitta von Stauffenberg, the only female test pilots who actively served for the benefit of the Nazi regime. At its heart, this is a story of two women who,



while best known in history for the profession and flying passion that they shared, were polar opposites in almost every way, with vast political and personal differences that divided them as people. Readers looking for original insight into some of the inner workings and turmoil of Germany during Hitler's domination will not be disappointed.

Hanna Reitsch and Melitta von Stauffenberg were talented, courageous and strikingly attractive women who fought convention to make their names in the male-dominated field of flight in 1930s Germany. With the war, both became pioneering test pilots and both were awarded the Iron Cross for service to the Third Reich. But they could not have been more different and neither woman had a good word to say for the other.



Hanna was middle-class, vivacious and distinctly Aryan, while the darker, more self-effacing Melitta, came from an aristocratic Prussian family. Both were driven by deeply held convictions about honour and patriotism but ultimately while Hanna tried to save Hitler's life, begging him to let her fly him to

safety in April 1945, Melitta covertly supported the most famous attempt to assassinate the Führer. Their interwoven lives provide a vivid insight into Nazi Germany and its attitudes to women, class and race.

Acclaimed biographer Clare Mulley gets under the skin of these two distinctive and unconventional women, giving a full - and as yet largely unknown - account of their contrasting yet strangely parallel lives, against a changing backdrop of the 1936 Olympics, the Eastern Front, the Berlin Air Club, and Hitler's bunker.



The Women Who Flew for Hitler is an extraordinary true story, with all the excitement and colour of the best fiction. From the first *page to the last, the book* is engrossing and well written. Clare Mulley's ability to draw out the best and worst of both women in a haunting narrative truly makes this book a must read for those interested in unusual almost fiction like stories of World War II Germany, at times it is difficult to forget that it is a biographical account of these women and not historical fiction.

### A few Corny One liners

"I've got an Eton-themed advent calendar, where all the doors are opened for me by my dad's contacts."

"I regret rubbing ketchup in my eyes, but that's Heinz sight."

"I'm so formal I've never been involved in any argy bargy, or if we're going to be formal about it: Argentina bargentina"

"My friend doesn't like to talk about his psoriasis. He'd rather just sweep it under the carpet."

"**M**aybe this is the beer talking, but I'm an alcoholic drink made from yeast-fermented malt flavoured with hops"

"Life Hack: When too tired to do all the things on your To Do list, try a To Don't list. Simply write all the things you're not going to do and then... don't do them. Huge sense of achievement with none of the effort."

"I've seen an article online asking if Scottish people are as tight as people say we are, but unfortunately it was behind a paywall. I'll never know. "

## Schooldays in the 1950s and 1960s

We all have strong memories of our first few days at primary school, although nowadays most children tend to go to pre-school, so it is not such a shock to the system for them as it was for the children of the 1950s! In the 1950s there were no state pre-schools or nurseries, so for most children just turning 5 years old, their first day at school was the first time they had been on their own, away from home. Most mothers did not work outside the home, so for many children this was also the first time they had been apart from their mothers. Consequently, the first day of school could be a very tearful event for both child and parent!



Having got over the first pangs of separation, school life soon fell into a predictable routine. School milk was part of this routine, uniformly detested by all children. In Post War Britain school milk, a third of a pint per child, was introduced in schools to supplement the child's diet. In 1971 school milk for the over-sevens was withdrawn by Margaret Thatcher, then Secretary of

State for Education – for this she was dubbed 'Thatcher, Thatcher, Milk Snatcher' in the press. During the harsh winter of 1962-3, or the big freeze of 1963 as it became known, it was a common sight to see the small crates of milk outside the school gates with the shiny bottle tops standing proud above the bottles on a column of frozen milk. Of course the only way to defrost the school milk was to place it by the radiator, and then the poor children were forced to consume watery, lukewarm milk. And forced they were – "milk is good for you child, you WILL drink it all up!"

The School Broadcasting Council for the United Kingdom had been set up in 1947 and the wireless or radio played a great part in the education of school children in the 1950s. 'Music and Movement' was one such programme and all over the country in school halls, children could be found leaping and stretching to the commands on the radio. 'Now children we are going to sway like trees in the wind would be the instruction on the radio and all the children, boys and girls, would begin to sway with their arms in the air. There was no 'gym kit' in primary schools so the children just removed their outer clothes and did P.E. in their vests, knickers or underpants and bare feet or pumps (usually purchased from Woolworths).

Another such programme was 'Singing Together where the class would gather to sing traditional folk songs and sea shanties such as 'Oh soldier, soldier, won't you marry me, 'A-Roving (see below), 'Michael Finnegan, 'The Raggle-Taggle Gypsies' and 'Oh No John. However, when as an adult you examine the content and meaning of some of these old folk songs, whether they were indeed suitable for the under 11s is another question!

Visits from the school nurse would break up the daily routine. The nit nurse used to make regular visits to check for head lice and all the children in each class would line up to be examined in turn, their hair being combed carefully with a nit comb to see if there was any infestation. There were also routine eye and hearing tests, and visits from the school dentist.

There was also the polio vaccine, given at school to every child on a sugar lump. Measles, German Measles and Mumps were not vaccinated against; most children contracted these diseases in childhood. German Measles, or Rubella, can affect unborn babies in the womb if contracted in pregnancy, and so if a girl in the class caught German Measles, it was not uncommon for her mother to throw a tea party for the rest of the girls so they could also catch the disease.

Class sizes in the 1950s and early 1960s were large, often over 30 children to a class, as these were the 'baby boomers', children born after the Second World War. There were no classroom assistants, just the class teacher and so discipline was strict. It was quite common for a disruptive child to be rapped over the knuckles, on the buttocks or on the palm of the hand with a ruler.

In the 1950s this was very much 'talk and chalk' education, with the teacher at the front of the class and the children sitting at desks facing the board. Reading, writing and arithmetic (the 'Three R's') were very important, as was learning by rote. Times tables were learnt by chanting aloud in class and poetry such as Wordsworth's 'I wandered lonely as a cloud' would be learnt by heart for homework. Neat hand writing was seen as very important and practiced daily. Nature study was popular and often the only science taught at primary school, with children being asked to bring in things such as leaves and seeds for the teacher to identify and then to use later in art and craft work. There was also a strong sense of being British; of dancing around the maypole for May Day, singing traditional folk songs and learning about the history, geography, flora and fauna of Britain and the Commonwealth. Of course this was also the age of the 11-plus, a series of tests and exams that the children in the top (oldest) class at junior school would take before moving on to secondary school. Pupils would practice previous papers in school in order to prepare for these tests, which included writing an essay, a maths paper and both verbal and non-verbal reasoning papers. The verbal reasoning would test a child's command and use of English, whereas the non-verbal reasoning paper was designed to test a child's IQ with a puzzles and problem-solving questions. Always – and still so today – a contentious method of school selection, the 11 plus system did facilitate social mobility, as places at the grammar schools in the 1960s were allocated according to the results of these tests, and not on ability to pay. Prime Ministers such as Harold Wilson, Edward Heath, James Callaghan, Margaret Thatcher and John Major all went through the state grammar school system.

## Local information

This is a new service which when it was trialed in parts of Shropshire proved very popular.



### We are now using eConsult

Submit an eConsult via our website

[www.churchmere.co.uk](http://www.churchmere.co.uk) and click on the button

Ask for advice with an eConsult and we will contact you by the end of the next working day.

You can contact our doctors online 24/7 for routine medical advice, trusted self-help from the NHS and administrative requests such as fit notes, GP letters or test results.



Take 1 minute each day and help fight the outbreak.

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

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance & Support

Click on this link—

[https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?utm\\_source=Members&utm\\_campaign=fdd441f999-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_06\\_08\\_03\\_15\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_206970988f-fdd441f999-348581597&mc\\_cid=fdd441f999&mc\\_eid=d02ed78b4c](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?utm_source=Members&utm_campaign=fdd441f999-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_06_08_03_15_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_206970988f-fdd441f999-348581597&mc_cid=fdd441f999&mc_eid=d02ed78b4c)

## 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](http://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.



# Local Businesses providing Services as at 01st June, these services can change anytime.

“YOU CAN'T BUY  
HAPPINESS  
BUT YOU CAN BUY  
LOCAL  
AND THAT'S KIND OF  
THE SAME”

-unknown

Ellesmere Takeaways	Opening Hours	Home Delivery
(in alphabetical order)	Updated 8 June 2020 (Subject to change)	
<b>Asian Spices</b> Tel 01691 623689 Delivery 6.00pm - 9.00pm every day (except Monday). After 9.00pm collection only.	Friday & Saturday 5.00pm - 10.30pm Tues, Wed, Thurs & Sunday 5.00pm - 10.00pm. Closed Monday.	YES
<b>Black Lion Hotel</b> Tel 01691 623999 (out of hours)	Real Ale & Lager Takeaways Wed & Thurs 4.30pm - 6.30pm Fri, Sat & Sun 4.00pm - 6.30pm	YES
<b>Cherry Tree Cafe</b> Tel 01691 624400	Thursday, Friday & Saturday 9.00am - 2.00pm Takeaway only. Telephone orders recommended. Updates on Facebook.	NO
<b>Comrades Club</b> Tel 01691 622419 & 07871 733375	Order Sunday Lunch by Friday. Ring any day between 9.00am & 5.00pm	YES
<b>Ellesmere Kebab House</b> Tel 01691 624638	Tuesday - Sunday 4.30pm - 9.30pm Closed Monday.	YES
<b>Meze Greek Restaurant</b> Tel 01691 622660 & Facebook	Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday Order by phone 9.00am - 8.30pm. Collect 4.30pm - 8.30pm	YES
<b>New Wan Loy</b> Tel 01691 623479	Tuesday - Sunday 4.45pm - 10.45pm Ring to check times.	
<b>Pete's Sandwich Bar</b> Tel 01691 623414	Wednesday - Saturday 8.00am - 2.00pm Takeaway only. Details on Facebook. Telephone orders will be given time slots to collect.	
<b>Shropshire Fish Bar</b> Tel 01691 624287	Open every day 11.30am - 10.00pm	
<b>Thai Gate Restaurant</b> Tel 01691 239478 5 High Street, Ellesmere <a href="http://www.thaigate.co.uk/order-online">www.thaigate.co.uk/order-online</a>	Tuesday - Saturday 12 noon - 9.00pm Sunday 12 noon - 8.00pm Closed Monday. Takeaway available. Collection only.	Delivery coming soon
<b>The Red Lion Coaching Inn</b> Tel 01691 622632 & 07854 191238	Friday and Saturday. Order by phone 5.00pm - 8.30pm. Closed Sunday.	YES
<b>Pete's Meals on Wheels on temporary loan to The Red Lion</b> Tel 01691 622632	Orders: Mon - Fri 10.00am - 12 noon Orders delivered to your door 11.30 - 12.30 Monday to Friday.	YES
With any queries regarding meals and to place your order.		

Ellesmere Businesses - CONTACT by telephone, email or Facebook ONLY.	
(in alphabetical order)	Updated 8 June 2020 (Subject to change)
<b>A Mere Cycle Hire and Sales</b> Tel 07988 842038 Email <a href="mailto:amerecycle@gmail.com">amerecycle@gmail.com</a>	Working mobile until further notice. Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 5.00pm
<b>Concept Town Planning</b> Tel 07890 428918 Email <a href="mailto:mail@concepttownplanning.com">mail@concepttownplanning.com</a>	Office hours Tues & Thurs 10.00am - 4.00pm Available all other times Monday - Friday 8.30am - 6.00pm via email or mobile.
<b>Gough-Thomas &amp; Scott, Solicitors</b> Tel 01691 622413 Email <a href="mailto:ellesmere@gtssolicitors.co.uk">ellesmere@gtssolicitors.co.uk</a>	GTS are still open for business however to protect both staff and clients they are not allowing visitors to the office. GTS can still be contacted by telephone or email.
<b>J A Milton Upholstery Supplies</b> <a href="http://www.jamilton.com">www.jamilton.com</a>	Online and telephone orders Open Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm
<b>Lily the Pink, Florist</b> Contact via Facebook	Contact to place an order. Delivery only.
<b>Morris Cook, Chartered Accountant</b> Tel 01691 622098 Email <a href="mailto:megan@morriscook.co.uk">megan@morriscook.co.uk</a>	Open most weekdays Email or telephone if you need to bring anything into the office. Letter box on Watgate Street.
<b>Ortho-Bionomy UK</b> Tel 07377 315865 Email <a href="mailto:dranna.hayes@outlook.com">dranna.hayes@outlook.com</a> <a href="http://www.ortho-bionomy-uk.com">www.ortho-bionomy-uk.com</a> or via Facebook	Open Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm Self-care packages tailored to cover your individual pain requirements. Contact Anna by email or telephone.
<b>Princes LHS Ltd</b> <b>The Rennet Works, Market Street</b> Tel 01691 624336	Still operating during the lockdown and providing essential plumbing, heating, electrical and renewable energy services.
<b>Pure Beauty</b> <a href="http://www.tropicskincare.com/helenhale">www.tropicskincare.com/helenhale</a>	Shop online for Tropic products.
<b>Sanchi Jewellers</b> Tel 01691 622282 or via Facebook	For any purchases, leave a message by phone or Facebook. Payment made via card over the phone. We will be post free of charge any item chosen.
<b>Susan Haskey, Chiropodist</b> Tel 07974 091984	Open as usual, Mondays and Fridays
<b>Sweetmere Sweet Shop</b> Tel 07896 881242 or Facebook	Contact to place an order. Delivery only.

Ellesmere Businesses - Food Shops.	Opening Hours	Home Delivery
(in alphabetical order)	Updated 8 June 2020 (Subject to change)	
<b>Co-op</b> Vulnerable workers, NHS & key workers	Open every day, 8.00am - 8.00pm 8.00am - 9.00am (Sunday 10.00am - 11.00am)	
<b>Ellesmere Newsagents</b> Tel 01691 622498 Delivery of newspapers and provisions inc bread, alcohol, tinned, frozen & chilled food per food, tea, coffee, biscuits, toiletries and cleaning products. These ordering for delivery of provisions who are not current customers must pay by cheque or cash, left in a container outside the door at delivery time.	Monday - Friday 5.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 5.00am - 5.00pm Sunday 8.00am - 11.00am	YES
<b>Hawkins Butchers</b> Tel 01691 622329 Welcome to ring ahead to place your order or for any enquiries.	Monday - Saturday 8.00am - 3.30pm. Local delivery services to those self-isolating.	YES
<b>Meolah - Local Food</b> Tel 01691 623532 Homemade ready meals - mains & puddings (inc freezer-ready). Savoury and sweet delights. Fresh veg, meat and dairy. Pizzas, Teas & coffees.	Open every day, 9.00am - 6.00pm Deliveries undertaken within Ellesmere and to outlying villages during the Covid-19 lockdown.	YES
<b>Tesco</b> Elderly and Vulnerable Priority time: NHS Workers Priority Time	Monday - Saturday 7.00am - 10.00pm Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.00am - 10.00am Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday 9.00am - 10.00am	ONLINE ORDERS
<b>Vermeulens</b> Tel 01691 622521 Bakery (bread, rolls etc), cakes, hampers, cold meats and speciality pies. Delicatessen, Sandwiches.	Monday - Saturday 7.00am - 4.00pm. Orders delivered 10.00am - 12 noon to those self-isolating. Order anytime.	YES
<b>Pet Shop including pet/animal feed</b>		
<b>Pets Pantry</b> Tel 01691 624492	Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 3.00pm.	YES

Ellesmere Businesses	Opening Hours and details
(in alphabetical order)	Updated 8 June 2020. (Subject to change)
<b>Mere Motors</b>	Open Monday to Saturday 6.30am - 8.00pm Open Sunday 7.30am - 8.00pm Petrol Station includes a mini supermarket selling milk, eggs, newspapers, food and alcohol.
<b>P&amp;G Vehicle Repairs</b> Tel 01691 622849	Open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm Cargotec Industrial Park, Elson SY12 9JW
<b>Post Office &amp; Party Shop</b> Tel 01691 622623 <a href="mailto:singh.po@gmail.com">singh.po@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:bkaur_po@gmail.com">bkaur_po@gmail.com</a>	Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 3.00pm Offering free local delivery for orders over £10 from the Party Shop, balloons, cards, gifts etc. Please contact for more details.
<b>Richards Auto Services</b> Tel 01691 622421	Phones are now manned and taking bookings for week commencing 1 June 2020.
<b>Rightways</b>	Mon, Tues & Fri 10.30am - 4.00pm Sat 9.30am - 5.00pm Closed lunchtime 1.00pm - 1.30pm. Closed Wed & Sun.
<b>Shampoochies Dog Spa</b> Tel 01691 238288	Monday - Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm
<b>The Ellesmere Pharmacy</b> Tel 01691 623118	Monday - Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm. Closed Sunday
<b>The Washing Well Launderette</b>	Open every day. 7.00am - 9.00pm
<b>TG Builders Merchants</b> Tel 01691 622540 <a href="mailto:ellesmere@tggroup.co.uk">ellesmere@tggroup.co.uk</a>	Open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 4.00pm & Saturday 8.00am - 12 noon Orders need to be made by phone or email for a time slot collection or delivery.

Ellesmere Businesses	Opening Hours and details
<b>TSB Bank</b>	Monday - Friday 10.00am - 12.30pm. 1.30pm - 4.00pm
	TSB Customers: If you have no mobile phone or internet banking please call the branch on 01691 594999 and the TSB will make a one-off payment for you.
	TSB Customers can be issued with a cheque book if required. Also: any TSB customer who is self isolating and needs to withdraw money please contact the TSB on 01691 594999.

Gas and Electricity Cards
The Ellesmere Newsagents (01691 622498) can top-up cards - they will take a cheque or, if you have an account with them, they will add the amount to your account.
Mandy @ the Co-op (07971 250311) sell top-up cards.
The Ellesmere Post Office sell Gas & Electricity cards over the counter.
Mere Motors 01691 622343 Offers all Paypoint facilities - Gas, Electric, Bill Payments, Phone Top Ups, Parcel Point (NB not British Gas)

For up to date information please check the Ellesmere Covid 19 website  
[www.ellesmerecovid19supportgroups.org.uk](http://www.ellesmerecovid19supportgroups.org.uk)



## ***Pastoral Support from the Churches in Ellesmere***

### **Rev'd Pat Hawkins St Mary's Church**

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

St Mary's Ellesmere: follow Church of England

Services are streamed online [https://](https://www.churchofengland.org/)

[www.churchofengland.org/](https://www.churchofengland.org/)



### **Pastor Phil Wright 'The Cellar Church'.**

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

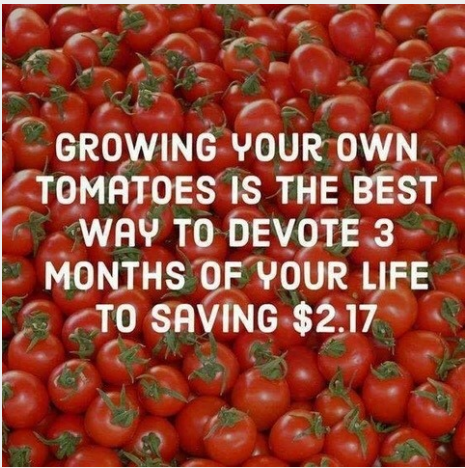
If you have anything that you'd like to ask the sister to pray for you: Phone

[01691 622 283](tel:01691622283)





*A few funnies to entertain you*



Be honest, if people heard what you are thinking half of the time, you would either be in jail or a mental hospital.

Guys I need your help. I'm in the middle of an argument with my wife and she just told me that I'm right. What the hell do I do next?!

Apart from being exhausted, financially unstable, nearing a mental breakdown and being fat, everything is great. Thanks.

20. Llandudno  
14. Italy, 15. Sumner (Gordon), 16. Forrest Gump, 17. Isle of Man, 18. New Moon, 19. Alaska  
8. Owen, 9. New York, 10. Trans-Am, 11. Enid Blyton, 12. Numbers, 13. Newcastle Falcons  
1. Wade (Virginia), 2. Israel, 3. Memphis, 4. Billie Holiday, 5. Liver, 6. Ecstasy, 7. Dambusters

Quiz answers