Specialising in bespoke kitchens, bedrooms and office/study furniture, Rowe Fitted Interiors is an award-winning, family-run business based in Hoylake, Wirral.

With over 20 years’ experience in the industry, owner Steven Rowe expanded the business in 2014 with the launch of a new showroom, shortly after being personally awarded the Small Business Sunday award by Dragons’ Den star and retail magnate Theo Paphitis.

Within less than a year of opening, Steven achieved a finalist position in the BKU awards for Kitchen Showroom of the Year and picked up their Highly Commended award.

Celebrity endorsement continued when Great British Bake Off finalist Luis Troyano hosted a seasonal baking masterclass in Steven’s showroom last Christmas, sharing his baking tips as well as his tasty creations with the Wirral public.

Steven works closely with all clients and manages each project personally, every step of the way. His honest and personal approach has earned a loyal customer base, with most of his work coming via recommendation. His dedication to excellent service was recognised last year when Trading Standards bestowed on him their Excellence in Customer Service award.

As part of the Rowe Fitted Interiors service, Steven and his friendly team also undertake building works, plastering, electrics, plumbing, flooring and offer lighting solutions and interior decoration. Glowing feedback from former customers can be found at rowefittedinteriors.co.uk/testimonials

With a flair for design, Steven creates original designs personalised to you and your individual needs, transforming your ideas into a bespoke design that brings your space to life.

“Very professional service, returned calls quickly and arrived on time. Plenty of choice and we changed our minds several times which was not a problem. A professional company delivering quality service.”

Mrs Sherlock, Heswall
Welcome to the August 2016 edition of Heswall Magazine – a bi-monthly publication dedicated to Heswall and district.

The magazine is circulated free to homes in Heswall, Gayton, Pensby, Thingwall, Barnston, Brimstage, Irby, Thurstaston, Caldy and Thornton Hough. Additional copies are also available free of charge from Tesco, Heswall library and selected retailers, bars and other outlets. That’s a guaranteed circulation of 16,000 homes and businesses.

We welcome your views

Please let us know what you would like to see featured. If you enjoy reading Heswall Magazine please let your family and friends know: if not, let us know.

Heswall Magazine welcomes contributions relevant to the local community from readers and we invite you to send your stories and photographs to us:*

editor@heswallmagazine.co.uk
or by post to: Jon Bion, Editor, Heswall Magazine, Whitfield Buildings, 188-200 Pensby Road, Heswall, Wirral CH60 7RJ. Telephone: 07796 945745

For all other enquiries, including advertising, info@heswallmagazine.co.uk or telephone Mike on 07584 064288 or Jon on 07796 945745.

* Photographs and original material are submitted at the sender’s risk and must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope if you wish them to be returned. The publishers will not accept responsibility for loss or damage.

Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the magazine.

View previous magazines via our website www.heswallmagazine.co.uk
Heswall Golf Club had an unwelcome player on the 17th green in the early afternoon of Thursday 17th June 1926. A foursome were being put off their game and irritated by the antics of a biplane directly overhead, circling, rolling and diving. The aircraft, one of two which had been flying locally, was an Avro 504K, serial number H5144, from No. 5 Flying Training School (FTS) at RAF Sealand with 22-year-old Pilot Officer Eric John Pentland at the controls.

Pentland had six hours of solo flying in his logbook and had been sent aloft to practise half rolls. Little did he know that he was about to enter the history books.

He started practising at 2,500 feet and having completed four manoeuvres was about to start his fifth half roll when he lost lateral control and went into an inverted spin. The sudden change in the sound of the engine caused the golfers to look upwards and then scatter for cover as the aircraft hurtled towards them.

Pentland released his seat straps and pulled on the ripcord as he desperately tried to extricate himself from the aircraft. He saw the swirl of white silk and was convinced that it would be caught in the aircraft fuselage and that he was about to die. But that was not so – he was pulled out of the cockpit as the aircraft spun past 500 feet. The parachute, having pulled him from the aircraft, brought him safely to the ground, even though it was not fully deployed.

The golfers rushed to find Pentland lying on the ground. Although badly shaken, he was none the worse for this terrifying experience. He was taken to the Club House where he was afforded every hospitality and treatment for his nerves.

The Avro dived into a field next to the 17th green; the fuel tank burst and spayed petrol in all directions. Fortunately none of the golfers were smoking, so it did not catch fire. Apparently the throttle cables had snapped as the aircraft began a roll and Pentland was unable to shut off his engine. During this accelerated dive a shower of parts fell from the Avro, the windscreen narrowly missing two golfers who had just reached the green. There was a large dark stain on the grass caused by the petrol from the burst petrol tank running 10 feet from the wrecked aircraft.

Later on that afternoon another Avro 504K landed on the course, this time sparing the greens. It took Pentland back to Sealand, while a lorry and three mechanics arrived to salvage what was left of H5144.

Fortunately for Pentland the RAF had begun to issue pilots with parachutes just a month before his accident. Although parachutes had been used by the British in WWI for observers in balloons, no parachutes were issued to aircrew of British aircraft, since it was thought at the time that if a pilot had a parachute he would jump from an aircraft when hit, rather than trying to save the aircraft. Eventually a decision was made in 1918 to start to issue aircrew with parachutes but it was another five years before they came into general use, costing the lives of a further 428 British airmen.

Eric Pentland was the youngest of the four sons of Herbert, a bank cashier, and Annie Pentland. He was born in Ulster in May 1904. By 1913 the family had crossed the Irish Sea and moved to Bedford. Eric and his three brothers had been enrolled in Bedford school. In 1922, at the age of 17, he emigrated to Australia as an unassisted immigrant. He returned to England and in March 1926 had been granted a short service commission in the Royal Air Force as a Pilot Officer on probation.

Possibly as a result of his accident in the Avro, Pentland resigned his short service commission on the 28th July 1926. During the Second World War, he served with the National Fire Service (NFS) as a fireman on the River Thames. The NFS was a body set up for the duration of WWII to provide auxiliary fire services and manned by full-time men who usually had no previous fire fighting experience.

He entered the history books as the first British and 31st member of the Caterpillar Club. To become a member of the Caterpillar Club, one has to have their life saved by the use of a parachute. The club was founded in 1922 in America by the parachute pioneer, Leslie Leroy Irvin of the Irving Air Chute Co. The name ‘Caterpillar’ is a symbolic reference to the silkworm and the silk threads that were used to make the early parachutes. Leslie Irvin agreed to give a gold pin to every airman whose life was saved by one of his parachutes.

A Guide to Lending into Retirement

As a homeowner, you may have seen the value of your property increase over the years. Retirement Lending is the process that allows you to release equity from your home in order to generate a cash lump sum, income, or both.

You could assist your children/grandchildren, improve your lifestyle, pay off a mortgage, consolidate debt, generate more income, or even move house!

There are two main types of plans available: Lifetime Mortgage and Home Reversion.

**Lifetime Mortgage Plan**

With a Lifetime Mortgage Plan, you take out a loan based on the value of your home. You keep full ownership of your property. The loan, together with any interest, is repaid when your home is sold. This is usually when you need to move into long-term residential care, or after your death.

Reputable schemes offer the ‘no negative equity guarantee’ which means that the repayment will never exceed the value of your property.

Alternatively, interest-only lifetime mortgages are also available. With this plan, you repay the interest on the loan which means that the original mortgage balance will remain exactly the same for the lifetime of the mortgage.

Some providers will offer a ‘drawdown’ facility. This allows you to take smaller amounts as you need to, rather than a lump sum at the start.

**Home Reversion Plan**

There is an alternative scheme, which is a ‘Home Reversion Plan’. This requires you to lose the ownership of your home or a percentage of it.

These plans are not as preferential as the Lifetime Mortgage Plans.

There are conditions that homeowners need to meet before taking out any Retirement Lending plan:

- For a lifetime mortgage you (and your partner) need to be at least 55 years old.
- For a Home Reversion Scheme you (and your partner) need to be at least 65 years old.
- You must own property in the UK.
- The property must be your main residence.
- If you have dependants living with you, it is important to speak to an adviser for more information as lending into retirement may not be suitable.

The money released must immediately be used to pay off any existing mortgage or loan secured. You are then free to use whatever money is left over for your other financial needs.

Your property must be in a reasonable condition and over a certain value. There may also be restrictions on the type of property accepted.

There may be penalties for the early repayment of the mortgage, except when this occurs due to admission to a nursing or residential home, or in the event of your death.

Mortgage products from the whole of the market are available and at Parkgate we have financial experts qualified to offer advice and guidance. We will discuss options and recommend the appropriate plan for your needs with full explanations in order to assist decision making. Parkgate are also members of the Equity Release Council, and as such, agree to uphold the continued development and application of high standards to the Retirement Lending market. With this in mind we have also negotiated competitive legal costs with Kirwans Solicitors, specialists in the Retirement Lending market.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage. Early repayment charges may apply during the fixed rate period. Parkgate FS are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

To understand the features and risks of lifetime mortgages and home reversion scheme ask for a personalised illustration. There will be a fee for the advice. The precise amount will depend upon your circumstances.

Parkgate FS have a qualified team of expert Lending into Retirement advisers waiting for your call.

Contact us on 0151 348 4111 or post@parkgatefs.co.uk for the best possible advice.

Oaktree Court Business Centre, Mill Lane, Ness, Neston CH64 8TP

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To find the answer to this question, and the benefits it offers to home owners, contact Parkgate on 0151 348 4111 or email: post@parkgatefs.co.uk or visit our website www.parkgatefs.co.uk

Oaktree Court Business Centre, Mill Lane, Ness, Neston CH64 8TP
On the Dee coast of Wirral stands the village of Parkgate, once an important port and anchorage. It was here in 1865 that Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell, Parkgate’s most famous son, was born at Mostyn House School, where his father, Reverend Algernon Grenfell, was headmaster. The school was formerly a pub called the Mostyn Arms. As a lad, Wilfred learned to swim and sail boats in the River Dee and spent days roaming Burton Marshes. These outdoor pursuits gave him a good grounding for the life he was to lead as an adult. He was well educated, attending Oxford University as a young man and later qualified as a doctor to work with the North Sea fishing fleets as a medical missionary.

In 1892, Wilfred Grenfell sailed a small ship across the Atlantic to Labrador in Canada in only 20 days. He worked there as a doctor, missionary and evangelist amongst fishermen in the isolated communities of Labrador and Newfoundland. He was a master mariner and lived aboard his small hospital ship, the Strathcona, visiting small ports, fishing fleets and fur stations. He also visited the sick out in the wilderness by dog sled. His exploits and adventures were many and legendary; newspaper articles about his feats and deeds made very popular reading. People were agog at the adventures were many and legendary; newspaper articles about his feats and deeds made very popular reading. People were agog at the

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Freezing to death was a certainty, so he stabbed three of his dogs to death, skinned them and wrapped himself in their pelts and made a windbreak out of their bodies. He and the five remaining dogs nestled down for the night as best they could. The next day he made a flagpole from the frozen legs of the dead dogs and tied his shirt to it. The ice pans were drifting out to sea and the wind was bitter. He was almost frozen to death and also suffering from bites he received when killing the three dogs. Then he had a tremendous stroke of luck. The only fisherman in the area who had a telescope had been looking out across Hare Bay and saw Grenfell and his dogs drifting out to sea on the ice and raised the alarm. By the time the rescue party got together and dug a boat out of the ice and snow it was too dark to go out. The next morning the ice pan was spotted drifting miles away. The rescue boat, skippered by George Reed, the sick lad’s grandfather, was launched in strong winds. The five fishermen fought their way through the ice pans, in perilous conditions and eventually reached Grenfell and his dogs. They would not have risked their lives in such conditions for anybody but Doctor Grenfell. When they eventually got him ashore, although suffering from exposure, shock and dog bites, he said that he wanted to sled back home with his remaining dogs. It was obvious that he was not capable and was taken to hospital. The next day the young lad with blood poisoning arrived at the hospital by boat; luckily both he and Grenfell recovered.

In 1909, Grenfell married Elizabeth MacClanahan of Chicago and they had three children. During his work as a missionary and doctor, he was asked to do all sorts of things. A lady once asked him to make her a set of false teeth. He spent half a day concocting a mixture and trying to take a cast of her mouth and the rest of the day trying to get the stuff out again.

Sir Wilfred Grenfell was honoured by King George VI in July 1927. In 1928 he arrived in Liverpool with his family for a three-month holiday in England and on the Continent. He first stayed with his family at Mostyn House, Parkgate, then he went on to Buckingham Palace where the King chatted with him for over half an hour, before conferring on him the Knighthood and insignia of the KCMG. Due to ill health, Grenfell retired in 1935 and he and his wife settled in Vermont, USA. By this time the Grenfell Society had four hospital ships and had built a seamen’s institute, six hospitals, many nursing stations, boarding schools, clothing distribution centres and other valuable social organisations and businesses.

Sir Wilfred Grenfell was directly responsible for greatly improving the quality of life and well-being of the inhabitants of Newfoundland and Labrador, not only in the villages and small towns but also in the tiny hamlets and isolated cabins in the wilderness. Sadly, in 1938, his wife Elizabeth died, three years after they had retired to their new home in Vermont, where in 1940, Sir Wilfred died of thrombosis, aged 75. That same year, Newfoundland honoured him by issuing a five-cent stamp with his portrait.

This photo taken in 1904 shows the tide out at Parkgate and lads from Mostyn House School taking a lesson in rifle shooting, a sport practiced until the school closed in 2010. The instructor pictured is believed to be the headmaster, Algernon Grenfell, Wilfred Grenfell’s father. Mostyn House, the birthplace of Wilfred Grenfell is the large building (in the centre).
The Friends of Dawstone Park are celebrating the award of a Green Flag, a national recognition of excellence in publicly accessible parks. The award recognises the achievements of the Friends, in close and valued partnership with Wirral Borough Council, in making the park a safe, welcoming and well-maintained recreation space with very active community engagement.

The achievement is even more remarkable given that the Friends Group was only established in April 2015, but with nearly 70 members and an enthusiastic group of active volunteers, huge progress has been made. Through the generosity of the Council and other sponsors, including the Heswall Society, picnic tables have been installed, the gates and fences renovated and the children’s play area enhanced, including the installation of a log walk (not yet completed at the time of going to press but looks really appealing for older children).

The enormously successful Fun Day last year will be repeated again this August Bank Holiday Saturday 27th August, with even more attractions as shown in the advertisement above. Please join the Friends in this event and admire the colourful flowerbeds and recently planted shrubs and trees. Bring a picnic, enjoy the stunning views, listen to the live music and just have a great time.

The Friends Group welcomes new volunteers to join our working parties. We are a very friendly group and there are always lots of things to do, even if you have no gardening experience. Details can be found on the noticeboard near the entrance, on Facebook (friendsofdawstonepark) and on www.fodp.btck.co.uk

In July this year The Runners Hub opened its doors in Heswall aiming to become a community resource for runners in Heswall and beyond. Principally, a running store selling top brand running shoes, clothes and equipment from brands such as Asics, Inov8, Mizuno, Saucony and New Balance, The Runners Hub has a twist with its own coffee and juice bar, selling quality, locally roasted coffee, highly nutritious juices and smoothies and delicious locally baked cakes. The Runners Hub aspires to become a place where runners can meet up before or after a run or maybe just to discuss their next race or adventure. The ‘go to’ place for runners in the area. In fact, many people dropping into the Hub don’t even run. They just come in to sample the locally roasted great quality coffee, delicious, moist cake or wholesome, healthy juices.

Nigel the owner is a UK Athletics qualified running coach and is on hand to offer training advice whether you are just starting out in running or have been running a bit longer and want to focus on a specific goal. There is comprehensive analysis of gait to establish not only the best type of shoe for your running style but also to give you tips and advice about your running form to make you a more efficient runner. Whatever level runner you are, from beginner to elite, learning to run more efficiently can help prevent injury, make you a more efficient runner and keep you running for longer.

There are also running groups meeting and going from the shop. These are designed to be small, friendly social runs led by qualified run leaders in the Heswall area and at no charge. They are not aiming to be uber-competitive; we leave that to the local running clubs and the runs themselves will evolve according to what people want and over time. All the members of staff in the Runners Hub are experienced runners themselves and understand runners and running. We all started somewhere and understand the issues and concerns and advice is free. Whether you are an experienced runner or just thinking about starting out running, it is worth dropping into The Runners Hub to have a chat.

There are plans in the near future to have events and talks about a whole host of running related matters be it injury prevention, how to develop a training programme, strength training for runners and a whole range of other topics. For Nigel and the team it is all about creating a community resource for runners, a hub conceived of by local runners, established by runners and serving runners.
Royal Grass is now available in Heswall thanks to the opening of Luscious Lawns on Telegraph Road.

Luscious Lawns offer artificial grass, installed by professionals trained to ensure the quality of the product truly comes into its own. For the best possible results artificial turf should always be installed by a professional. Established in 2003, Royal Grass has become the market leader in innovative artificial grass. They are operating all over the globe in over 45 countries. Millions of people can enjoy the benefits of their artificial grass in gardens, local parks or playgrounds.

Recently more and more suppliers of artificial grass have entered the market. These newcomers are often relatively new companies acting as dealers or distributors of artificial grass which they often import from China. As artificial grass products are looking increasingly alike and the new companies are often making contradictory claims about quality it can be confusing for the customer. Royal Grass offer a warranty given on behalf of the manufacturer of their patented grass designed fibres, TenCate.

Royal Grass offers the most innovative artificial grass products available using grass fibres that have a V-shape which has been copied from natural grass. This way the grass looks virtually indistinguishable from natural grass. They have developed a special Micro Nerve Technology (MiNT) which gives the artificial grass a matt, silky colour and minimum glare. The backbone of the fibres make them stand up for a longer period of time than artificial grass from other brands. Royal Grass products are all safe for children, animals and the environment and meet international standards. They offer you a durable and beautiful solution for your garden, balcony or even indoor use! Have a look at the different types of artificial grass they produce on their website: www.royalgrass.co.uk.

There is no doubt about it. Royal Grass is the brand that offers artificial grass that is not only the most natural looking but also feels really nice and soft. Many people have already discovered the benefits of their artificial grass in their gardens. Maybe you would you like to join them?

Contact Graham Saunders today on 0151 342 8001, visit their website www.royalgrass.co.uk or call into the showroom at 124a Telegraph Road, Heswall CH60 0AQ.
“Immerse yourself in comfort, courtesy of Bathrooms & Wetrooms”

Bathing or taking a shower, often an all too brief interlude in people’s busy lives, should be both relaxing and comforting. That is what customers have learned to experience in a bathroom, wetroom or en suite designed and installed by Bathrooms & Wetrooms.

Achieved through a quality approach and outlook towards every aspect of a perfect bathroom—a blend of creative and innovative designs, quality products featuring world class fittings, and quality installation—the result is bathrooms, wetrooms and en suites that inspire confidence and give maximum pleasure.

The company sources the products featured in its showrooms in Prenton and Chester, and in its room designs, from around the world focussing on quality, both of manufacture and design. World class products and fittings are matched with design flair to create truly bespoke solutions.

And when added to the technical quality of its seven fitting teams the result is both stunning rooms and a confidence inspiring customer relationship.

From its showrooms in Prenton, and the recently opened Chester branch, Bathrooms and Wetrooms services customers throughout Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales. Its full service includes a home visit to complete a site survey, computer generated designs, the supply of all materials and installation.

To take the plunge, visit either of its showrooms, or its websites, and take the first steps towards an inspiring bathroom, wetroom or en suite.
TAKE THE PLUNGE IN CONFIDENCE...

Experience real relaxation in one of our bathrooms & wetrooms. We explore the world to source beautiful and innovative collections and solutions that offer a fresh perspective on quality. Our passion for perfection spans over 20 years and every bathroom and wetroom we create and install comes with complete peace of mind.

Experience the quality for yourself at one of our showrooms...

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Inspired Bathrooms & Wetrooms
PLAN | DESIGN | SUPPLY | INSTALL
I’m Ian Waring (RHAD, MSHAA, BSc (Hons)) and I run and own Hearing Expert. We are Wirral’s only dedicated, independent Hearing Centre, situated right here in Greasby, Wirral. I’ve lived in Wirral all my life but I’ve helped people with hearing loss all over the country for over 20 years and I still love what I do. I’m a fully qualified, Registered Hearing Audiologist and my job involves finding solutions for people’s hearing problems. It can be as simple as a wax blockage, which we can remove in minutes or, for those with an actual hearing loss, a small discreet hearing instrument can be demonstrated there and then.

Our hearing can be affected by so many different things that life throws at us and some of these things mean we need to take action to resolve the matter. Most people tend to take their hearing for granted; your hearing is a vital sense used all day and every day but if it becomes impaired you may not even notice as the change can occur slowly over many years. This change can be obvious to others but not so noticeable to ourselves. Signs of hearing loss can be as simple as the TV being louder, friends and family getting frustrated as we ask yet again, ‘sorry what was that?’.

‘I can hear but I can’t hear clearly’ – does this sound like you?

Ear wax – Ear wax is a naturally occurring, good thing for the ear, but too much and it blocks the canal where it can become impacted, uncomfortable and can spoil our enjoyment of everyday life. This needs to be assessed and, if necessary, removed by a specialist such as Ian Waring who is qualified to remove wax using the three medically accepted wax removal techniques:

1. Instrumentation – wax is picked out of the ear using tools specifically designed for this purpose.
2. Syringing – warm water is carefully pumped into the ear canal and the wax is flushed out.
3. Microsuction – this is the latest, safest and quickest method of removing wax. A vacuum pump machine is used to suck the wax out of the ear canal.

Hearing Instruments: If the problem isn’t down to wax, Ian will assess whether you should seek further medical advice such as medication, operation or whether a small, discreet, hearing instrument would be the solution to the hearing problem. Hearing instruments today can be invisible, in the ear, and have technology which enables you to hear in all environments, such as background noise and other demanding hearing situations. All our hearing instruments are supplied by the world’s leading manufacturers and come with a 90-day, risk-free, money back guarantee.
Ulcerative colitis is a condition that you hear a lot more about these days. I have wanted to share the story of my own battle with this disease for a number of years now in the hope that it will inspire anyone that is battling a chronic illness.

My ulcerative colitis (UC) story began in August 2011 when I visited my GP after passing blood in my stool. After medication for haemorrhoids and irritable bowel syndrome failed to make any improvement my consultant performed a colonoscopy and diagnosed me with ulcerative colitis. Diagnosis with a chronic condition came as a huge shock to me as I suppose we all expect a quick visit to the doctor to result in a prescription or antibiotics to resolve health issues! I had worked as a personal trainer for 10 years and never had a serious illness. I had the occasional drink, never smoked and always ate good food.

My condition started to worsen week by week with crippling abdominal pain adding to my list of symptoms. I managed to continue my work as a personal trainer in the Houses of Parliament however the disease was starting to take its toll.

After persevering for two months with no significant improvement and now on high doses of steroids I was rushed into hospital in Kent on 13th December 2011 where I remained until Christmas Eve. During this time I was given many different drugs to try to control the condition but nothing seemed to improve my symptoms. On the 7th February 2012 my fiancée and I travelled from London to The Wirral for a family birthday. I spent most of the weekend in bed and by Monday 9th I was too unwell to travel back to London.

Over the next few days I became critically ill and was rushed into Arrowe Park Hospital on the 14th February with toxic mega colon caused by the acute UC. In a nutshell my bowel had stopped working and was leaking toxins throughout my body – my body was shutting down. I had life-saving surgery on the 17th February to remove my large bowel and form an ileostomy (stoma). This is where the small intestine is brought through the surface of the abdomen and your stool is collected in a stoma bag. Miraculously I made it through the eight-hour operation and my recovery began. I owe my life to the surgeons, doctors and nurses that cared for me so well at Arrowe Park Hospital.

I had the pain of major surgery to contend with but the pain from UC had gone and I was alive. I had lost over 60lbs in five months, was extremely weak, but could only eat the smallest amounts of food to ensure my body slowly got used to eating calories again. I could barely stand up but I committed to taking a few steps each day and to walking a little further every day. The biggest challenge of all was getting used to my stoma as I found it very daunting to begin with. I had to dig deep to become mentally tough enough to accept the need to use a stoma bag every day of my life.

Planning, patience and perseverance were key to my recovery. Seven weeks post-surgery I felt able to start small amounts of jogging and abdominal exercises, and two months on I was in the gym lifting light weights. I planned my exercise routine meticulously. To build up cardiovascular fitness I alternated jogging and walking at 30 second intervals for 20 minutes and within six months was jogging 10km. I also focused on building my muscular strength and endurance using weights and core stability exercises.

My health and fitness improved rapidly, and only six months after surgery I was in great physical and mental shape. My health has never been better.

I look back on the personal journey I have been on over the last four years and feel proud about what I have achieved. I want to put my personal experience coupled with my expertise and passion for fitness into helping others achieve their individual fitness goals.

I launch ‘CH Personal Training’ this month offering one-to-one or group training sessions in the gym or in your home. My clients will also benefit from online, email and phone support, weekly motivational check-ins with diet and lifestyle advice.

For more information about CH Personal Training email fitness@chpersonaltraining.com or call me on 07944 645186. Follow me on Facebook @christianholcombept, Twitter and Instagram @christianhpt.
**WINE COLUMN**

By Graham Simpson, Whitmore & White

**Classic BBQ Wines**

Yes it’s that time of year again when you dig the BBQ out of the shed, dust it off, take a step back, look at it, give it a deeper clean and then realise that you’ll never get last year’s gunk off so go straight out and buy a new one. And you have to admit – we’ve all done it haven’t we?

So, you’ve got your new BBQ, all nice and shiny (for now) and you’ve gone out and bought more red meat than a caveman could eat in a month, more vegetable skewers than is surely legal. All you need now is some lovely wine to go with them. Because we like wine with BBQs. None of this beer stuff. Unless you like beer of course, and then it’s perfectly acceptable. And soft drinks. Let’s not forget them. But it’s wine we’re really interested in isn’t it? Because wine goes brilliantly with BBQ food. And it’s a great al fresco drink anyway. Not just for roast dinners on rainy winter Sundays. Anyway, I digress. Below are six sizzling summer BBQ wines for you to try.

**Kung Fu Girl Riesling, Washington State, USA £14.95**

Rieslings don’t get the recognition they deserve in the UK. This is an absolute shame because they are great wines for any occasion, but are especially good for barbies. The lime zest character and racy acidity are perfect with king prawns on skewers. Give it a go and you’ll see what I mean.

**Ca dei Frati ’I Frati’, Italy £16.95**

Trebbiano di Lugana is a brilliant grape – a bit of a mouthful, but bear with me. It makes superb wines which are aromatic and rich with enough acidity in them to keep them fresh and perfect for food. Almost the perfect BBQ white wine with bold flavours for bold flavoured food. Try this with chicken, fish or Mediterranean vegetable skewers.

**Donnafugata Sherazade Nero d’Avola, Italy £12.95**

Another Italian wine, but this time from Sicily. The Nero d’Avola grape usually makes for medium bodied, easy drinking, cheap and cheerful wines. This wine is much more serious, with deep enough fruit and tannins to hold up to a wide range of BBQ food. A great all-rounder as they say.

**Wolftrap Red, South Africa £9.95**

A lovely, spicy South African red wine. A blend of Syrah (Shiraz) and Mourvedre, with just a touch of Viognier for elegance and finesse on the palate, this is a great wine to have with BBQ pork or beef kebabs.

**Sevenhill Cellars Inigo Barbera, Australia £14.50**

A big, juicy, fruit-bomb of a wine. The Barbera grape has found a “spiritual” home here in the vineyards around Sevenhill Cellars winery in South Australia’s Clare Valley. And of course, Australian wines were made for barbies. This needs some barbecued lamb or pork chops for a great combination.

**Predator Old Vines Zinfandel, California, USA £17.95**

This is THE perfect BBQ wine. So smoky and rich and ripely succulent – it’s perfect for big, thick, juicy barbecued steaks. A classic.

**Éponine pick up 6 awards**

Wirral-based Éponine is amongst the chocolatiers celebrating after all five of their entries picked up awards at the Academy of Chocolate Awards 2016.

One of their entries has also been selected as one of the ‘Magnificent 16’ – the top 16 filled chocolates of the year, and will feature in a special chocolate box to be released exclusively through Selfridges in celebration of Chocolate Week later this year.

Due to this unprecedented success from such a young and exciting chocolate company, Éponine were also honoured with the 2016 Academy of Chocolate ‘Rising Star Award’, presented at the awards ceremony at the Athenaeum Hotel in London in early July.

Owners of Éponine, Chris Sibthorp and Natalie Windsor told Heswall Magazine: “As a tiny company of two self-taught chocolatiers, it is a huge honour for us to receive industry recognition from expert judges. These are the first awards that we have entered with our chocolates and pralines, and for each one to pick up an award makes us extremely proud of what we have achieved.

“Winning has been a huge boost to us, both in confidence and as encouragement to push the business forward. The first thing we are doing is to celebrate in true chocolatier style, with a chocolate pilgrimage to Brussels in Belgium! We have also started working on a complete redesign of our packaging to better present our products and make them more suited to food halls and other retailers. Currently we only sell our chocolates online and through a couple of local delis, but hope that the credibility offered by the awards will help to launch us into a national retail market. The dream of course is to open our own shop sometime in the not so distant future.”

Éponine chocolates can be found at Whitmore & White in Heswall as well as at Heswall Farmers’ Market held on the third Saturday of every month between 10am-3pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd Parish Hall.
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Richard Colley of R&J Travel started a local taxi firm in 1970 and was driving a Hackney cab at the same time. He stayed in the taxi business until 1987 when he bought his first 16-seater bus.

Richard told Heswall Magazine: “I worked day and night on local service work (272), Little Neston and Heswall to Arrowe Park, along with special needs school runs in the morning and afternoon and then private hire at night, such as nightclubs, weddings and airport runs.

“Since then I have been joined by my daughter, son-in-law and grandson, and we have progressed to a lovely fleet of 15 coaches. Our private hire fleet are all beautiful Mercedes, which are cleaned and polished before every trip.

“The Mercedes range in size from 16-seater – with or without luggage spaces (20 cases), through 19, 24, 26, 29 and 33-seaters. These coaches are used for holidays, airports, school days out, WI and other ladies’ groups, weddings, golf trips, sports days out and Masonic nights.

“All our drivers are CRB and DBS checked and are dressed in smart uniform and, of course, all have mobile phones and satnavs. Many of the coaches have PA systems on board, so you can have a running commentary as you glide along.

“Potential customers are welcome to inspect the coaches at any time – just call Jane on 0151 648 4206 and she will be happy to assist you.”

R&J Travel are located at Unit 10 Arrowe Commercial Park, Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral, CH49 1SX – right next to the old Champion Spark Plugs factory by Arrowe Park hospital. Telephone 0151 648 4206.

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Welcome to EBBS!

Who are we?
EBBS is a family run sandwich and coffee shop born out of a passion for fresh ingredients, fresh bread and a love of freshly ground Italian coffee. We are a local family who live here in Irby. Raising our three boys here, we felt a shop like EBBS was missing from the village, so, we set to work creating the type of place we would like to visit as a family. EBBS was born!

What was the aim?
We wanted to create a shop that offers our customers a unique sandwich/coffee shop experience. Whether stopping in for a quick takeaway coffee, meeting friends for a catch up or a spot of lunch, we have bucket loads of choice and every sandwich is made to order. You choose the bread, you choose the filling, you choose the salad and sauce and whether you dine in or eat on the go, it’s your sandwich and your coffee, made your way!

What makes EBBS different?
We have all picked up a sandwich on the go from a supermarket or a sandwich shop, unfortunately not always the freshest or most appetising, often pre packaged. We have all enjoyed a coffee at a coffee shop, but not very often do the two combine. We feel the two lend themselves to one another perfectly if done the right way. At EBBS our bread and salad is delivered fresh on a daily basis and our Illy coffee is ground to order so only the freshest food and drink is served.

The Team
We have put together a team that we feel can deliver a friendly inviting atmosphere - a team that, collectively, can produce the best sandwiches and coffee on offer and a team that is open to listen to our customers to help us improve what we already do. We want your feedback - what would you like to see from EBBS?

Keep up to date with all our latest additions, deals and promotions through Facebook and twitter. We look forward to interacting with you through our pages.

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After 24 years of service in the Royal Navy as a Chief Petty Officer Physical Training Instructor, Besser’s founder and Managing Director, Graeme Jones, knows all about steering a vessel on a straight and true course. Besser Energy Ltd is now a year old and in that time it has taken charge of over 250 installations of their low-energy input German electric radiators throughout the North West. With North Wales now in his sights as well, he is relishing the prospect of developing new territories in which to implement his unique style of management expertise and business transparency.

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The old lane at Dale Farm including the old crossing

As a lot of Heswall Magazine readers know, over the past few years I’ve written about the owners of Dale Farm and what it’s become today. One thing I haven’t talked about is the old lane that used to go into the farm to the original entrance.

The old lane was the original entrance to the farm. On the map it shows the old lane which led to the old entrance to the farm together with the old buildings. Back in the days when the Barlow, Goodwin and McGrath families owned the farm it was surrounded by hedges. The whole of the lane is completely sandy.

When the McGrath’s owned Dale Farm they used a crossing which went from the top field (now the North field) into the middle field (now the West paddock). Back in those days they didn’t have to keep taking the cows close to the buildings as they made a crossing which went over part of the Heswall Dales from top field to middle field. All the cattle manure was taken to the crossing where Bill McGrath had his compost and there was also a supply of bracken put in the muck heap for growing in the productive flower gardens. Bill’s muck heap was like tobacco and it was that manure heap which helped him win prizes at flower shows. He would have taken a lot of it to the gardens along Pipers Lane.

Once the fattening cattle arrived on the farmyard they were guided to the lower field. To get to the middle field without chaos in farmyard area they took the direct path over the crossing. It was an important feature of the Farm that kept the potentially dangerous cattle away from the house, yard and holiday bungalow. Grazing the upper field was not sufficient so they had to be rotated round the three fields of the farm to prevent over-grazing (damage to the grass so it would not grow back). It was Bill who used to refer to the connection between the fields as the crossing. It was much wider than a path as the cows came through it up which looks like today is completely overgrown now.

By Mark Kinnish

New ‘all inclusive’ care home opens in the Wirral

A new private care home has opened in the heart of Heswall that offers residential, nursing, palliative and respite care on an ‘all inclusive’ basis.

The new multi-million pound development at The Hazelwell, in Oldfield Road, has been designed and built to an exceptionally high standard of elegant design with luxurious en-suite bedrooms.

Unlike many other care homes in the UK, residents at The Hazelwell are able to access all of the care home’s facilities without any additional charges. This means that a glass of wine in the care home’s piano bar, a visit to its hairdressers, or a trip into town in the chauffeur-driven Mercedes-Benz are all covered by the weekly fees.

The Hazelwell’s home manager Liza Millington, who has more than 20 years of experience in the care home industry, said: “When you’re choosing the right care home for yourself, a family member or loved one, it’s important to know all of the facts.

“At The Hazelwell, we want to make life as simple, straightforward and enjoyable as possible – which is why everything here is included in the weekly fee, there are no extra costs.

“We are proud to offer an all-inclusive service our residents as we’re keen for every resident to experience all of the facilities, activities, and luxuries available at The Hazelwell. It also gives peace of mind to residents and their families that everything is covered.”

The Hazelwell, also offers day care, and its facilities include a home cinema, salon and nail bar, gym, library, on-site chef, a stunning rooftop terrace and a full activities programme.

The care home has 55 bedroom suites with en-suite facilities and specialist equipment such as nurse call systems. Rooms are spacious enough for residents to entertain guests and personalise. They can even bring in their own furniture, pictures and personal ornaments to make their room a home from home. The Hazelwell adopts an ‘open door’ policy at the home so friends and family can visit their loved ones at any time.

Liza added: “Our entire ethos centres on the word ‘home’. It’s crucial that The Hazelwell feels like home and offers home comforts, whatever each individual perceives those to be.

“Our chefs offer a high standard of cuisine but it’s also about the little things, such as choosing where you would like to eat your meal that day, having your morning coffee on the terrace in the sunshine or having some peace in the library to read your favourite book.

“Our dedicated activities co-ordinator also ensures that there is always something interesting going on for our residents to participate in, which usually involves having lots of fun!"

For more information call Liza on 0151 342 9654 or email info@thehazelwell.com or visit www.thehazelwell.com

By Mark Kinnish
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Come along to Heswall Hall, Heswall at 7.45pm (doors 7.15pm) and show you care.

Tickets @ £8 each available from Choir Members or Telephone 342 4226

We hope to see you there

NORTH WEST ROADSHOW COMING TO NEW BRIGHTON

Wirral Townswomen’s Guild is busy organising a special Roadshow to be held on Saturday, 8th October at the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wirral are attending as is the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, subject to other commitments.

There will be local business outlets displaying and selling goods together with a Fashion Show by Marks and Spencer and a make-up, hair and head massage demonstration by the Wirral Metropolitan College.

Refreshments are available together with a raffle.

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Roy told Heswall Magazine: “A new bathroom should be seen as a considerable investment to your home. I can create an inspirational and most importantly functional with your personal requirements at the forefront of the design. We can give you a room that enhances not only your home but your well-being with a place for you to relax and enjoy.”

Roy continued: “I provide a stress-free service for the design, source, supply and fit of customised bespoke bathrooms designed to reflect your individual needs and day-to-day living.”

For further information contact Roy today on 0151 353 1348 or 07966 448606. Alternatively visit the Facebook page to see examples of recent work @ Tiling And Plumbing Services.

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Nostalgia 90s night presents...

Having played over a 1,000 gigs, Slinky are known as the busiest and arguably the best cover band around. Making their name as the wedding band of choice they’ve also played numerous high-profile events at home and abroad. Specialising in the 90s Britpop sound they will have the dance floor packed to the sounds of Oasis, Blur, Suede etc.

Barry Sutton (The La’s, Cast) former guitarist of legendary Liverpool band The La’s alongside Lee Mavers and John Power. Their 1990 self-titled album is still regarded as one of the most treasured UK debut albums of all time. Featuring the unforgettable single There She Goes which reached the NME’s top 50 greatest songs chart. Still a big figure on Liverpool’s scene with his band Beatnik Hurricane, a Barry Sutton acoustic set is not to be missed.

Sat 8th October – Heswall Legion
Tickets £8 from www.skiddle.com or call Mark Jackson on 07828 330921
In the Second World War, Henry was fishing in the Queen Alexandra, with Monty (who was his mate in those days) off New Brighton in the dark, when he heard a big thump. Checking all around, then peering over the side, to his horror, he saw a mine bobbing down the side of the boat. “Aye up Monty,” he shouted. “Duck, Henry, duck!”, yelled Monty. “It’s no bloody good ducking!” shouted Henry, and with that fended it off with the big oar till it was clear of the boat.

He was a grand little fella, he showed me how to knit a fish trawl all in one piece, that is all the top and all the bottom. I had no fingers left when I’d completed it. It took the best part of a year, on and off. I used it with limited success in the Welshgirl, down back of Hoyle, then sold it, and made another, out of proper sheeting. Chris showed me how to put pockets in the net so this one was a good’un.

When Henry died, Job asked Pat and me if we wanted to see him before the funeral director came, as he was laid out in his little cottage. We went up the tiny stairway and into his bedroom, he looked at peace before the funeral director came, as he was laid out in his little cottage. We talked to Jim when we came down. “Go and see Henry,” we said. “No,” he said. “I’ll remember him as he was.”

Job, who is a nice quiet man, went right through the war in the navy and other things. He also taught me how to splice and tie a knot or two. Nothing is ever too much trouble for Job. He is a patient man and always keeps his cool. “Take your time, think of what to do next,” he used to say to me. I bring him to mind in hairy situations in the Welshgirl and I hope his advice has rubbed off. He drives a three-wheeler, a step on from his motorbike days. He made me laugh on our way down to Heswall shore one morning on our way to do something at the little boat. He said: “These vehicles have very sensitive springing, you can feel every blasted bump on the road.”

Job was a bit like Chris, as much as he didn’t swear, but would quote somebody. He told me a story of his navy days in the war, when they all found themselves crawling along ladders, horizontally, when they should have been perpendicular, and the old man’s voice, booming out over the tannoy. “Who’s the ‘*!*’ idiot on the bridge?” “It’s so and so, sir,” was the answer. “Well *!*’ get him off!” Job said that they had been knocked flat by a wave and thought she would never right herself again but after what seemed like an age, she finally came back to trim.

At the salmon fishing, or shrimpming, Job always wore his woolly hat, which closely resembled a tea cosy. He always enjoys a good yarn and a smoke (Senior Service) and has a good, typical Peter’s grin on his face, when telling a story, which would give way to a shoulder-shaking laugh, at the punchline. There was nothing he couldn’t do once he set his mind to it. Now in his 70s, I still see him now and then, on the beach, sometimes with his grandchildren, sometimes helping cousin John with his boat, in the boatyard. Job and Jean have a daughter, Linda, who lives off Marshlands Road in Neston with David her hubby and children. As for me, back then in about 1981, Burmah Oil closed down so I got a job back on the farm.

Another story Job told me, as we were waiting for the tide one day, was when he was stationed at Lowestoft, at the ‘Sparrows Nest’. When one day he was walking down the main street when suddenly he saw a German fighter-bomber plane approaching. At the same time he spotted a young girl walking towards him, some 30 yards away. Realising the situation, he ran like mad towards her, grabbed her, and threw her and himself into a shop doorway. She screamed blue murder, thought Job was going to molest her perhaps. Just then the plane machine-gunned the street from top to bottom.

Apparently the planes came low over the North Sea, under the radar, dropped two bombs, shot everywhere up, then cleared off as fast as possible – there was never any warning.

By 1987 Chris and Annie had reached an all-time low, Chris was poorly and Annie had taken to her bed. This alarmed me and Pat, seeing Chris trying to cope with housework and looking after Annie, so we decided to decorate the cottage for them. We spent a few nights and a few days painting, first the living room, then the kitchen, hall and landing, and finally their bedroom. This had the desired effect on Annie as she revived to show off her home to any visitor who might call. Chris told us she was like a new woman, which pleased us as well. They were persuaded to have a home help, or should I say cleaner, once a week, someone they knew, just to keep on top of the housework.

By chance I had heard they were doing some nobbies up in a dock warehouse, in Liverpool, so I took myself along to try and find them. My search brought me to the Collingwood and Bramley-Moore Docks, where there were various boats in different stages of repair, out on the quay. I asked one fella if he knew if there were any nobbies around and he told me there were some in the old warehouse, across the dock. I drove around to it and went in through the small door, as the big sliding doors, I think, were seized up. As my eyes got used to the gloom, I was staring at a nobby with a name on the coaming, called ‘Ethel’. I couldn’t believe my eyes, was this my Ethel? She was all burnt off and stripped down, her big Lister engine and capstan were to one side, on the floor, and her hull was as sound and solid as the day she was built. On looking around, there was the Ocean Youth Club boat, Sir Francis Drake, having a refit. Opposite the Ethel was the Eleanor, a lovely big nobby, owned by a fella called Tom, who was restoring it. Behind the Ethel was a nobby called Arthur Alexandra and behind her was the May on its side being re-planked.

The warehouse was a bit dilapidated, with big holes in the roof and puddles on the floor, but it was a hive of activity. As I slowly walked around the Ethel, touching it, as you do, a cheery voice said “Are yer alright mate?” I saw a cheery looking chap who emerged from the boat, looking as black as your hat as he’d been spraying all the inside with Cuprinol and linseed oil.

I introduced myself. “Geoff Andrews,” I said. “Don Griffths,” he said his name was. “Do you own this boat?” I asked. “Yes,” he said. Then I went on to tell him of my connection with the boat. He was very interested to hear what I had to say, especially when I told him I knew the fella who had her built and could produce the original bills for the building of her and the half model.

Don showed me what he intended to do with the Ethel. To my relief he was going to keep her as traditional as possible, keeping the new deckhouse low, but with enough room for comfortably moving around. Two bunks up forrard and two bunks each side of the cabin, where once the great Russell Newbery engine thundered. This was the first time I had set foot on the Ethel for 24 years.

I could still picture Chris and Jim on board, and wondered what Chris would do and say when I go back and tell him that I know where the Ethel is. She was to be retired from work at last and put to leisure, sailing and cruising. She will never be a racer, but he couldn’t be in a better boat when the sea was running. Don was using the best materials for the jobs. “She’s got to be right,” he said, and I thought, ‘that’ll do for me’.

In this article we recount the history of Gayton Mill, which still exists as a well-known landmark though it has been converted into a residential property. The information is taken from a fascinating new book entitled The Windmills and Watermills of Wirral – A Historical Survey by Rowan Patel. This book, which is meticulously researched and illustrated, is highly recommended to any reader interested in this subject (see details at end of article).

The Wirral peninsula contained the highest concentration of windmills in Cheshire, many located on the two sandstone ridges that run down each side of the Wirral, benefiting from the westerly winds sweeping across the Irish Sea. These mills were first constructed towards the end of the 13th century. They were an important part of the feudal system under the laws of ‘milling soke’, whereby the lord of the manor, or sometimes an ecclesiastical establishment, provided a mill in return for the tenants agreeing to use it exclusively to grind their grain. These mills, together with watermills which had even earlier historical origins, existed for centuries, but eventually could not compete with the steel roller mills introduced by the industrial revolution. Between 1870 and 1910 the majority of mills on Wirral ceased operating, replaced by mechanised mills in Wirral’s docklands and in Liverpool.

The earliest mention of a windmill being built in Heswall is about 1327 and it appears in the Cheshire Forest Eyre Roll 1357, which is the record of a judicial commission by Edward, the Black Prince, into dealings of the Master Foresters of Cheshire, the Stanley family. Apart from the Roll showing it still existed in 1357, nothing more is known about the location or fate of this mill. As it was described as being in Heswall township, it is not believed to be a predecessor of Gayton Mill.

Gayton Mill is situated off Telegraph Road between Mill Lane and Old Mill Close and was first documented on Fearon and Eye’s coastal chart of 1738. A very weathered date stone on the mill purportedly reads ‘1735’. The mill formed part of the Glegg family estate and was constructed as a tower mill, a technical term meaning that just the top cap of the mill containing the sails could be turned to catch the wind, in contrast to the earlier post mill design whereby the whole structure had to be rotated around a central post. It is the oldest tower mill remaining on Wirral, and is reputed to be the first of this new tower design built on the peninsula. The cap was turned using a chain wheel to the desired position using a rope, which was then fixed into cleats to hold it in place. This chainwheel mechanism can still be seen on early photographs of the mill. The mill was constructed from red sandstone blocks, probably obtained from a quarry which existed just to the north of the site, and was built to a height of 25 feet, which is relatively low for a tower mill. In spite of this, the mill still managed to accommodate three floors and three pairs of millstones. These stones were powered from the sails through the horizontally inclined windshaft, which connected via a cogged brake wheel to the vertical mainshaft. According to a local historian, the late Jim O’Neil, much of the mill’s machinery remained within the tower until 1989. Some of this was recovered in a rescue mission at this time and may have been used in the restoration of other windmills.

The earliest recorded name of a miller occupying the mill was Samuel Woodward, as detailed in the tithe apportionment of c1851, at which time the mill was owned by John Baskenyle Glegg of Gayton Hall. Samuel also rented plots of croft land surrounding the mill.
Morris & Co.’s 1864 directory of Cheshire records James Worral as both a miller and a farmer. James Woodward, presumably a descendent of Samuel, was also listed in the census of 1871 as a miller and farmer. In the Ordnance Survey map surveyed between 1872-74 the mill is marked as a corn and flour mill. However, in the 1881 census James was only listed as a farmer, and there was no entry at all for a miller in Gayton, indicating that the mill had stopped functioning some time in the late 1870s. James, born in 1826 and his wife Ann, born in the same year, had seven sons and five daughters according to census data. They presumably lived in the neighbouring residence now called Old Mill Cottage. The former granary and storage buildings have been amalgamated into the property now called The Old Granary.

Around 1915-16, the mill and the surrounding land was owned by Mr Lightfoot, whose name is commemorated in the neighbouring Lightfoot Lane. At this point the mill machinery was still intact, but the sails had disappeared, and the original sail cloth was scattered over the grounds. In the 1920s a house was built in the grounds of the derelict mill, owned by Sydney Lewis, a motorcar salesman and his wife Edna. The mill was used as a coal store. One morning it was discovered that the wooden floors in the mill had rotted so much that they could no longer support the huge weight of the mill stones, and the floors and the machinery were found collapsed in a heap at the base of the tower. The building was considered to be beyond restoration due to the deterioration of the sandstone blocks, which had weathered and cracked. The cap remained intact until the 1930s, but by the time the mill was Grade Two listed in 1962, the cap had disintegrated and was no longer present. The wooden windshaft, which had been driven by the sails, had survived the earlier collapse, and for decades had lain precariously on top of the tower, but was finally lost in the 1960s. Remarkably, the full height of the tower remained and in 1983 the toothed metal ring upon which the cap rotated was still in place around the circumference of the tower top.

The only economic way to save the mill was to convert it into a residential property, and in 1989 PJ. Allison Ltd was granted planning permission to attach a modern residence to the restored mill, as the mill itself was too small to form a self-contained home. To save the original structure a breeze block wall was constructed inside the tower to reinforce the sandstone blocks, which were carefully restored on the outside. Concrete rings were used to support the three floors and the cap was restored in traditional style. There is no doubt that this restoration saved the tower from collapse, and has preserved the structure as a much-loved landmark on Telegraph Road.

More details of Gayton Mill and all the other windmills and watermills located on Wirral can be found in The Windmills and Watermills of Wirral: A Historical Survey which is obtainable from Rowan Patel (email: rowangp@yahoo.co.uk) for £19.95 + £3.50 P&P with cheques payable to Rowan Patel, and sent to 50 Brookhurst Avenue, Bromborough, Wirral, CH63 OHU. The authors would like to thank Rowan Patel and Jeffrey Pearson, and acknowledge the late Jim O’Neill, for providing images of the mill.

Submitted by Jenny McRonald and Roger Lane (roger.m.lane@btinternet.com or 0151 342 9269) on behalf of the Heswall Society, which was established in 1953 “for the public benefit to conserve the heritage of the Parish of Heswall”. For more details of membership and activities please call Roger Lane or visit theheswallsociety.org.uk
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Independent Financial Advisers merge to create Wirral’s largest firm

Heswall-based Gee and Watson – one of Merseyside’s top independent financial advisers has acquired McEwan Wallace Wealth Management Ltd, in a move which will result in both firms merging to become Wirral’s largest firm of independent financial advisers and the second largest firm in Merseyside.

The multi-million pound acquisition will see two of the leading wealth management firms combining to deliver an enhanced service to customers. Gee & Watson was founded in 1974 and the combined firm’s funds under management should exceed £350 million with a team of 11 wealth management professionals. Whilst Gee and Watson is based in Merseyside, it has a client base throughout the UK.

The acquisition will bring together Gee and Watson and McEwan Wallace Wealth Management’s enviable, long-standing reputations. The combined skills of both firms will benefit existing and new clients.

The organisation will employ 30 individuals dedicated to providing clients with bespoke financial solutions. McEwan Wallace Wealth Management Ltd will continue to trade under the same name from its premises in Lorn Street, Birkenhead.

Adrian Cleator, Managing Director of Gee and Watson, said: “This is a significant development for Gee and Watson – without doubt McEwan Wallace Wealth Management Ltd was a natural choice to support our continued growth. The acquisition of McEwan Wallace Wealth Management will enhance our network and ability to service even more individuals and businesses in Wirral, across Merseyside and beyond.”

Paul Cochrane, a former Director of McEwan Wallace Wealth Management Ltd and a former president of the Liverpool Society of Chartered Accountants said: “We have developed an exceptional client base and are proud that we have achieved £120 million of influenced funds. The team at McEwan Wallace Wealth Management Ltd is delighted to be starting this new chapter with such a well-regarded and ambitious business. Bringing together the two businesses and sharing our expertise will greatly enhance the client experience and enable us to offer a wider range of services to both existing and new clients”.

This transaction is Gee and Watson’s third significant acquisition within the last five years.

Chernobyl Children’s LifeLine Charity was founded in 1991 and has links throughout the UK. We are a local link working with the national office to bring children over from Belarus for a recuperative break from the radiation they live with every day. Belarus received over 70% of the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear explosion in April 1986. As a result thousands are born every year or go on to develop thyroid cancer, bone cancer and leukaemia. Thirty years after the disaster the charity provides a vital lifeline to affected children by undertaking a range of projects and support.

This year we brought over seventeen children along with two leaders and translators – Maria and Sviatlana. The children were aged between 9 and 11 and came from the town of Stolin and surrounding villages in southern Belarus which is very close to Chernobyl.

During their visit the children came to Heswall where Bobby and his staff hosted a tea party in the Johnny Pye Pub. This is the third year the pub have invited the children. Other activities saw the children sailing on the Marine Lake in West Kirby, bowling at Cheshire Oaks, enjoying a number of sports activities with staff and students at Wirral Metropolitan college, a day out to Blackpool Pleasure beach, a number of days in New Brighton, visiting Adventureland, Bubbles World of Play, playing mini golf, enjoying beach activities and being entertained by the Pirates of the Black Pearl.

As well as enjoying many new and varied activities, the children also receive free eye tests from Specsavers in Birkenhead and free dental care is provided by Thornhedge Dental Surgery in Moreton and Hamilton Square Dental Practice in Birkenhead.

We rely on the fundraising efforts of the local community and we also have a charity shop in King Street, Egremont which is run by volunteers to maximise the funds towards the annual visit.

We are now looking for volunteer host families for June 2017. If anyone would like more information about what is involved in hosting Chernobyl children please email Lynne McGonigle at lynneccll@outlook.com or telephone 0151 339 5249.

21st Birthday Party at Johnny Pye

To celebrate the pub being open 21 years, Bobby and his team will be hosting a party on Thursday September 29th.

There will be live music throughout the day and a free buffet from 4pm until close.

For further details call 0151 342 9832.
Lindsay Kennedy, Community Champion at Tesco Heswall tells readers about the Farm to Fork Trail Guide – part of the Eat Happy Project run by Tesco.

Farm to Fork is all about teaching primary school children aged between 4-11 where their food comes from. Every trail also fits in with the national curriculum. So far over 1.2 million school children have completed a trail throughout the country.

There are four different trails – Explore the Store, Healthy Eating, Sustainability and Food for Fuel. We also have seasonal trails where the children can learn about Harvest, Divali and Easter. The trips are completely free and we can even help with transport costs. A whole class comes along with teachers and helpers to complete the trail.

Each trail is age appropriate with worksheets. The children spend approximately two hours in store and this includes hands-on learning. They could be making bread rolls, eating muesli or making a healthy plate of food that an athlete would eat.

We are also in partnership with The Scout and Association and Guiding, so Beavers/Cubs and Rainbows/Brownies can come along on a trail and also earn a badge.

Since Farm to Fork Started I have had over 3,000 children complete a trail in Tesco Heswall. I am really passionate about my job and nothing gives me greater pleasure than to hear feedback that a child has been teaching a parent something new or completing an activity at home.

More information or to register for a visit the website – www.eathappyproject.com
1982 Heswall Bed Race

We have been sent these photographs from the Heswall Bed Race in 1982. It is thought the Bed Race started from an idea some medical students (or possibly staff at the Heswall Children’s Hospital) had over drinks in the Black Horse one night in 1979. All the pubs had at least one bed team, and lots of the local businesses had one too, including the Churches, Youth Clubs, Scouts, Brownies etc. There was much egg throwing, water, and flour bombing. Fancy dress was mandatory as was each member of the team drinking a pint at every pub along the route which seemed to vary over the years.
Nightingale Social and Wirral Met College have teamed up to help young people gain work experience through Nightingale Social cafes. Currently, Nightingale Social operate a number of social enterprise cafes across Chester, Liverpool and Wirral. Through each establishment, trainee programmes are offered to individuals, providing them with work-related skills and a chance of obtaining permanent employment.

Andrew (centre) has signed up to gain work experience with Nightingale Social cafes through his Supported Internship Programme which supports young adults with moderate learning difficulties. Once Andrew has completed his training he could secure a permanent contract. Nightingale Social cafes currently employ numerous staff that have a wide range of learning difficulties so they understand the best training methods to ensure each employee has a unique training plan to meet his/her specific learning needs.

Their plan is to deliver a new pathway of “on-the-job” training opportunities across Nightingale’s mix of catering, leisure (sports) and health care enterprises; delivering training and employment opportunities for over 500 disadvantaged individuals in a range of related disciplines by 2020. They aim to become an industry “go-to” supplier of trained and qualified catering, hospitality or service industry staff, securing sustained employment within these sectors for disadvantaged individuals.

John Clarke (right), Nightingale Social’s Catering Manager, explained the success they’re having with current staff: “We’ve trained numerous staff with learning difficulties, all of whom have become effective and valued team members; we train each individual according to their specific learning challenges.”

John added: “Andrew is keen to get involved, his positivity and willingness to learn combined with our training will help him to secure a position within our social enterprise.”

Said Andrew: “I’m really looking forward to starting, I like the idea that I can work across various sites and am looking forward to learning new skills.”

Andrew added: “I can have the best of both worlds, working in the restaurant areas and helping out in the kitchen, preparing the food.”

Nightingale Social is part of registered charity ARCH that positively changes lives through social enterprise.

Heswall Senior Swimming Club recently celebrated their 20th Anniversary at the Athenaeum in Liverpool where a talk on the history of the Athenaeum was given by one of its members Mr Mike Reddington, followed by a delightful four-course meal.

Heswall Senior Swimmers are one of the many clubs along with the school that use the Calday Grange Swimming Pool which belongs to the Calday Grange Grammar School and is leased out to the Pool Trust. It was formerly operated by the Wirral Council who ceased operating it due to heavy losses. A campaign to save the pool was started and £6,000 was raised by the various clubs using the pool of which £1,000 came from HSS. After many obstacles and hurdles Alan Whiteley one of the club founder members and Treasurer, who died earlier this year, formed the Calday Grange Swimming Pool Trust along with the School Headmaster and five others. The Trust was later approved by the Charity Commissioners. In September 1996 the keys were formally handed over to the newly formed Trust with a lease of 25 years.

The Club is open to all over 50s and meets every Friday between 9-11am at Calday Grange Swimming Pool in Gourleys Lane, Caldy.

Anyone interested should ring Geoff Duggan on 0151 353 8707 or Irene Anderson on 0151 353 8707.

Do you recognise these ladies?

Barry Owen has contacted us to see if any readers can help him identify the ladies from this picture he recently bought? It is thought these ladies came from the Wirral in the 1920s/30s.

If you can help please contact us at Heswall Magazine and we will pass any messages on to Barry.
The land upon which the Recreational Centre stands was conveyed to, and held in Trust on behalf of the members by T. Bailey, J. A. Woolman, W. J. E. Jones and F. G. Walton. Around 1950, T. Bailey wished to be discharged from the Trust, and the Trust was then vested in the remaining three. In 1953, they too wished to retire, and a new Deed was drawn up in which the Centre was conveyed to new Trustees, who were as follows: Richard Tudor Evans, Eric Sorby, Robert Owen Bethune, and Leslie Hipkin. Reading from a draft of that Deed it is made clear that the Centre was henceforth considered to be a “Charity”, and furthermore, in the event of the members, at a General Meeting, ever reaching a decision that it was not possible to continue use of the property as outlined in the Deed, the Trustees may be directed to convey the said property to Birkenhead Corporation, to be held on Trust for Educational and Recreational Purposes, as the Corporation and the Committee of Management may agree.

The deed laid down clear guidelines as to the responsibilities of both Trustees and Management Council, and so clearly had an unmistakable influence upon the Constitution of the Centre. Sorry about all that, but throughout this history, I shall be trying to make the ‘legal positions’ clear, to the best of my ability. One practical result of the foregoing is that from here on the Centre would be in a position to obtain valuable assistance, financial and otherwise, from the local authority, and I here will take the opportunity to pay tribute to the Local Government Council, and a number of its members and employees, for the great and willing contribution they made to the development of the Centre. Their co-operation has been very much appreciated.

The next major step was to replace the Nissen hut with the planned permanent building, and it was agreed to do this in three stages, commencing with the stage end of the building to a sufficient extent that it could house the south end of the hut. Photographs reproduced herein make quite clear what the three stages were. The observant among my readers will see from the various photographs that the workers on the bowling green were, in general, as a group, somewhat different from the workers on the building, with a few exceptions who worked on both. This of course was quite natural; by and large, the ‘Green group’ had put in a few years before the ‘Building group’ started. Furthermore, even the most altruistic of people need to satisfy some personal interest, and when the green was finished, the bowlers wanted to play bowls. Conversely, those with an interest in amateur dramatics wanted a stage to play on and thus they were the major part of the building group.

Nevertheless, throughout the whole enterprise the support and guidance of the same management team was applied – Dick Evans, Eric Sorby, Bob Bethune and Les Hipkin, of course, but now add Norman Jones, Reg Upton, Charlie Nicholls, Bill Lowe, Harold Burgess and others.

So it started, the bricklaying being done professionally of course, but the labouring, fetching and carrying was done by the lads. Bill Lowe was a retired joiner, and was responsible for the stage structure, and there were three electricians: Max Clark, George Jones and Harold Burgess. In due course that first section was completed and enclosed the end of the Nissen hut, as can been seen on the photographs. Here a little breather was taken, largely to allow for an improvement in the financial department.

The drama section were able to put on some shows using the hall in this state, but when work resumed on the midsection – the Main Hall – they had to return to Irby Hall to present their plays. The main hall section was eventually completed in 1957 and at the end of the year, the Thingwall Players were able to return home and present The Late Edwina Black in their very own theatre.

The completion of the hall encouraged other activities. One group of people established themselves as ‘The Tuesday Club’, and encouraged various social activities, with occasional table tennis, ten-pin bowling, and treasure hunts, but it seems they eventually evolved into ‘The Table Tennis Section’. The height of the hall made possible the introduction of badminton. During this period a tennis court was constructed by En-Tout-Cas, an internationally known company, and a Tennis Section was formed in the early 1950s. Indeed, the Centre was now positively booming.
Are you frightened about the state of the world at the moment? Many people find it very scary, as every day seems to bring another disaster. Murder seems to be so commonplace! On a daily basis we hear of someone else going on the rampage and killing people! Individual acts of terrorism are on the increase resulting in the tragedy of people being deprived of their loved ones by an act of violence. Events of yesterday seem so long ago as we wake up to hear of another tragic evil act being perpetrated.

I find it all very distressing and yet, sadly, can see the inevitability of the way the world is going. The Bible teaches that conditions in society will get worse and worse as time progresses. Paul, an old man, wrote to Timothy, a young man – ‘but understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with deceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness but denying its power,’ 2 Timothy 3:1-5. I think what the Bible is saying in these verses is staring us in the face. Do you recognize a description of our society?

If we reject the moral compass of the Bible then ultimately there are consequences. In effect morality becomes subjective and personal. There is no absolute standard of right and wrong. Everyone does what is right in his or her own eyes. This is not a new problem. It happened in Bible times, and many times since but every time is happening the results are disastrous. The old book says ‘there is a way that seems right to a man but its end is the way of death,’ Proverbs 14:12.

If we don’t get back to the Bible we can expect society to get worse and worse. We need to educate the next generation so that they don’t make the mistakes that we have made. The Bible says ‘train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it,’ Proverbs 22:6.

I’m also glad to say that the Bible states that ‘where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.’ Romans 5:20. This means that the gospel of Jesus Christ can meet the needs of a wicked society. Forgiveness starts with the individual. The promise of scripture is still true – ‘If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness,’ 1 John 1:9. Society will never change by enforcement but by the transforming power of God working in the each individual’s life through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Are you fearful? Scripture says ‘perfect love casts out fear,’ ‘the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord’.

www.findingthemissingpeace.blogspot.co.uk
www.seekthetruth.org.uk
Alice Foster has been visiting Maggie’s Merseyside, a charity centre providing free practical, emotional and social support for people living with cancer, since she was diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year. Immediately after ringing the bell at Clatterbridge Hospital – a symbol that she had finished her cancer treatment – she headed next door to Maggie’s and signed up to take part in the Liverpool Culture Crawl.

Alice, who is 53 and from Hoylake, said that she wanted to give something back to the charity which helped her while she was undergoing treatment for cancer. “I have been able to pop in (to Maggie’s) throughout my treatment journey and this has helped me in so many ways. There is always a warm welcome, friendly faces and plenty of tea and biscuits. Sometimes I’ve just sat and looked out across the fields, or joined in a yoga class, or had a chat with one of the team of experts about my worries and concerns and received the advice and support I needed. After my last radiotherapy session a few weeks ago, I popped into Maggie’s for a brew and a chat – I saw the flyer for the 2016 Culture Crawl and realised that this was something I could do to raise money to help Maggie’s to be there for other people who are affected by cancer. Maggie’s has made such a difference to me, so by signing up to the Culture Crawl, by getting friends and family involved, I can give something back to say thank you and keep supporting this amazing charity.”

Liverpool Culture Crawl is an evening walking adventure inspired by the architectural design and programme of support which is so integral to Maggie’s. Walkers will explore Liverpool into the night, discovering architectural, historical, musical and artistic delights, which reflect the diverse and vibrant culture of the city. The 10k Culture Crawl will take place on Friday 23rd September and start at 6.30pm with exclusive, after-hours access to Liverpool’s magnificent Anglican Cathedral and other iconic sites, such as the Radio City Tower.

Registration for the event is £25 and participants are asked to raise £80 in sponsorship. The Centre Fundraising Manager will be on hand to help with lots of fundraising ideas and advice.

Built in the grounds of Clatterbridge Hospital, Maggie’s Merseyside is a warm and welcoming place with qualified professionals on hand to offer an evidence-based core programme of support that has been shown to improve physical and emotional wellbeing.

To find out more about Maggie’s Culture Crawl Liverpool, to register to take part and to order a fundraising pack, please visit www.maggiescentres.org/culturecrawl/find-event/culture-crawl-liverpool/ or get in touch with Holly Smith on 07557 284 816 or email holly.smith@maggiescentres.org

The Heart of Wirral appeal has been launched by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) to help fund two new heart scanners and several mobile monitoring units for Arrowe Park Hospital to radically improve treatment for heart patients.

The new machines will mean that Arrowe Park Hospital can create a dedicated heart scanning facility and provide a mobile service to take to patients’ beds – reducing waiting times for vital treatments. The scanners, which cost £66,000 in total, work by using sound waves to create detailed images of the heart. This allows doctors to diagnose heart problems in patients and determine the right type of treatment needed.

The purchase of the new equipment will allow health professionals at Arrowe Park Hospital to carry out heart scans more quickly, reducing delays in diagnosis and getting potentially life-saving treatment started sooner.

It’s expected the new machines could improve treatment for around 10,000 patients every year who need specialist cardiac care, which is why the BHF has launched an urgent appeal to help raise those vital funds.

Hayley Gough, BHF Fundraising Manager for Wirral, said: “We’re calling on people across Wirral to help us fund these important pieces of equipment, which will radically improve treatment for heart patients. This will change people’s lives for the better, and every pound you raise will be crucial to helping us reach our target.”

Currently around 44,000 people are living with heart and circulatory disease in Wirral, with 943 losing their lives each year.

Through the public’s generosity, the BHF is leading the fight against heart disease by funding vital research that will help save lives. Over the next five years, the BHF will fund half a billion pounds of research to revolutionise the way we prevent and treat these devastating conditions.

For more information, or to support and donate to the appeal, contact Hayley Gough on 01978 501 981 or 07768 980 727 or email goughh@bhf.org.uk

Website: www.bhf.org.uk/wirralappeal
Birkenhead School science students through to Big Bang final

Sixth Form students at Birkenhead School cleaned up last week at the Big Bang North West science event by qualifying as national finalists for the Big Bang Competition.

The team of four were judged during the event held at the Exhibition Centre, Liverpool on July 5th. Big Bang North West is a STEM celebration for students with stands, shows and exhibits and also hosts the semi-final of the Big Bang UK Young Scientist and Engineers Competition, where the project was ‘to bleach or not to bleach’.

Inspired by the range of claims in adverts for cleaning agents, the students, Nathan Bramwell, Connor McCormick, Paul Gogerty and Otto Dawes, were initially interested in comparing the effectiveness of a variety of different cleaning agents. Laboratory investigations looked at the issues of lime-scale, its removal and solubility, and fatty deposits leading to blockages. They also considered the effect that these cleaning products have on bacteria and algae in sewage works.

Alongside their lab investigations the students designed a questionnaire to look at consumer choices and were very surprised at the responses. It seemed that bleach was the agent of choice in many scenarios. This led them to change their plan and to consider if consumers understood what to use for different problems.

The project that Birkenhead School displayed was met with resounding positivity.

The judges, Donna Johnson and Aileen Jordan, said of the school, “Exceptional delivery and presentation, the team showed outstanding comprehension of the subject matter and wider implications. Overall, an inspiring group!”

Birkenhead School offers independent education for girls and boys, providing outstanding opportunities from Nursery to Sixth Form. Their next Open Day will be on Saturday 17th September 2016, for more information visit www.birkenheadschool.co.uk.

The finals of the competition will be held in March 2017 at Birmingham’s NEC.

From left to right: Nathan Bramwell, Paul Gogerty, Connor McCormick and Otto Dawes
Spotlight on adult acne

Most people believe acne only affects angst-ridden adolescents. With over 25 years’ experience in aesthetics and non-surgical treatments Tracey Locke, lead clinician at Serenity Clinic Ltd., throws a spotlight on an upsetting problem that afflicts many more people than you’d think.

To get straight to the point, adult acne is not uncommon. It rates in the top four conditions I treat in clinic and numbers are rising. Yet, many sufferers fail to seek help either due to embarrassment or simply not knowing there are effective treatments available.

Acne is indiscriminate when it comes to age. It can start as early as eight or nine years of age; 40% of females are affected, peaking at 13–17 years and 35% of males, peaking at 16–19 years. But, here’s the important point: 5% of females and 1% of males are still afflicted at the age of 40.

Acne is not a dirty word

Some wrongly believe acne is caused by poor hygiene, fatty food, etc., but this is a myth. Over-secretion in the sebaceous glands is the culprit.

These glands produce a liquid called sebum, which contains fatty acids, lipids, and cellular matter, all of which are vital to the wellbeing of the skin. However, if the sebum changes — imagine the normal consistency is that of olive oil, but over-secretion alters it to become more like butter — it gets trapped, blocks the pores and follicles and begins to cause problems.

This makes for the perfect environment for P.Acnes bacteria to flourish, which causes inflammation within the follicle and results in spots. These can manifest as comedones (blackheads) or milia (whiteheads), ranging in size from a small pinhead size pustule to a large inflamed lump with no ‘head’.

‘X’ marks the spot

It’s not just outbreaks that cause problems. Spots create lesions that can penetrate the deep subclavian tissue scarring the skin; leave areas of pigmentation where the skin takes longer to heal; or pink discolouration, they come and go in three days leaving no scar tissue. With increased cell renewal you’ll also see fewer spots appear.

The starting point is shine-free, balanced skin. It’s vital to implement a balancing regime to underpin the skin’s ability to repair itself and boost its own “building blocks” i.e. cells. Once balanced, the skin begins to heal more rapidly. So, rather than spots that linger for weeks and leave pink discolouration, they come and go in three days leaving no scar tissue. With increased cell renewal you’ll also see fewer spots appear.

The right balance

To achieve shine-free, balanced skin, it’s important to use:

i) Multi-functional products that cleanse, exfoliate and remove excess oils, without disturbing the skin’s natural acidic pH

ii) Oil-free moisturisers

Products should include:

• Salicylic acid — this works through sebum and is exfoliating
• Glycolic acid • AHA
• Lactic acid — a natural exfoliator and hydrator. It normalises skin from within, increases epidermal thickness, and derma proteins, improves the complexion and evens skin tone.
• Antioxidants • Vitamin C • Vitamin A

Clinical treatments

As with all advanced skincare, I recommend individual plans, but here is an overview of some treatments that will help you ‘spot the difference’ in your skin.

• Clinical grade exfoliation
• Gentle non-chemical skin peels
• IPL/laser treatment
• Light therapy — from 400nm to 2,000nm has been proven time and again. I have used this since helping Dr Patrick Bowler from “10 years younger” with clinical trials over 20 years ago!

Some clients will need to see a dermatologist, especially those with grade four or cystic acne. But, experienced aestheticians can continue to boost the healing process whilst a client is receiving medication.

Scars can heal

Scarring can have a huge effect on your self-confidence, but can be treated:

• PRP Therapy — Platelet rich plasma rejuvenating therapy is safe and completely natural. It releases growth factors to promote healing within the tissue. Results are superior to dry needling or rolling.
• Peels • Vitamin A • LED light therapy

‘Spot on’ treatment

Adult acne is a very specific condition (there are four different variants) so treatment needs to be tailored to each individual case. Please beware and seek the advice of an experienced aesthetician. They can check flair reactions, hydration, cornification, etc., without ‘gadgets’ such as skin cameras, which often merely produce pre-programmed generic skincare reports and advice.
All Things Auctioneering

by John Bathurst Crane

‘Lost and Found’ or, more to the point, rediscovered. It has happened yet again at Cato Crane and such items rate quite highly on the scale of the thousands of objects we auction every year; I will come to them in a moment!

Six years ago, a visitor to our auction rooms brought in a small portrait by the artist and former president of the Royal Academy of Art in London, Sir George Clausen. It made £190,000 at one of our auctions. A couple of years later I was sorting through a pile of old boxes in a flat near Liverpool and discovered a cigar box which bore the initials of Captain Smith of the Titanic; this made £25,000 and both our auction rooms and the box featured on over 2,000,000 websites worldwide. I made 14 radio broadcasts about the discovery and was interviewed late at night following the auction by the BBC World Service as I was getting into bed... it was on the telephone I hasten to add! Gold football medals won by an 1890s Everton goalkeeper made over £10,000. There are many more examples of such discoveries.

Last week, a visitor to our auction rooms had driven many miles to bring us a portrait painted by Sir Paul McCartney in 1993. The difficulty is that there is no documentary evidence with it – no letter and no bill of sale. Comparing the colour palette and signature with other examples, I, and other specialists in Beatles memorabilia, are convinced that it is original and worth several thousands of pounds. The picture was bought by a shrewd investor at an auction in the South of England for a modest sum. It will be interesting to see what sum of money we can achieve for the investor at an auction in the South of England for a modest sum. It will be interesting to see what sum of money we can achieve for the vendor in Liverpool.

I drive many miles each week and make many house visits to appraise items for auction. It is enjoyable and interesting as fine and rare objects are still out there to be discovered, but you have to work hard and put in the long hours. To quote the famous golfer Gary Player who said: “The harder I practice, the luckier I become!” All of us at Cato Crane work hard and the auction discoveries and results prove it to be true.

So, on another subject, what has happened to the cat called Larry? Has he stayed or has he gone too? Well, the answer is that he has changed his surname from ‘Larry Cameron’ to ‘Larry May!’ Larry, of course, is the permanent cat resident at No.10 Downing Street and often appears as a cute image, like thousands of cats in the country, waiting to be let in at the front door. No doubt he has his own butter and cook – unlike my cat I hasten to add!

Some painted images of domestic pet animals have what I call ‘The Power of Cute’. This seemingly irresistible ‘cuteness’ sells paintings every time, whether it is ponies, baby rabbits, foals, or lambs gamboling in the flower-filled meadows in the spring and so on. A couple of weeks ago I discovered in a flat in Crosby a pair of cat paintings on glass panels which were in a pile of junky prints destined for the skip by the family who had inherited them. The small, three by five inch pictures were very dusty and looked nondescript under decades of dust! In fact they were painted by a prolific Birkenhead artist called Bessie Bamber who worked about 1870-1910. Little seems to be known about this artist, but her kitten and cat pictures do turn up throughout the Merseyside area. She signed all her pictures with double overlapping ‘B’s in the bottom right-hand corner. Bessie occasionally painted dogs but these are very rare as are her paintings of multiple cat portraits on long mahogany panel plaques. The ‘Power of Cute’ brings positive results in the auction rooms and these two tiny pictures made over £400 last week at our internet auction. Larger examples of her work can make over £2,000 these days.

Another prolific artist to look out for is Charles Wyatt Warren who couldn’t sleep well and painted Welsh landscapes during the night! He lived in Anglesey and had often more than a dozen pictures in preparation in his front room at any one time. He sold them through gift shops in the area for a handful of pounds in the 1960s and 70s. You will now have to pay 100 times more to acquire one! So check out all the cat pictures you discover along with any pictures of Welsh lakes and landscapes. You can call me directly almost anytime on 07836 209995 or send an image to me by text.

“We’re going well, we’re going Shell, we’re going well on Shell, Shell, Shell!” Many readers will remember the Shell petrol song heard on black and white television and cinema screens back in the 1960s. The recording artists were Michael Holliday and Frank Sinatra no less! The ‘Shell Song’ as it was known had a catchy tune and it was difficult to get it out of your head, even if you only heard it once!

Well that was back in the days when I bought six gallons, about 24 litres, of petrol for the equivalent of £1.67p to fill up my Triumph Herald estate car. It would last the whole week too!

Shell petrol was founded in 1897 by Marcus and Samuel Samuel. Their father was an antique dealer in Houndsditch, London, who imported shells from which Victorian jewellery boxes were made – hence ‘Shell’ petrol. Shell is now the seventh largest company in the world.

Petrolania as the hobby of collecting petrol items and is big business; obsessive collectors will dig deeply into their pockets for rare items. The Shell petrol pump globe illustrated made just under £300 in our last auction. It was formerly located on a garage forecourt opposite Bank Hall Station in Liverpool. Other named illuminated glass globes to look out for are BP, Aero, Benzel, Conoco, Corys, Dragon, Pratts and many others. I think my favourite though has to be...
be an illuminated ‘Tony the Tiger’ petrol globe. ‘Put a Tiger in Your Tank’ was a slogan invented by Emery Smith in 1959 who was a copywriter in Chicago. The Esso petroleum company wanted a character that would attract the growing number of motorcar owners to use their product and the tiger worked well. Striped fabric tiger tails were produced (about 2,500,000) and they were to be seen hanging out of car boots and petrol tank filler caps. The Esso slogan was an extremely successful advertising campaign. You can still find Esso ‘Tiger tails’ being offered for sale to collectors on internet bidding sites. Petroliana is possibly worth looking at as an area for collecting and I am sure that a few dozen petrol cans on shelves in the lounges of leafy Wirral would not cause comment from anyone!

If petroliana does not excite you, as it may not be for everyone, why not have a look at vexillology…

Every picture tells a story and discovering them and the stories of the people depicted is often a biographical adventure. This football photograph I discovered last week was in a rare 1930 leather-bound presentation volume given to Charles (Charlie) Jones of Arsenal Football Club which he joined in 1928. He formerly played for Merthyr Tydfil and was a Welsh International five times. Jones was not selected to play in the 1930 final, but got a book instead – number 25 of only 30 produced. It is worth about £800 and contains many good photographs. On the left in the photograph is Tom Wilson of Huddersfield Town who was known as the “gentleman of football”. Huddersfield won the league three times in the 1920s but lost at the 1930 final 2-0 to Arsenal. Tom Wilson played 464 games and once for England. He even appeared in Madame Tussaud’s in London as a waxwork exhibit – fame indeed!

On the right is TR Parker of Arsenal, formerly of Southampton who was sold to Arsenal in 1926 for £3,250. Parker played 294 games for Arsenal, winning many trophies and died only in 1987 aged 89 having returned to his old job of being a ship’s surveyor. The referee was T Crew, formerly of the now famous Leicester City. The 1930 final at Wembley was attended by 92,499 people. About 25 years ago at a football valuation day, a lady brought in a shirt and jumper which had belonged to Dixie Dean; I wonder where it is now, as rare football memorabilia, especially gold cup-winners medals, are now worth tens of thousands of pounds!

Children’s TV programmes and their characters can have a huge number of followers and collectors, even if only for a limited period. Pinky and Perky, the squeaky singing pigs, spring to mind, as does Noddy of Toyland of course. The Wombles of Wimbledon Common were a huge success in the growing environmentally friendly awareness movement of the 1970s. These tidy creatures were created by Elizabeth Beresford in her books from 1968 and then on TV from 1973, with the voice of Bernard Cribbins narrating. Wombles memorabilia is still around and recently I came across a Wombles radio in Heswall and a Wombles lightshade! The radio is worth about £20 as is the lightshade. Most will have been discarded by now. The Wombles were sought all over Wimbledon Common by children who scattered litter for the Wombles to collect and recycle, but this only resulted in mounds of refuse to clear for the local authorities! Hey ho… that’s life!

Finally, Dick James (real name Leon Isaac Vapnick) who recorded the Beatles’ demo discs was the voice that sang the Robin Hood theme song on the 1950s TV series. Some readers might admit to remembering the series in the days of black and white TV! Call me for home visits and lots more discoveries on 0151 709 5559 or 0151 342 2321 or 07836 209995.
The Architect’s Column

Nick Belderbos, Chartered RIBA Architect and Director of Heswall based architects-direct.com, answers your questions and offers advice.

Should we stay or should we go?

Q: We are planning on extending and refurbishing our existing property. Would it be beneficial for us to move out of the property during the construction phase of the project?

A: The answer to this question will very much depend on the nature and extent of works you are proposing to carry out.

The type of work being carried out on domestic properties has changed significantly over the last ten years.

Before the recession most of our clients were looking to extend their property, increase the value and move on. The extent of work was usually limited and based on adding an additional bedroom or reception room to the side or at the rear of their property. The extension was usually part of a 5 year plan before moving to a new home and carrying out the process again.

Since the recession the attitude homeowners have towards their property has changed. Easy profits are more difficult to achieve and bigger properties on the market are too expensive to move into. Most clients are now looking at remaining in their property long term with a large proportion intending to stay permanently.

This change in attitude towards domestic properties has resulted in larger extensions and more intrusive internal works. For clients planning on remaining in a property long term it makes sense to carry out as much refurbishment within the existing parts of the property as the budget will allow. The following internal works are frequently added to domestic construction works:

- New kitchen
- New bathroom
- Re-wire
- New boiler and associated plumbing works
- Inclusion of an en-suite
- New windows
- Re-configuration of internal rooms to suit modern lifestyles.
- New doors, flooring, decorations etc

For each individual project consideration should be given to the following when deciding if moving out of the property during the construction phase will be beneficial:

- Extensions

An extension can be significantly less disruptive than refurbishment works. It is possible for most extensions be carried out with no impact until the final couple of weeks when the knock through to the existing property takes place.

- Cost

The cost of renting a four-bedroom house could vary between £900 and £1100 per month. Moving out of a property for a six month construction period could add in the region of 10% to the construction value. If it is possible to remain in the property this money could be better spent on the works rather than accommodation.

Programme

The construction programme could be reduced in length if the property is vacant during the works. The main contractor can work on multiple areas at the same time ensuring that the trades can carry out all their works in sequence rather than returning on several occasions.

Stress

Do not underestimate the stress of living on, what will essentially be, a building site. For standalone extensions this can be managed. However, if the works involve internal refurbishment it will be necessary to vacate parts of the property at different times to enable the contractor to work around you. If the works involve a kitchen extension this could result in a temporary kitchen being set up while the works are carried out.

Health and Safety

It is essential to review if the areas of works can be safely segregated from the occupiers. Works are often carried out on family homes and children will have to be taken into consideration.

Once these issues have been reviewed you will be in a position to make an informed decision on the benefits of staying or moving out. As a general principle it is usually possible to stay in the property for standalone extensions. Once the level of work in the existing house becomes more extensive the financial benefits of staying are usually outweighed by the practical and programming benefits of moving out. It may be possible to stay for a portion of the construction period, while the external build is carried out, vacating the property only as the contractor moves into the existing house. If a short term let can be found for this period it is certainly worth considering.

Built in Bookcases

Storage in domestic properties is always at a premium. Built in bookcases and floor to ceiling bookcases create an interesting alternative to painted walls. Building around door openings increases the storage capacity compared to free standing bookcases. Folding screen doors can be incorporated to create linkage between rooms or alternatively the door can be part of the bookcase acting as a secret door to the next room.

For more advice visit the blog page of our website www.architects-direct.com, send your queries to nick@architects-direct.com or phone 0151 342 5455
Have you protected yourself with a lasting power of attorney?

The sad fact is that 94% of over 65s have not!

The over 65s are now rapidly approaching a staggering 25% (that’s 15 million) of the UK population, and it is an age at which we should be thinking of protecting ourselves and our families by putting lasting powers of attorney and wills in place.

Around 65% of over 65s do not have wills; however, a staggering 94% have not put lasting powers of attorney in place! In fact just over one million lasting powers of attorney have been registered, since their inception in 2007, covering all age groups. Generally, despite there having been many press reports of horror stories, many people still seem unaware of the necessity to draw up lasting powers of attorney.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 states that should you have some form of incapacity (permanent or temporary) which prevents you from looking after your day-to-day affairs – then you must have attorneys in place. If you have a registered lasting power of attorney in place, then all is well and those attorneys can act immediately, without further fuss.

If you have such an incapacity with no power of attorney in place then there is an extremely onerous, complex and very expensive procedure for your family or close friends to undertake. This involves making application to the Court of Protection by family or friends. This complex process can take over six months and costs can easily exceed £2,000, with no guarantees of success!

Should you have no family or friends able or willing to undertake the rigours of such an application, then indeed there is a much worse case scenario that can occur. The court has the power to immediately appoint attorneys for you, called deputies. These deputies will take full control of your finances and divert your pensions to themselves. Your bank account will be closed and cheque books, bank and credit cards cancelled.

Your appointed deputies can be a solicitor, an accountant and even the County Council official and this worst case scenario is when it becomes wickedly expensive. They will charge £500 per year before they do anything and they charge for every single transaction they undertake on your behalf. Costs and charges can easily exceed £3,000 per year. There is even a final ‘winding up’ fee of £290 when you die. You have been warned!

This article was compiled by Mike Barnes of Wirral Estate Planning based in Birkenhead. Wirral Estate Planning specialise in wills, trusts, lasting powers of attorney and probate. Mike can be contacted on 0845 052 2757 (standard rate) and would be pleased to offer you a free consultation in the comfort of your own home. Please see their advert above.
Do you drink enough to keep hydrated?

The human body is made up of over 70% water. So understandably, drinking plenty of fluids to maintain and replenish water levels is vital for things like muscle function, joint and brain protection, immune health, digestion, and even mood. Over the summer make sure you stay hydrated to help your body function well.

Here I’m picking out some benefits to help you understand why you should try to stay well-hydrated...

Avoid over-eating – sometimes thirst can be mistaken for hunger so staying hydrated can help you avoid cravings and overeating.

Better muscle efficiency – being hydrated is essential for keeping those muscles strong and energized. This is because H2O aids the transport of oxygen to your muscles so they are prepared when exerted.

Aids digestion – being hydrated helps your digestive system work efficiently.

Prevents fatigue – any physical activity will be less demanding if you are hydrated. This will help you avoid energy slumps or running out of steam when doing physical day to day stuff.

Brain function – proper hydration will help the blood and oxygen flow to the brain, resulting in better brain function and help you feel more focused.

If you are on the go this summer take drinks on your journey wherever you go. Add cubes of ice to keep your drinks cooler for longer.

As I always say, small changes long term make the big difference. Just upping your water intake initially is great if you know you don’t drink enough. Try healthy alternatives if you currently drink a lot of fizzy drinks. Try a cup of green tea daily or for a cold drink option. I personally add a few splashes of liquid chlorophyll to my water to give it a little flavour and add extra health benefits. I’d recommend giving it a try, it has a slight spearmint flavour!

If you would like to try chlorophyll you can order on this link and you will get 15% off usual sale price when you order online at: hayleylundyfitness.eu.nspshop.com/liquid_chlorophyll, or go to my website www.thefitnessqueen.co.uk and scroll down to the supplements link where you can then click on and search in the A-Z of products. You can also purchase a four pack for better value – just look for the option. You can expect one bottle to last around three months.

If you would like to get more of my nutrition tips, advice and offers please subscribe to my newsletter at www.thefitnessqueen.co.uk

Fitness Queen News

Some of our FQ members took part in the Liverpool Pretty Muddy! It’s great to see the girls getting fit and having fun whilst raising money for charity!
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