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magazine

December 2016



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Welcome to the December 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, Caldby 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.

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

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A two-star review and, more likely, the response from Gary Usher, owner of Heswall's Burnt Truffle, on TripAdvisor (the "World's Largest Travel Site with over 385 million traveller reviews") has brought the restaurant into the national spotlight with an article in the *Daily Mail* and elevated internet exposure.

The review – by ‘Caporciano’

“Wrong night wrong choices? But not again!”

I am an expert on Chicken Liver Pâté ! Predictable as I am! Eight of us ordered various starters & one of us asked the waitress Tagliatelle or Pâté - she advised the former! But, I went with my standard choice!

Pâté was awful more of a soufflé / mouse affair! Presentation was as if a five year old had put it on the plate! Everyone else's starters all looked good at least - this was a joke!

I did make my feelings / observations plain there & then! The waitress acknowledged theirs was a 'light' Pâté !

My main: Pork Belly was good! One of our group muttered about an unsatisfactory main!

I was still hungry at this point (thank the Lord I didn't let any of the assembled have one of my 'side' chips!

So I had to have a Dessert! Not too fussed - but I can never pass over a Creme brûlée!

I asked the waitress if the Creme brûlées were passable! She knew of my dissatisfaction with the starter! I had full assurance!

Well, not over sized! Looked like a good Creme brûlée - lovely coating of burnt sugar / nice and hard! But! The creme was not too dissimilar to a quality brand of custard from a certain supermarket! (Now, there is a trick for a dinner party with non too discerning guests!) Sorry, once again it didn't do it for me!

So what are the positives? Nice bottle of water on the table with a mint in it! Most of us were satisfied with our fair! Staff most attentive!

Moving on! Wine, when I see prices going above £20 I have lost interest & really question as to why I am there in the first place! However, play the man! Homed in on the third choice of wine @ £22! (Little else I could do!) I asked to see two particular bottles & inspected them. Reds! They felt as if they had come out of a fridge! You don't treat an everyday Red like that! I made mention of the fact & I was assured the Bottle that would be returned would be at an appropriate temperature!

My companions however were imbibing a White wine @ a modest £35 per bottle - easy to open (with a screw top!!) I never buy screw top bottles of wine - at any price!

Overall - I had heard reports various! Now, that I've been there needn't go again! Too much of a gamble!

But, what is a gamble for the restaurateur is they never know which is the guy sat there who will write a report! And they got lucky it was me!

Lessons to be learnt? Mine? I won't return! For them? Well, simply this the customer is always right! And matters are always resolved when simply saying or their choosing not to itemise a particular starter in the final bill ? (That's what a good restaurant does / especially when it chooses to make most of its profits on its wines?)

The reply – by ‘Gazza’

Good evening Sir!

This is my first ever response to a Burnt Truffle review!

There are two things that I am really pleased about! Firstly, Emma and I never have to see you in Burnt Truffle again! You were vile! Secondly, that I was actually working in the kitchen at Burnt Truffle the evening you dined! I was able to support the team whilst they dealt with your onslaught! In fact, you Sir are the reason I was stood in a queue at a petrol station at 10.05pm that night buying eight cans of Stella whilst questioning the human race!

“Worse pâté I've ever had!” you said to Emma who was trying to run the restaurant that evening! “A disgusting mousse texture!” you said! “Why on earth was there not rocket?” you said! “I am an expert!” you said! “And presentation is a joke!” you said! As I've said before to other Level 6 TripAdvisor food critics – it's a slice of pâté with toast! Let me know if you do want to come again and I'll serve it in a Martini glass garnished with rocket and sparklers!

You went on! You said that the wine was terrible and you asked Emma to put it in the microwave! You didn't stop there! You then asked if the crème brûlée would be good enough to pass your exacting criteria!!!! You complained about price, you complained about portion size and you complained about quality! You even complained about a mouse (sic).....!

I've been through some of your 105 reviews! A common notable theme of your negativity is “rude and bad mannered people”! Sir! Can I ask – is it not rude the way you acted in front of your seven companions and the way you attempted to humiliate our team at Burnt Truffle all evening?! Is it not rude telling the Manager, in front of your seven companions and everyone else within earshot, that the pâté was the worst that you have ever tasted?! Have you ever seen the quote “A person who is nice to you but is not nice to the waiter is not a nice person”?!

You wrote “But, what is a gamble for the restaurateur is they never know which is the guy sat there who will write a report! And they got lucky it was me! (sic)” ! Sir! There's a flip side to this! I think it's you who took the gamble! You got me!

You ended, coincidentally as is often the case with “Level 6” contributors and avid badge collectors, with the old fashioned phrase “The customer is always right!” and you Sir are precisely why the GUEST is not always right! The pâté was taken off the bill but you were so self involved and self righteous that you missed the explanation!

Finally, Sir, we have two other restaurants! One is Sticky Walnut in Chester and the other is Hispi in Manchester! You said you wouldn't be returning to Burnt Truffle! So just to make absolutely sure we don't see you at either of the other two, the pâté recipe is the same in all three!

Arrivederci bro!

Gazza X !

Burnt Truffle opened in Heswall in July 2015 after a crowdfunding campaign following the success of sister restaurant Sticky Walnut in Chester. More than £100,000 was raised in a month with 891 donations. It seems Caporciano's review is contrary to the majority – with over 280 reviews, the restaurant is ranked number one out of 70 Heswall restaurants on TripAdvisor. It has received positive reviews from Jay Rayner in *The Guardian*, Lisa Markwell in *The Independent* and Liverpool Echo's Jade Wright.

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With the storm seasons approaching no tree is entirely safe, given the possibility that an exceptionally strong wind could damage or uproot even a mechanically 'perfect' specimen. It is, therefore, usually accepted that hazards are only recognisable from distinct defects or from other failure-prone characteristics.

Wirral Tree Services would like to share some basic advice, the following are just a few tips but if in doubt please always seek professional advice.



Weak Forks and Branch Union

In many tree species, weak forks appear to be the most frequent contributory factor to major failure above ground level. They are thus probably more important than decay as a cause of hazard, although decay can be very dangerous when combined with a weak fork.

Look out for 'raised bark lips' where the forks meet



Abrupt bend in branch

An abrupt or 'dog-leg' bend is likely to mark the point where a side shoot has replaced a pruned, broken or dead portion of the branch. A combination of localised stress and decay, associated with the old wound, can sometimes lead to failure.

Look out for elbows above old wounds points



Butt Swell

Certain types of decay at the stem base, if extensive, may increase flexure sufficiently to stimulate extra growth of wood and create a bulge. In many cases, the extra growth is enough to maintain adequate support, but investigation is needed to ascertain this.

Look out for stem cracks, cracks in ground around root plate area and fungal fruit bodies



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Angela Hesketh

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Angela Hesketh – Head of Department

Angela has over 25 years' experience in all aspects of residential conveyancing and leads the teams across our branch network. Angela's aim is for our teams to provide clear and straightforward advice to keep you informed and give you peace of mind throughout the transaction.

To help you plan ahead for your move, we have put together some top tips which we hope will help.

1. Work out the true costs – Get quotes ahead of time for surveys, building insurance, legal fees, moving costs, etc. Knowing exactly how much all of these will cost before start the process will prevent any nasty surprises.
2. Visit the property – This is probably one of the biggest purchases you will make. Visit the property more than once, and preferably before you exchange contracts to ensure all is in order and as you expected.
3. Communication – If you are working to a particular deadline or have a date in mind, communicate this as early as possible to make sure this is realistic and ensure that no one is surprised or caught unaware.
4. Be realistic with timescales – There is no typical timeline for buying a house, but average timescales in the UK show it can take anywhere from 8 weeks to 12 months.
5. Get an expert to carry out the legal work – Instructing a solicitor or experienced conveyancer who is an expert is vitally important in the process of moving home. They will have the knowledge and expertise to deal with any complications that may arise.

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Gents' Road, Heswall

Part 2 by Roger Lane and Jenny McDonald

In Part 1, published in the last issue, we described the history of the houses on the east side of Gents' Road, the original name for Thurstaston Road and its then extension as far as Mere Lane on Telegraph Road. We finished the first part at the Black Horse Public House and now in this second part we begin the return journey to describe the history of the houses on the other side (west side), as we begin the steep walk up out of the lower village.

The **Children's Church**, built in 1840, used to be attached to the first school in Heswall, **Elder Cottage**, which was demolished for road widening in 1954. **Appletree Cottage** was built in the grounds of Elder Cottage. Next up the hill is **Hunters Lodge** with its very characteristic towered roofline, which is easily recognisable from old photographs taken from the church tower. We believe this is on the same site as the house called **The Bungalow**, which was included in directories in 1901, but there was no building on the site on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map. Going further up the hill (originally called Bungalow Hill), there are several more modern houses mostly built in the second half of the 20th century.

Just past the entrance to Farr Hall Road is **Axholme** – this seems to be a more recent name for **Glenlough** which is listed next in the road in the early directories. In 1950 it was Glenlough, then in 1955 it's Axholme. Arthur Stone, who lived in Glenlough in the first years of the 20th century, joined the navy, becoming a lieutenant in 1914 on the HMS *Manxman*, a seaplane carrier. Sadly he drowned in the First World War and is honoured on the war memorial. Herbert O'Connell, a cotton broker, lived here later and could have been a relative of the Brocklebank family from the Roscote in Wallrake.

Delavor House is the next house. Built on a plot of land called Troughton's Croft purchased in 1868 by Henry Totty, a farmer and author of a famous local diary, to build a house for his mother, Martha. William Laird MP and shipbuilder lived here in 1886 when the site was 1,985 sq yds, but it is not clear if it was just for the summer as he rented it at £100 per year. The house did not sell that year when advertised, there being only one bid of £1,000. William Laird still occupied the house in 1896. The Kerr Wilson family lived here from the early 1900s until the 1950s. Their son John died in the Second World War in 1940 while serving as a pilot from Gravesend. His body was never found and his name is recorded on the Heswall War Memorial. The house was later turned into two flats but is now one house, although another house now occupies part of the original garden. A modern house has now replaced the bungalow built next door later in the century.

Latrigg: Winifred Primrose began her school in this house and called it Latrigg School. She was the founder of the Parents National Education Union. Well known locally, throughout her life she wrote school books, led country dancing and travelled the world giving interesting talks on her return. She later moved the school to Gayton Road and 'Miss Primrose's School' prospered until the second half of the 20th century. The Cope family lived here in 1911 and Phyllis, a daughter later ran a hairdressers in Telegraph road. The Rushworth family lived here later.

Brackenhurst: William Henry Jones and family lived in this house at the beginning of the last century. He was an auctioneer and estate agent (Shaw and Jones, Market Street, Birkenhead), and sat on the Birkenhead School Board. They lived here until 1942 when the estate of house and land bordering Delavor Road was auctioned at the Heswall Hotel on 24 August. The building site sold for £1,150, but the house was withdrawn at £2,900.

Lingmel: In 1895, Dr Richard Hutchinson FRCS died at the age of 80 in Lingmel. He had been in practice in Liverpool. He had Lingmel built and retired to the house a few years before his death. In 1906, a family called Richardson lived in the house, and in 1914 George Pericles Convelas. Lingmel used to be approached from Thurstaston Road, but another house has been built on its land so the entrance is now from Queens Drive



Lingmel 1907

Shanklin and **Sunholme** (formerly Deecroft) were built in the 1930s/40s.

Cave Cottage was the original gardener's cottage for The Cave. Much has been written in earlier articles about **The Cave**. It was built in 1873 by John Francis Doyle, who rebuilt St Peter's Church, for James Adam, a Liverpool fruit broker, and his family as a summer residence. It was used by them for several decades and the family and servants would all travel over from Liverpool for the summer season. The house commands a spectacular view over the Dee and has special architectural features. The real cave in the grounds was believed to have been used by smugglers to store goods from ships moored in the River Dee, and still exists. Miss Adam later lived permanently in the house until the 1950s.

Palfreymans is now a modern house, but this replaced the former house of the same name which was the coach house for the Cave. Palfreyman is an occupational name for a man responsible for the maintenance and provision of saddle horses from the Middle English *Palfrey* and Old French *Palefrei*, meaning saddle horse. William Goodall, a coachman, is listed as living here in 1901.

Sunny Corner, appropriately named, occupies the corner plot on Oldfield Road and Thurstaston Road. The Patterson family lived here for several decades. The bungalow next to this house was built on the tennis court of Denham in Oldfield Road.

Sunset House was sold by auction on the same day as Cambrian house on 5 June 1917. Described as "*Detached Residence standing in its own grounds with good views overlooking the River Dee, The house contains - Dining Room, Drawing Room, Kitchen, Scullery, Pantry, and Four bedrooms Box room, Bathroom and W.C. The house has water laid on and is let at £28 per annum upon a lease expiring on April 1st 1919, Tenure Freehold and tithe free*". Among the early inhabitants of this house were Atkinson, Gibson, Bley, Appleton and Morter.

Roslyn was owned by a solicitor, Henry Cecil Day; his widow continued to live there for many years after his death. It may have been a nursing home at one stage. **Dunedin**: Mabel Purdon lived in this house from the 1930s to the 1960s, but the house probably had another name earlier as it has been difficult to find any more mention of it. **Lindores**: The Misses Young lived in this house for many years and had a small school there at one time, having previously lived in another house with the same name in Irby Road, the name possibly being called after a village in Fife. Kiran: Douglas Brown lived here in 1906–14 when it had the same name.

Redcliffe is listed as being two apartments in 1901 to 1914, being occupied during some of those years by John Shone and Charles Roberts.

Hillview: There is a possibility that this house could have once been called Duncutha. Later in the 20th century it was occupied by the Teece sisters whose father owned a sweet shop in Whitfield Buildings. **Fernlea** was previously known as **Newholme** and **Newstead**. This is a more recent addition to the other houses in this part of the road. **Ballure**: The Partington family lived in this house for several decades up to the middle of the 20th century. Highcliffe: This is the last house now in Thurstaston Road.

Mr Wainwright who was a bell-ringer at St Peters lived here with his family in the 1930s.



Telegraph Road/Thurstaston Road Junction

We now turn left into Telegraph Road, which as mentioned earlier was called Thurstaston Road up to the 1950s. It is difficult to identify some of the houses in this part of the road as they were recorded as numbers in Telegraph Road after that time.

Ellesmere: The Jones family lived in this house from the 1930 for over three decades.

Quarry Hill: At some stage there seem to have been numbers 1 and 2 Quarry Hill. Possibly that came about when the flat-roofed house was built for the Hough Family, or possibly Ellesmere could have been number 1. The Hough family were part of Jones and Hough Company who built many

houses in this area; they also ran Quarry Garage, which has now been replaced by Quarry Court. The paint shop used by the garage still remains behind these houses.

The next house is currently being replaced by an apartment block for which planning permission was granted in 2015. The house was called **Longview** at the time of demolition but could earlier have been called **Craworth**. If this was the case it was once occupied by John Loble estate agent (Loble and Jones). Next door is **Lancelyn**, which was also the home of John Loble's father William, a retired estate agent in 1939. Number 275 Telegraph Road was **Kenya** in the 1930s and lived in by the Blincow family. **Bexhill** was the home of a professional musician in 1939 who lived with his parents. Later the Hurrell family lived there. **Farralene** was the home of a rice mill manager in 1939. It has a model cat on its garage roof. We cannot be sure but possibly this was moved here from a nearby house when its occupants left.

Meland Dee was the home of Henry Freeman during the Second World War. He was a chief superintendent engineer with a shipping company. The Freeman family lived there in the 1940s.

Strathallan Close now occupies the land where two large houses once stood. The first being **Strathallan** and the second **Thornhill**. During the Second World War the Rushworth family lived in **Strathallan** which was probably named after a place in Scotland. Edwin Rushworth, retired musical director of Rushworth and Dreaper, was knocked down and fatally injured in 1940 in the blackout outside his home in a collision with a motorcycle while saying goodbye to friends.



Thornhill was the last house in Thurstaston Road by Oldfield Drive and was occupied by the Cairns family from 1914. When Miss Cairns died there in 1945 her furniture was sold by Outhwaite Litherland in Liverpool. The list included a modern billiard dining table in mahogany with accessories. When the house was sold in that year there were three lots: "Lot 1 The house consisting of Hall, Cloakroom, Three entertaining rooms, conservatory, Good domestic offices, seven bedrooms, three bathrooms, central heating, three car garage, nice garden and the rates were £117 net. Lot 2 was Building Land having frontages to Telegraph Road and Oldfield Drive. Lot 3 Building land with frontages to Telegraph Road Oldfield Road and Oldfield Way fourteen and a half acres in all." Previously that year the whole site comprising 19 acres had been offered for sale. Later in the latter half of the century both houses were demolished and the houses in Strathallan Close were built.

We have endeavoured to share some of the history in Gents' Road. If you live in one of these houses and have more details about names and dates, we would like to hear from you. Here are some house names that we have not been able to identify. Can anyone help us? Garryduff, Rockland, Duncutha, Glebelands, Holcroft, Lindslade and Thurland.

Our thanks to Michael Roca for supplying the photo of Thornhill.

Submitted by Jenny McDonald 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

Robert Quinn Funeral Directors



Following an extensive redevelopment to the former William & Benjamin florist, brother and sister, Robert and Karen Quinn, are pleased to be able to officially open their doors to clients.

Work began last year with both Robert and Karen digging trenches, dismantling a chimney, a garage and cleaning bricks for reuse. Just a shell remained.

They haven't been afraid of getting their hands dirty – as many of their new neighbours can attest, and whose words of encouragement on rainy days helped enormously!

Now, following an intense effort from all involved, the paint has dried, the cushions have been plumped and the teapot is ready, they are both incredibly proud of what has been achieved.

"Our ethos was to create a contemporary, welcoming atmosphere that is comfortable for the people of Heswall and surrounding areas. This begins with the office and is carried through in our approach to clients and their needs - this is what is really important. We have ensured we can provide ample accessible car parking, which is a rarity in Heswall! Also there are two homely chapels of rest with garden views."

Personal attention from either Robert or Karen can be sought any time, day or night.

0151 342 1477

235 Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 7SF

robertquinnfuneraldirectors.co.uk

HAVE YOURSELF A WHITMORE & WHITE CHRISTMAS!



Put your feet up this Christmas and let us do all the work for you! Explore our fabulous 2016 Christmas Hamper range in store or online, or create your own bespoke gift. We can even post your hamper for you for just £7.95*.

Corporate Christmas orders always welcomed. Last orders 16th December.

*Highland, Islands and NI, Ireland are more expensive.



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Carol Singing in Heswall Lower Village



Get in the Christmas mood by joining in carol singing around the Christmas tree in Heswall Lower Village on Wednesday, 14th December, at 7.15pm.

"This is a lovely event which we enjoy every year," said Dr Steve Anderson, chairman of The Heswall Society, which organises the sing-song. "We will be accompanied by the Lyceum Band, and the carols are being led by the Rector of St Peter's Church, the Revd Martin Cannam.

"We are also very grateful to Petrocelli's, who will be providing refreshments. We're looking forward to seeing as many people as possible."

In the event of bad weather, the event will be held in St. Peter's Centre.

Information about The Heswall Society can be found at their website: www.theheswallsociety.org.uk

We can't guarantee snow this Christmas but we can guarantee your rent!

Recent research undertaken by the National Landlord Association suggested that four out of ten landlords earn such slim margins from their rental income that just one missed payment by a tenant can cause serious difficulties.

This is now going to be compounded by the fact that we are fast approaching the peak season of rental arrears... Christmas!

Tenants often struggle to balance the cost of paying for the festivities with paying their rent, and this can often lead to arrears over the festive season and into the New Year.

For landlords who are also struggling themselves or who are operating on tight margins, rental arrears over Christmas can have a devastating impact and ruin a time of year when most people want to relax and enjoy time with family and friends.

Northwood Wirral
☎ 0151 348 4527
northwooduk.com

JOANNA DIAMOND,
DIRECTOR AT NORTHWOOD WIRRAL LIMITED, COMMENTED:

"Christmas is an expensive time of year and tenants may struggle to prioritise paying the rent or paying for a big Christmas celebration. There is huge social pressure to buy the latest 'must have' children's toys or latest gadget. This is why rental arrears traditionally rise at this time of year and often carry over into January and February.

However, landlords on our **Guaranteed Rent Scheme** do not have to worry about this seasonal problem, and can enjoy Christmas knowing that their rent is going to be paid on time, regardless if the tenant pays or not.

Our **Guaranteed Rent Scheme** was designed to deliver complete landlord peace of mind year round – but our landlords particularly appreciate it when they see headlines about rental arrears as they know their rental income is guaranteed, meaning that they can sleep soundly."

Merry Christmas from the whole team at Northwood Wirral Limited

northwood
PaperPropertyPeople

The Friendship Club

Are you living alone and looking for a friendly welcome and good company? Then why not join us at the Friendship Club at the Beacon Cafe, Telegraph Road every Monday (excepting holiday periods) from 11.45 am to 1pm for soup, sandwiches, coffee/tea and biscuits all for £3.

The Friendship Club is a part of the Methodist Church and is run by volunteers. If you require transport 'Helpink' (648 3322), a volunteer service, can arrange to pick you up and return you to your home.

For more information contact Chris Bates on 353 0788.



We use our experience and skill to ease your pain



Thingwall Osteopathy moved to 1A Penrhyn Avenue Thingwall CH61 7UP in 2000, having previously been established in Irby Village. We are a friendly practice and treatment is given in comfortable surroundings. All our osteopaths have completed a four-year full-time training course. They are all registered with the General Osteopathic Council and have Professional Indemnity Insurance as required by law.

We provide structural osteopathy and two of our osteopaths provide cranial osteopathy. We treat all age groups, both adults and children. Among the conditions treated are spinal pain, joint pain and stiffness, arthritic pain, muscle pain and stiffness, sciatic pain, neck-related head pain and sports injuries.

Margaret Lavender trained at the British School of Osteopathy and has an interest in treating babies and children using cranial osteopathy.

Diane Henderson trained at the Surrey Institute of Osteopathic Medicine and has an interest in treating neck-related head pain.

We have recently been joined by Christina Parsons who has practised in Rodney Street in Liverpool for many years. Christina trained at the British School of Osteopathy, where she came top in her year, and she is particularly interested in osteopathy in relation to pregnancy.

We are open every day, including Saturday morning and late evening on a Thursday. For our full opening times and prices visit our website at www.wirral-osteopaths.com. To make an appointment please ring 0151 648 6870

Margaret Lavender BA Hons DO

Diane Henderson BSc Hons Ost Med

Christina Parsons MSc DO

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Appointments daily, including Saturday morning, Late night Thursdays

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Also at this address Kath Murphy, Acupuncture and Reflexologist 07941 550505

Former hospital employees reunite at The Hazelwell

A care home in Heswall invited former employees of the Cleaver Hospital to a special cheese and wine reunion evening in November more than 30 years after it closed. The Hazelwell, a new 'all inclusive', care home in Oldfield Road, opened earlier this summer following a £5.5 million investment into the old nurses' accommodation building. The Cleaver Hospital, on the west coast of the Wirral Peninsula, is remembered with great fondness as a hospital which treated local patients for more than 80 years.

Originally called the West Derby, Liverpool and Toxteth Park Hospital and opening in 1902, it became known as the Cleaver Sanatorium – named after Mr HP Cleaver who was the inspiration behind the hospital's construction. For 17 years, between 1913 and 1930, it was a children's hospital until they were forced to evacuate to North Wales, due to the outbreak of the Second World War, at which point adults were then admitted.

In 1950, the hospital was renamed Cleaver Hospital and in the 1960s a chapel was attached to it and a hospital school was also based there for some years. As the Cleaver Hospital was a sanatorium – a medical facility for long-term illness, most typically tuberculosis – its location on the edge of the River Dee where the air was reputed to be pure, is said to have helped to restore the health of the TB patients.

The Cleaver Hospital continued to serve the local community for more than 30 years before its closure in 1983, following the opening of Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton. It remained without purpose for five years before the land was sold in 1988 for £2.5 million.

The hospital was demolished and the Oldfield Gardens estate was built on the site; however, the remaining nurses' accommodation was opened as the Cleaver Residential Home in 1989, before it also closed, sometime in the noughties.

Now under the ownership of a family-run business, Heswall Care Limited, The Hazelwell is a residential, nursing, palliative and respite care home, built to an exceptionally high standard. Its 55 elegantly appointed bedrooms all have en-suite bathrooms and its leisure facilities include a cinema, salon and nail bar, gym, library and a stunning rooftop terrace with views over the River Dee.

Manager Liza Millington said: "The site The Hazelwell now sits on obviously used to be home to the nurses' home of the Cleaver Hospital, and having lived in the Wirral my whole life, I know how well thought of the hospital was. I remember it being a big part of the town's heritage and it was very sad when it closed.

"There are many nurses who used to work at the Cleaver Hospital still based in the Wirral so we thought it would be a great idea to get all former employees together under one roof for a lovely reunion evening with cheese and wine to swap old stories and catch up.

"The Hazelwell has had millions of pounds spent on it and has been turned into a truly magnificent and beautiful care home. I'm sure the nurses who used to work here will find it fascinating to look around the new building. You will love the incredible rooftop terrace!"

For more information about The Hazelwell Care Home, call Liza or Karen on 0151 342 9654 or email info@thehazelwell.com



Cleaver Hospital former employees (left to right) Eillen Welsh, Gill Ayriess, Pat Hulme, Gaynor Harris, Ann Pierce, Enid Egner, Anne Davis. Photography by David Colbran



The Mount Milk Bar, Heswall

In the last issue, Suzanne from Kettle Design asked readers for information on their new premises at No.7 The Mount, Heswall. Barry Adams kindly got in touch with the following...

The building in The Mount now being renovated by Kettle Design was The Mount Milk Bar from at least the early 1940s until it closed in about 1961. The business was owned by Frederick Greenwood, known as Pop, and his wife Kate Greenwood, who was known as Kitty. The Greenwoods lived above the shop and took in a long-term lodger to supplement their income. They had one daughter who was known by her second name, Muriel, who married Ben Ford – Muriel and Ben emigrated to Australia but returned after some years.

Our mother, Linda Adams, nee Edge, worked for them from the mid-1940s until the shop closed. She was responsible for most of the baking and cooking as well as serving in the shop, and she cooked real home-made food. The scones, cakes and pies were very good. Our mother made sure we were kept well fed. My brother, sister and I were also very lucky because if any scones and fancy cakes were left over at the end of the day she was allowed to bring them home.

The Milk Bar was also well known for its home-made ice cream. In the late 1940s and in the '50s, many people from Birkenhead came to Heswall shore for a day out. On their way home, they'd call in at the Milk Bar for ice cream. The Milk Bar frequently made 'Hot Pot' suppers for the Assembly Rooms Social Club, which was further down The Mount. The Social Club was also provided with cakes, trifles, jelly and sandwiches for children's parties.

My brother Peter used to clean the yard, bin area and the store building behind the Milk Bar and do the family shopping for the Greenwoods each Saturday morning, for which he was paid 2/6d. All of us children would take part in doing work at the Milk Bar. When Peter started a full-time Saturday job I took over from him. My sister Pauline would help mum to clean and set the tables.

Mrs Greenwood was a strict Methodist and was against drink and gambling; Pop was quite different. One day when I was cleaning the store building at the back of the premises I found a stash of beer on a top shelf. I told Pop and he was delighted as he had forgotten the bottles were there. I had to promise not to tell his wife. Pop would frequently set me problems to solve and do mental arithmetic. One sum I can remember was what is 'six and seven, twice eleven, four fifteens and five'. Pop gave me an Omega pocket stopwatch in a gunmetal case that my stepfather loaned to his father, but when he died my stepfather couldn't find it. I would love to know what happened to it.

Peter remembers a large number of wooden crosses being delivered to the Milk Bar. They were the crosses from war graves that had been replaced by headstones. There were no longer any names on them and Peter had to chop them up for firewood.

I remember Mrs Greenwood taking me out for the day to Chester where we went on a boat trip on the river. They also hired a taxi to visit friends in Marker Drayton and took me with them. Peter reminded me of the day Mr and Mrs Greenwood paid for a taxi to take Mum, Peter, Pauline and me to Blackpool lights.

I was in the infants' classes at St Peter's Church School, which at that time was in the Parish Hall due to the school being damaged by a bomb during the war. The classrooms were divided by curtains that went from the floor almost to the ceiling. The school dinners were awful so I used to go to the Milk Bar for my dinner. Pop would give Peter and I betting slips to take to Hughie Roberts the bookie, who had an office behind Reddy's the butchers. Each time we went, Hughie would give us sixpence. We were told to keep an eye out for the village bobby. I frequently spent this on sweets bought from a little shop down The Mount. The old lady who kept the shop would let me have the sweets 'off ration'.

Alma Berry, nee Price, who was in my class at school, told me recently that she looked forward to calling at the Milk Bar after school on her way home and buy a scone from my mother to share with a friend. There was a large room between the shop and the kitchen that was used for providing dinners for the local bankers and businessmen. Many teachers from the local schools would also visit the shop after school.

The boys from the Akbar Nautical School would often visit the Milk Bar and they were all really well behaved. One of the boys was later to become a very well known pianist – his name was Russ Conway. At the weekend there would be many visitors from the North West who were visiting children in the Children's Hospital and patients in the Cleaver Sanatorium, which specialised in treating TB.

Pop died in 1960. When the shop was closed down in about 1961 my mother was offered the business with all the facilities and furniture. She couldn't take advantage of the offer as Alfred Male who owned the property wanted to sell the premises. Mrs Greenwood remarried and our mother kept in touch with her until she died in 1971. The Mount Milk Bar played a large part in the early years of my brother, sister and me.

If anyone has any photographs of The Mount Milk Bar, we would love to share them with readers in a future issue.

A New Home and Hope

‘Emmaus Merseyside’, a local Homeless Charity

Home for Christmas? While many of us are looking forward to homecomings, for some it's just a dream. Merseyside has some of the most affluent areas in the country, but also some of the most deprived. Homelessness is a significant and sadly growing feature of our county. While Wirral is a wonderful place to live – the writer has lived here for over 40 years – it too has deprived areas and people in genuine need of a home.

Homelessness affects a wide range of people and for many different reasons – loss of job, family or relationship breakdown, death of a loved one, abuse by oneself or others, poverty, criminal record, business failure, domestic violence, poor physical or mental health, and more. With such complex issues, overcoming homelessness often means more than providing a roof over one's head. That's why Emmaus supports people to work their way out of homelessness, providing meaningful work as well as a stable home for as long as needed.

The Emmaus ethos – where ‘companions’ (the Emmaus term for its residents) accept responsibility and undertake work and training, contributing to the maintenance and viability of their community rather than relying on short-term lodgings and benefits – proved attractive to our group of Trustees, which includes three people from Wirral. With assistance from other organisations and enthusiastic volunteers, we have developed ‘Emmaus Merseyside’, which serves Wirral, Sefton, Liverpool, Knowsley and St Helens districts from its base in Seaforth.

We have recently had built and opened our bespoke 28-bed Community Home in Seaforth, and companion numbers will grow steadily after the initial proving period. Those who live in our accommodation help to run it: they cook, clean and help maintain the building and gardens as well as work in our Social Enterprise, income from which is crucial in enabling us to become self-sustaining in the longer term.

In 2014 we opened a 7,000 sq. ft ‘Charity Superstore’ which is trading well, and we have recently taken over a ‘Reuse Shop’ based at the Recycling Centre at Irlam Road, Bootle and will soon open another in Old Swan, Liverpool. At each location we collect, repair, upcycle and resell items of donated furniture and other household goods, clothes, books and much more.



“We’re delighted to finally have our own purpose-built Community Building. The Trustees and supporters of Emmaus Merseyside have been working towards this for over ten years. For us, the important work now begins in supporting homeless people and giving them a chance to rebuild their lives.”

Nigel Mellor, Chair of Emmaus Merseyside



Retail Superstore in former Engineering Workshop

We collect and deliver larger items door-to-door and are looking for volunteers to help with various tasks in our shops, including up-cycling. Please get in touch if you can help in any way or simply wish to learn more. Tel: 0151 928 1588 or Email: emmaus.merseyside@live.co.uk

Our Volunteers cover all ages and range of experience; some help for a day, others up to full-time. One unexpected bonus for us as Trustees is seeing Volunteers benefitting from training and mutual support, moving on to paid employment, some for the first time – very rewarding.

A brief Background to the ‘Emmaus Movement’

The first Emmaus community was founded in Paris in 1949 by Abbé Pierre, an MP, Catholic priest and former member of the French Resistance who fought to provide homes for those who lived on the streets of Paris. In 1951, he resigned as an MP to devote himself to fighting homelessness and poverty. Until then, he had used his salary to pay Georges, the initial Companion, and the other 18 men who had joined them, but leaving his job meant that no money was coming in. Instead, he toured smart restaurants in Paris asking for donations.

When the Companions found out about this they were outraged, feeling that begging would compromise their self-respect. So, to raise money, they became ‘rag pickers’, collecting things that people no longer wanted and selling them on. This was the start of the first Emmaus social enterprise and remains at the heart of the Emmaus ethos.

Since the first community opened in the UK in 1991, Emmaus has grown quickly. There are now 28 communities spread across the UK, with a further four groups currently working to establish new communities. The UK is now the largest Emmaus movement outside of France and there are more than 750 Emmaus companions living at communities stretching from Glasgow to Dover. Each one has at least one shop or social enterprise, with many running successful cafés, shops, gardening projects and removal and recycling companies.

No two Emmaus communities are the same – each has its own individual personality, providing a set of services that meet the needs of its local area. For many, Emmaus offers a welcoming place to visit, to speak with companions, volunteers and staff, and to pick up bargains. To ‘Companions’, Emmaus gives a welcome, but also hope, companionship, support, meaningful work, training and a pathway towards independent living for as long as they need it... and not just for Christmas.



SHOP, DONATE, SUPPORT ♥ EMMAUS



emmaus
Merseyside
working together to end homelessness

Emmaus Merseyside serves the whole of Merseyside including Wirral, Sefton, Liverpool, Knowsley and St. Helens. We support formerly homeless people by providing them with a stable home and meaningful work for as long as they need it.

Merseyside, including Wirral, has some of the most affluent areas but also some of the most deprived areas in the country. Homelessness is a significant and sadly growing feature of our society. Here at Emmaus Merseyside we are making a difference and giving people new opportunities to live independently.

Please support our work by donating goods, shopping or volunteering at our charity shops.

Call 0151 928 1588

www.emmaus.org.uk/merseyside

38 Sandy Road, Seaforth, Sefton L21 3TW

Connect with us online: @EmmausMersey EmmausMerseyside

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Parish of Heswall

"A church for the whole community"

We offer a warm welcome to our Christmas services celebrating Jesus' birth.



St. Peter's Church

Sunday 18th December

11.00am All Age Christmas Service
(led by St. Peter's children and young people)
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight Service
(with traditional carols, readings and choir)

Wednesday 21st December

10.30am Midweek Carol Service
(with easier access in St. Peter's Centre)

Christmas Eve

4.30pm Crib Service
(for children and the whole family)
11.00pm Christmas Night Communion

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.15am Holy Communion
11.00am All Age Communion Service

The Good Shepherd

Saturday 10th December

5.00pm Contemporary Carol Service
(with readings, drama and contemporary choral music)

Sunday 18th December

10.30am Nativity Service
(young children are invited to come in nativity costume)

Christmas Eve

3.00pm Crib Service
(for children and the whole family)
7.00pm Christmas Praise
(creative and contemporary worship)

Christmas Day

10.30am All Age Communion Service

New Year's Day

11.00am Joint All Age Service at St. Peter's Centre

"I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full" - Jesus

Thomas Ismay and Dawpool Hall



This picture shows the rear of Dawpool Hall, Thurstaston which had over 60 rooms and employed 32 indoor servants.

The Dawpool Estate, consisting of 228 acres, took its name from the old Thurstaston seaport of Dawpool, known as Redbank in the Middle Ages. It was the portion of Thurstaston Manor from what is today, the right-hand side of Station Road across to Caldy Fields and stretching from the village to the banks of the Dee Estuary. In 1819, the Dawpool Estate and part of Caldy passed to Colonel Maxwell Goodwin who in turn sold these lands to Middlesex-born Joseph Hegan. In Thurstaston Village, Hegan built Home Farm and in 1858 he built the original Dawpool School, then in 1865 he built Dawpool House.

In 1877, millionaire shipowner Thomas Ismay bought Dawpool House and 39 acres of land. Ismay was born in Maryport, Cumberland, where his family worked as shipwrights. From an early age he had a great interest in ships and eventually became a very successful Liverpool-based shipowner with his own fleet, the White Star Line of *Titanic* fame (the names of all his ships ended in 'ic'). Ismay demolished Dawpool House and in 1882 he began building the grand Dawpool Hall overlooking the Dee Estuary, designed by Norman Shaw, the famous architect who designed Scotland Yard, the police headquarters in London. Dawpool Hall, built of red sandstone from Smallwoods Quarry in Heswall, was completed in 1884, at a cost of £53,000 and had more than 60 rooms.

When Telegraph Road (A540) from Heswall to West Kirby was being improved it was to follow the original route skirting Thurstaston Hill and pass close to Dawpool Hall. So, for the sake of privacy, peace and quiet, Ismay paid out of his own pocket to have Telegraph Road diverted well out of sight of his new mansion. The new section of road was cut through the solid rock of Thurstaston Hill, from where the Cottage Loaf is today, down to Caldy Rugby Field. It is still known locally as Ismay's Cutting. The old section of road, which ran from opposite the junction of Thurstaston Road and Telegraph Road through the grounds of the Hall and past Dawpool Cottages, can be seen to join Telegraph Road near the bottom of the hill, not far from the Rugby field. This original route is still marked on the A to Z maps, but is private. Unfortunately, the village pub, the Glegg Arms, which stood on the old road, was pulled down in 1884, forcing landlord Joe Broster to move to another pub, the Chestnut Horse (later renamed the Black Horse on Black Horse Hill, West Kirby). Ismay also used his influence to have Thurstaston Railway Station built as far away as possible from his mansion, which was a



Dawpool School, still standing on Station Road, was built by Joseph Hegan in 1858 and closed by Margaret Ismay who bought it for £100 in 1906, after opening the new Dawpool School in School Lane.



Dawpool Hall as seen from Thurstaston Hill c.1918. Note the original road from Heswall to West Kirby to the left of the picture. In the foreground is Ismay's Cutting (A540) and centre St. Bartholomew's Church.

great inconvenience to the local community. Many an Irby and Thurstaston lad on leave from the Forces cursed Ismay when having to lug his kit bag home almost from the shore.

Ismay was one of the most successful shipowners in the world. He was awarded the freedom of the City of Belfast where his ships were built at the Harland and Wolf shipyard, and he moved in the highest circles, having entertained Queen Victoria who offered him a baronetcy which he refused. In 1889, Edward Prince of Wales, took his nephew, the German Emperor, Wilhelm II (Kaiser Bill), on a tour of British naval ships at Spithead. The Kaiser admired all the ships but was most impressed by the armed cruiser *Teutonic*. She was a White Star liner that had been armour-plated and armed with several guns so that she could also serve as a merchant cruiser in time of war. Kaiser Bill said 'We must have some of these', and he did. Germany began building ships which had previously been built in Great Britain. Within eight years, a German ship, the *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*, was launched, and when completed she won the Blue Riband trophy (for the ship making the fastest eastward crossing of the Atlantic Ocean) which Germany held for ten years. By 1903, Germany had the four fastest ships in the world.

Thomas and Margaret Ismay had nine children. At his daughter's wedding reception Thomas Ismay said that he had "travelled in all parts of the world, but he had never seen a place that he liked better than Thurstaston". Thomas died in 1899 aged 63 and tributes came from all over the world, including one from Kaiser Bill. In 1906, Mrs Margaret Ismay financed and opened a new Dawpool School in memory of her husband, away from the village on Thurstaston Hill, at the top of School Lane (some said so that the village would be quieter). She then bought the old school, still standing in Thurstaston Village, for £100. When she died in 1907, she was buried with her husband Thomas in a tomb which can be seen in Thurstaston Churchyard. In 1912, their son Bruce (which was Margaret's maiden name), was aboard RMS *Titanic* when she went down but survived by getting into one of the lifeboats.

During the Great War, Dawpool Hall was used as a hospital for wounded officers. In later years nobody wanted to buy this huge house, which needed 32 indoor servants to run it along with maintenance men and many gardeners to keep the grounds shipshape. In 1927 Dawpool Hall was dismantled and all the stone, slate and fine fittings and fixtures were auctioned. The 39 acres of grounds were sold off and five new houses, Roughlands, Thors Hill, Pine Ridge, Warren House and another Dawpool (smaller than the original), were built. The name of Home Farm (the Dawpool Estate farm) was changed to Dawpool Farm. When this model farm ceased working, the individually designed sandstone buildings were tastefully made into private dwellings. Ismay's Clock Tower (built 1892) also survives and can be viewed from the private road.

The *Titanic* wasn't the only Blue Star liner to hit an iceberg and sink. In February 1893, the SS *Naronic* sailed from Liverpool, bound for New York with general cargo and cattle, a crew of 50 and 24 cattlemen. She had no radio and vanished in the North Atlantic. In March, another ship found two of her lifeboats, one capsized and the other swamped with no bodies or survivors, in the same area of the Atlantic where the *Titanic* was to sink 19 years later. Her disappearance remained a mystery until a bottle was washed up on Hoylake shore in June 1896 with a message in it signed by a sailor named Young, which read: "Struck an iceberg, sinking fast in cold ocean."



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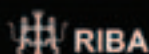
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Earlier in the year you may remember an article we did on a local man from Heswall who has taken it upon himself to complete ten events spread over the year to help raise as much awareness and money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Matt Strange, 31, who suffers from cystic fibrosis, is a keen runner and general fitness fanatic. The disease is an inherited disease caused by a faulty gene.

This gene controls the movement of salt and water in and out of your cells, so the lungs and digestive system become clogged with mucus, making it hard to breathe and digest food. There is currently no cure for cystic fibrosis. Each week five babies are born with cystic fibrosis, and two people die.

The average life expectancy ranges from 30-35 years, so training and keeping fit is an essential part of trying to defy the odds, something Matt is very determined and focused on.

Matt has now completed nine of the ten events; these include six 10k races, one half marathon, Chain Runner (obstacle event) as well as running up and down Snowdon in two hours.

Matt told *Heswall Magazine*: "The challenges so far have really started to take their toll on my body, and I'm excited to rest up after my final event. The hardest event so far was without doubt Snowdon, as this was so demanding on my legs and chest."

Matt has already reached his initial target of over £2,000 to raise before the end of December; however, he has now increased this to £2,500 so that the little extra can be used to support more research and medications for patients.

If you would like to sponsor Matt and help spread more awareness, you can do so at the following www.justgiving.com/MattTeamCF or you can sponsor by texting MSCF85 £5 (or any amount) to 70070.

MUSIC IN HESWALL 'Serenades on Sundays'

Tea, Cakes and a Concert

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15th January

'Harmoniemusik'

Mozart, Hummel and Krommer were expert composers for the classical wind octet. Today we will play a selection of their music for you and explain the role of the 'Harmonie' around the late 18th century.

19th February

Double Tootin' Flutes

Bach Sonatas or Latin Jazz Improvisation? The Rowe Trio will take you on a journey through time, exploring various styles and giving you an insight into flute versatility from the Baroque era through to the 21st century.

19th March

Tchaikovsky: 'Souvenir de Florence'

A beautiful finale to our season with this lyrical string sextet in D minor, composed as opus 70 in the summer of 1890.

Heswall URC is situated next door to Tesco and has its own free car park

Entry at the door is £5 and includes tea/coffee and cake. Tickets in advance are not required. Programmes may be subject to amendment but for more information, please look at www.dellarte.co.uk or call 07867 528034

The full orchestra will be playing Sunday Matinée concerts in St George's Hall, Liverpool on 22nd January with Julian Boyce (Welsh National Opera) and on 23rd April with violinist Ofer Falk (until recently leader of the famous Allegri String Quartet).

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Hearing Expert

We've had a great first year here in Greasby and would like to thank everyone for being so welcoming.

It has also been a busy year because there's been such a lot of new development in hearing instrument technology. Starkey introduced many new products and introduced us to their whole new Muse range. We probably supply more from Starkey than other manufacturers, as their range ticks all the boxes and is a good all-rounder.

Being an independent supplier, I can pick and choose the best from each and every manufacturer, notably this year Oticon's new 'Opn' range, and Unitron with the world's smallest 'receiver in the canal' hearing instrument called Moxi Now. These are both great bits of kit, being fully featured with a whole host of clever technology that copes very well with background noise, improves clarity and looks great.

The good thing about 'clever' technology is that you don't have to be clever to use it. A good hearing instrument should be automatic and adapt to the environments that you find yourself in. We've got some great introductory prices on all of these products. This stuff really does work but don't take my word for it, try it for yourself for free with no risk and proper support.

We offer 90-day trials as this takes the guesswork out of choosing the right aid and means our customers get the right aid for their money. I hear far too many stories from people who have already bought hearing instruments only to find the support is poor and they never realise their full hearing potential. A good hearing instrument can be reprogrammed to accommodate further hearing loss and should last from six to eight years. I've got some patients who have had the same hearing instruments from me for over ten years and they are still working well. Good support gives good hearing instruments the longevity the price demands.

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Mayor reopens Harvest Mouse following major investment



A Heswall pub has reopened, following a six-figure investment, creating five new jobs in the process.

The Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Pat Hackett, cut the ribbon at the Harvest Mouse pub on Pensby Road after a significant transformation.

As part of the investment, the Greene King owned pub has received a complete makeover, introducing a lighter colour scheme, signature pieces of furniture and fresh, contemporary flooring.

The bar has also been completely revamped, with the introduction of an extended selection of local and national ales, and world beers. 4k TVs have been installed throughout, and subscriptions to Sky Sports and BT Sport will make it an even better place to watch live sport.

In addition, the food offering has been enhanced with the pub unveiling a mouth-watering new menu that features dishes such as jerk chicken and slow cooked pork belly.

Harvest House general manager, Sue Howarth, said: "The opening was a real success with great feedback on the delicious new menu and the fantastic interiors. We're extremely pleased to be able to offer even better surroundings to both our loyal and new guests alike.

"My team and I look forward to welcoming more guests to the Harvest Mouse in the coming weeks."





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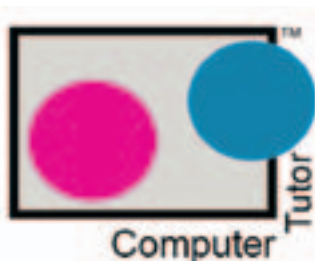
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To Bee or not to Bee?

That is the question being asked by a group of Wirral beekeepers who are hoping to attract more people to take an interest in their craft.

Wirral Beekeepers was formed in 1961 and is one of the five branches that make up the Cheshire Beekeepers' Association.

Members are currently appealing for more people to join the "buzziness" of beekeeping.

A free taster session 'Have you ever thought of keeping bees as a hobby', (very low key) will be held on the evening of Friday 24th February 2017 at Dale Farm, Oldfield Road, Heswall, CH60 6SN starting at 7pm. Booking is essential to acquire a place.

Programme secretary Doug Jones said: "Beekeeping is a fascinating hobby; people have been keeping bees for hundreds of years. You can keep bees in your garden, but some beekeepers keep them on allotments subject to council permission."

You wouldn't bee-lieve how many benefits bees bring us – through pollinating plants, flowers and trees. Around a third of our food is pollination dependent, with the average bee colony – containing 50,000 bees – helping to pollinate 4,000 square metres of fruit trees.

Doug, who started beekeeping in 1975 and currently has ten hives at his home in Heswall, said: "There are multiple uses for products of the hive. The obvious is making candles out of the surplus beeswax, as well as beeswax polish, cosmetics, and making mead."

If you are bitten by the bug, you can come along to the 'Introduction to Beekeeping course', which is held each year at Dale Farm. This planned to start on Saturday 25th March 2017 and continues on 1st April, 8th April, with the last one on the 22nd April. All course lessons include light refreshments and last for two hours. The cost of the four 'Introduction to beekeeping lessons' at Dale Farm is £80.

These courses are designed to provide beginners with knowledge about handling bees and learning the skills needed to work with them safely, as well as covering topics including bee diseases.

"We will lend you a bee suit, and open some beehives, so you can get hands-on experience handling the bees," explained Doug. "We are very lucky to have a training apiary in Dale Farm where the group will hold further beekeeping lessons and the BBKA Basic Beekeeping module after you have completed the course."

Wirral Beekeepers can advise you about sourcing bees, hives, and the beekeeping equipment needed to get you started.

We are always looking for young people to take up the craft – one of our young members, a 16-year-old girl, is taking her Duke of Edinburgh's Award in beekeeping this year.

To book onto the main course, or to come along to the taster session, contact the group's Programme Secretary, Doug, on 0151 3427062 or 0797 768 9657. We have disabled access at Dale Farm.

email: doug@bees-r.us.co.uk

Visit wirralbeekeepers.co.uk for more information.

WINE COLUMN

By Graham Simpson, Whitmore & White

Christmas at Whitmore & White

Christmas is the perfect time of year to splash out on some fantastic food and wine, and where better to start than with your friendly independent wine merchants? Christmas is always a hugely busy time of the year for us, and while it may appear to some that we're running around like headless chickens packing glorious hampers, wrapping gifts and appearing as in a permanent state of international panic, take it from me, we know what we are doing and we do what we do very well. Christmas is the time of year when our properly knowledgeable wine buffs really come good and do what they do best!

So don't settle for second best this Christmas, or pick up the same old supermarket plonk! Let us help you find some wines and spirits to remember for the whole merry week! So, without further ado, here's our six picks for Christmas dinner to get you started...

Deutz Brut NV Champagne £36.95

What better way than to start Christmas Day off with some festive fizz? And what better than Champagne. This topped the poll in a recent Champagne tasting and it's an absolute beauty. Dry, but with a honeyed, biscuity edge. Perfect for pre-dinner canapés.

Domaine les Vieux Murs Pouilly Fuisse £19.95

Not to be confused with Pouilly Fume from the Loire Valley which is made from Sauvignon Blanc, this is 100% Chardonnay and from the south of Burgundy. For me, this wine punches well above its weight and is comparable to many Meursault and Chassagne Montrachet at almost twice the price. This will go very well indeed with roast turkey.

Riverby Estate Pinot Noir £19.95

For those of you who prefer a lighter style of red, then Pinot Noir is certainly a wine to think about. This is from New Zealand so is riper on the fruit side than, say an equivalently priced red Burgundy. However, it is no Aussie Shiraz, so works fantastically well with turkey, goose or game birds.

Beronia Rioja Reserva £14.95

Rioja has had a resurgence of late and we are huge fans of the wines from Bodegas Beronia. This is medium bodied, so it's multifaceted and suit many types of Christmas Day dishes – from vegetarian options to roast beef. Its lush, ripe red fruit characteristics, and smooth tannins make it a great wine in itself, but it works so well with food.

Quinta do Noval Late Bottled Vintage Port £22.95

Port isn't just for Christmas as I'm sure you know, but it is the time of year when everyone buys a bottle for Christmas Day. It is very much a UK tradition and it does go rather well with after-dinner cheese or Christmas pudding. This is a stunning Late Bottled Vintage Port and is full of figs, prunes, dates and candied orange peel flavours.

Maxim Trijol VSOP Cognac £46.95

It wouldn't be Christmas Day without some brandy, and I don't mean the one you pour over the Christmas pudding before setting alight! I'm talking about proper brandy, in which I really mean Cognac (or Armagnac). Here I've chased a VSOP Cognac by a small producer which is sensational. Rich and fulsome with no harsh, fiery edges like so many of the big brand Cognacs on supermarket shelves.

So there you have it. Christmas drinks all sewn up for you! Just pop along to your friendly neighbourhood Whitmore & White and let us take the hassle out of choosing your festive drinks.

Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2017 from everyone at Whitmore & White!

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Continuing our serialisation of Geoff Andrews' fascinating book, *Memories of a Lifetime Past*, about the life and times of Parkgate fishermen, Chris & Jim Peters

Chris had a good talk with Don and between us we found out the *Ethel* had been sold five times since Chris had it. Don was asking all sorts of questions about the boat and Chris was happy to oblige. He was taken round the shed to meet the other fellas and was impressed with their workmanship. With Chris there seeing the boat with Don, I must admit that I was a teeny-weeny bit jealous, but if I'd ever had the opportunity of owning her, I could never have done her up as Don was doing it. I was happy that Chris had approved what he was doing and I would look forward to her completion.

I asked Don if anyone could join the nobby club, "Yes," he said, "Have you got a boat?" "Yes," I said, and went on to tell him about the *Welshgirl*. "Sounds a nice little boat, like the *Mia-Mia* from Fleetwood." He said: "Crossfields built as well." I asked him if he could get me the application forms to fill in. "Certainly," he replied, and I joined the Nobby Owners Association for ten quid, later on.

I had to get Chris back home, so we said our farewells and with a promise to keep looking in on progress, we left. "What engine is he putting in her?" he asked me on our way home. "A 1.5 BMC, with a 2:1 reduction," I said, "and remember he doesn't need a whopping great engine like you were used to – he's not dragging a net," "Oh," he said, "then that big Lister and capstan would suit John for his boat." A week or two later, Don had sold John Champion the engine, but not the capstan, that went to Albert Ebbrell.

Chris never went back to see the *Ethel* completed. I kept him informed of everything that Donald was doing. On one visit Donald said: "See that fella there," pointing to a chap who was a little bit better dressed than the lads. "Aye." "Well he's a consultant in one of the big Liverpool hospitals," he said, and there he was bashing hell out of a mast lying nearby, removing a piece of rot, ready to fit a new bit in. The club now boasts 90 members, of which only around 26 are nobby owners, with three businessmen and three doctors amongst us.

The next time we visited Chris and Annie, Alan was there sitting with them. "We've heard about nothing else this week, only the *Ethel*," said Alan, as he opened the door to us. "It's done him the power of good taking him over to see her." And of course Annie shared in the good news as well. "Oh Geoffrey," she said (she's always called me Geoffrey), "Chris did enjoy seeing his boat again, and is pleased it is being looked after." "I'm glad," I said, because we knew if Chris was happy, Annie was happy – she absolutely idolised him and vice versa.

Don and I gradually became good mates. He said he was moving across to the Wirral to live, in Oxtan, where we visited them and met his charming wife Lucy. We really got on like a house on fire. "Are you going to bring your boat to the nobby race this year," Don asked. "Don't know," I said. "I've never thought about it." "Well I think Henry will be coming, as he came last year." "I'll go and see him and if he's coming we'll make arrangements to come together," I said "But *Welshgirl* is not a nobby." "It doesn't matter, you can still join in," he said. (Don gets you all fired up).

All this was the winter of 1986–87, by the spring of '87, Henry Evans, whom I've known for years, had his nobby *Venture* in the boatyard at Heswall, along with *Welshgirl*. We were both giving them their spring clean up. Henry said he was going to the Mersey in the summer and

would make the arrangements when the time came. I also asked Chris's advice on what sort of sails would be needed on the boat. I already had a mainsail and foresail as they'd come with the boat. Chris said I needed a bit more sail up front and suggested I get a jib. I measured the sail area to be filled, from the end of the bowsprit, to a foot past the stem, then up to a foot past the hounds on the mast.

I had it made in Terylene by Mr Dawson at Port Dinorwic. I had the sails now so I needed a longer bowsprit because the original one was snapped off when a Hilbre sailed too close to *Welshgirl* on her mooring. This I made out of a nice piece of pine, Henry gave me. "One of my dad's old spars," he told me. I got some blocks, single and double, spliced becketts [Ed: a loop of rope] on them and rigged the mast and spars, made a horse out of some plaited rope a friend gave me, shackled it across the transom and I was more or less ready, with the exception of cleaning and painting the hull. By the time Easter came, she looked a picture, painted blue topsides, with a white water line and red bottom. It was a shame to dirty it by launching it back in the water.

If I remember correctly, there weren't many shrimps to catch that summer, so our Bill, my brother-in-law, and I spent a few weekends practising our sailing. My brother David came with me shrimping, when he fancied a feed or a few mackerel to grill as we could catch these off Hilbre Island. *Welshgirl* suited light airs or a nice steady breeze, but she will never sail close to the wind. It was great on a broad reach, or sailing close-hauled, a few points off the wind.

July came and we were ready as we'd ever be. Our arrangement with Henry was to leave the moorings at Dawpool, three hours ebb, poodle down to Hilbre and mess about, killing time, till the flood came and we could have water through the rock channel at New Brighton.

So off we went, Henry in *Venture* and his son, young Hen and two brothers, Paul and Jimmy. I took Pat with me, as Bill couldn't make it. It was on the Sunday before the actual race. After motoring through the channel and passing the south-west corner buoy, we stopped the old Lister engine and hoisted our sails. It took about three quarters of an hour to sail down to Hilbre island. We messed about off the Hoyle Bank, watching seals in and out of the water.

Pat was thrilled to see them at close quarters and I'd explain things to her that I used to do with Chris and Jim, in the *Ethel*, and how it had all changed and silted up since they worked the boat. We dropped anchor under the lump (that's a big steep sandbank, part of the Hoyle Bank that the seals live on) and had our chuck. (When Pat prepares a picnic she puts everything in.)

The weather was fine and we had about two hours to wait for the flood tide. Finishing our picnic, Henry signalled that we would make our way down to the top of the rock channel, which I suppose is about three miles north of Hilbre. We upped anchor and sails and set off after Henry. Halfway down the swash (that's the channel linking the Dee with the open sea), on the east side of the estuary, the *Amanda*, a West Kirby nobby, with Tubby on board, came cruising alongside Henry. As we were a way off, we took some photos. After a quarter of an hour or so, the *Amanda* turned and went back. Pat said: "What's Henry up to now?" And there was young Henry swarming up the mast – we learned later they were trying out a new sail.



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Heswall Remembers

Remembrance Sunday, 13th November 2016. Images by Paul Wiggins.



*Merry Christmas from Bobby, Pauline
and the team at The Johnny Pye*

December line up...

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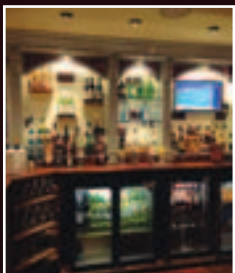
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"Hays Travel are well established across the Wirral and the North West, with existing shops in Bebington, Birkenhead, Wallasey, Prenton and Ellesmere Port, as well as locations right across the UK. The combination of our well-trained and experienced travel staff and the very latest travel technology will ensure we find the right holiday for you at a very competitive price. Independent travel is becoming increasingly popular and we have all

the tools at hand to build a holiday that is right for you in terms of destination, flights, hotels, duration and that special individual touch. If a cruise is your thing, and it's the biggest growing area for UK travellers, then be assured that all our staff are fully trained and up to speed with the latest cruise itineraries. Each of our stores has a cruise expert, and Heswall is no exception. Drop in and have a coffee with Chris and discuss your next great adventure at sea."

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There has been a huge increase in those seeking advice and treatment for problems relating to the skin and a significant change in the way that cosmetic skin treatments are carried out and monitored. Unfortunately, however, there has also been an increase in those with minimal training and experience setting themselves up as so-called 'experts' in the field. Consequently, there is much confusion among the general public about what treatments are available and a disturbing variation in the quality of the advice and treatments being given. This makes it all the more important that well-managed clinics are established to meet the demand for services that cannot be obtained from the NHS.

Here at SDS Rejuvenate MediSpa we as doctors strive to provide safe, high-quality medical advice for all skincare needs, whether purely cosmetic or arising from a medical condition, to all those who seek our help.

We realised that there was a lack of facilities where patients could obtain assessment and treatment in the same place. Our vision was to create a new clinic that would provide a cosmetic skincare 'centre of excellence'. We wanted to provide a more focused and complete service to cover all areas of skincare, from beauty therapy



to traditional medical needs, and look after the complex needs of our patients – all in an environment that is fit for purpose.

SDS Rejuvenate MediSpa was established to provide a very high level of skincare advice and treatments. All aspects of skincare are addressed, from simple beauty therapy needs to advanced aesthetician-led care with chemical peels, microneedling, and laser hair removal using state-of-the-art equipment.



We are proud to have opened one of the first such clinics in West Kirby and maintain our high levels of care through continuing professional development and constant review of our practice, aided by the regular feedback we obtain from our patients through questionnaires. We strive to improve what we provide year-on-year, and have recently extended our clinic to answer an ever-increasing demand for newer treatments.



We welcomed the opportunity to develop one of Wirral's first MediSpas and have further expanded our already extensive range of aesthetic treatments.

Contact us today for a **FREE** consultation

We also have a new SDS Rejuvenate skin care range as we are keen to educate on basic skin care – our aim is to help you to avoid spending money on products which feel or smell good, but lack the ingredients that will produce the best results!



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Room 4 – 3D-lipo – Body contouring and skin tightening, and medical facial treatments, peels and resurfacers.

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Room 6 – Spray tan room with various tan brands and colours to offer.

Room 7 – Relaxation room.

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- We offer advanced facial aesthetics (using Anti-Wrinkle Injections and Dermal Fillers)
- One of our most popular treatments is the 8-point face-lift, which, as it suggests, achieves lift and reduces saginess.
- We now have PlexR in the clinic. This is a multi-award-winning, revolutionary treatment for heavy, wrinkling eyelids that previously could only be treated by surgery (Blepharoplasty). PlexR allows us to correct these drooped heavy eyelids with little downtime and at a fraction of the cost.
- Having doubled the size of the clinic, we now have the facilities to offer beauty treatments, including spray tans, massage, make-up, lash lifts, eyelash extensions and nails, along with our medical advanced aesthetic treatments, in purpose-built rooms.



Our new beauty area has nail desks for manicures, acrylics, shellac and gel nails. We also have a purpose-built beauty counter where you can try our 100% mineral make-up and book for your 'special occasion' make-up. We also offer skin analysis, using high-tech equipment to help us understand what your skin needs so we can give you advice on the choice of treatments available.

Please follow our social media pages for exclusive offers each month for new and existing clients!

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Mark Kinnish tell readers about Heswall and Dale Farm in the big freeze of 1978/9



Dale Farm January 1979

I must mention that I know I said that in my next piece I would start doing a 'Then and Now' series of Dale Farm – well, that is going to be the case from the February issue but I thought since it's nearly Christmas, I would do a special one of Heswall and Dale Farm in the bad winter of 1978/79. You may remember that for last year I wrote about the really bad winter of 1962/63 which I hope interested you, and I thought for this year I would do the 78/79 one which does have similar ways to the more recent bad winter seven years ago in 2009/10, which I will keep for next winter.

Anyway as many of you will remember, the cold, snowy weather of 78/79 made it another really very bad winter. The big freeze kept a lot of plumbers busy – we all know if you get very cold weather water can freeze in the pipes and expands, so when it does start to warm up even just a bit, the pipes that have been split will start to leak! While Wirral did escape the worst of the winter weather, Heswall and Neston weren't so lucky.

There were ten days of freak weather with continual heavy rainfall and floods followed by ice and snow and generally treacherous conditions. It caused flooding to a depth of several inches in many roads. Major roads affected included Barston Road, Brimstage Road and, to a lesser degree, Chester High Road at Five Ways, Neston. However, no serious incidents were reported at the time, but must have still been awful.

There was another place that was pretty bad due to the heavy rainfall – firemen had to pump out water from a flooded cellar on two occasions in Whitehouse Lane, Barnston. However, the bad frost that followed in January 1979 resulted in numerous calls to the Fire Brigade to deal with more flooding caused by burst pipes. Many roads round Heswall during January 1979 were iced up and frozen with deep snow. Bidston Observatory recorded the freeze and confirmed it was the worse for 15 years.

There were lots of closures to many of the roads due to icy conditions. In Heswall, Wall Rake had to be closed in January 1979 due to two cars being in a head-on collision just below a bend. And a letterbox was knocked over by a skidding vehicle on Telegraph Road at its junction with Quarry Road.

By this time, Dale Farm had become the Adult Day Centre (as it still is today) for adults of Wirral with learning difficulties after the council had got it at auction in 1973. The McGraths, who had owned the farm, had already gone but Lena Callister who had rented the little cottage bungalow called Dale Cottage from the McGraths was still living there.

At that time staff from Heswall Day Centre on Telegraph Road would take people down to Dale Farm twice a week to do a bit of horticulture. That winter though, the snow stopped them going to the farm, and I know myself whenever we do get snow from time to time, if it is bad, it can be really hard to reach the farm.

Next issue: The Swing at Dale Farm

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Contact Mike on 07584 064288

The Architect's Column

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

EN-SUITE BATHROOMS?

Q: Our children are now teenagers and we can no longer get in the bathroom. We think it is time to look at an en-suite. What should we consider?

A: Most new properties are now built with an en-suite to the master bedroom. This is often small but provides a much needed second bathroom. Older properties are less likely to have been fitted out with such facilities.

Issues that you will need to consider may include the following:

Budget

The amount of money you spend on an en-suite facility will depend on the requirement for an extension. If the property is older it is more likely that it has sufficiently large bedrooms to accommodate a small en-suite. A small shower room could be fitted into a space as small as 1m x 2.5m. This could simply require the construction of a stud partition and door at relatively little cost. If an extension is required the build cost must be considered including, foundations, floors, walls and roof.

It may be possible to convert a smaller bedroom into an en-suite however the loss of a bedroom is likely to reduce the value of your property.

Planning and Building Regulations

Planning should not be required if the en-suite comprises of internal alterations only, unless special circumstances apply such as listed buildings. If the property is to be extended it may be possible to carry out the works as permitted development, subject to certain criteria being met. For advice on planning requirements visit www.planningportal.gov.uk. Building Regulations will always be required.

Drainage

If the proposed location of the en-suite is close to an exist soil stack or foul drain it will be relatively easy to connect the drainage. This is not always the case and often the toilet is located centrally in the building. It is still possible to install an en-suite in these locations by using a small-bore waste pipe system and pump such as Saniflo. These are widely used in domestic properties and enable toilets to be installed almost anywhere in the building.

Plumbing

It is usually quite straightforward to connect to the existing water supplies. If you have a combi boiler it is important that the boiler has sufficient capacity for an additional bathroom. The water pressure should also be checked and appropriate showers installed. Your plumber will be able to advise on this following an initial inspection of the property.

Heating

A suitably sized towel rail is usually sufficient to provide all the heating necessary for a small en-suite. We would suggest a plumbed in towel rail connected to the boiler with an electric over-ride for summer use when the heating is not in use. For a small area, electric underfloor heating is a good option. A timer can be fitted so the floor heats up prior to the usual times that the bathroom is used.



Design options

With careful consideration en-suite facilities can be designed to suit many different space requirements.

The en-suite could be a separate room or partially incorporated into the bedroom itself. Clearly it is essential that the WC is separated from the room with a door although this could be separate to the area for a bath, shower or basin.

Locating a compact shower enclosure behind the bed reduces the circulation space required by limiting the doors and walls forming the en-suite.

Alternatively, a wardrobe could form the wall between bedroom and bathroom areas with door access through the wardrobe.

Bedroom Basins

It will not always be possible to form an en-suite due to space or budget restrictions. In the 1970's there was a tendency to provide basins in bedrooms. These usually looked out of place fixed to the wall in the corner of the room, however forming a concealed basin within a built-in wardrobe provides a facility for washing, shaving and brushing teeth and reduces pressure on the main family bathroom.

Jack and Jill Bathrooms

By locating an en-suite bathroom between two bedrooms access can be provided from each room. Pocket sliding doors allow the Jack and Jill shower room to be more compact by eliminating the area necessary to accommodate door swings.

Bathroom Pods

Off-site pre-fabricated bathroom pods can also provide a cost-effective space saving option. For domestic refurbishment projects these are usually formed from GRP and can be split into parts enabling them to be transported through standard door openings. Pods of this kind can be purchased for around £2000 ex VAT (including delivery) and can be a very practical solution for several different space options. Costs for installation, water and drainage connections will also have to be considered. For more information visit www.eblcomposites.com

Bathroom Mirrors

Installing a full height mirror behind the basin in a small bathroom will increase the apparent size of the room. Fitted opposite a window will also reflect light. Heated mirrors prevent the mirror steaming up.



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

#heswall on twitter

Heswall FC @heswallfc · Nov 19
Delighted to have @heswallfc providing a free Christmas wrapping service to all sign-ups



Colin Drake Architects @colindrake · Nov 9
One of our Reception Reception Rooms at our Internal Office at 18, The Mount, Heswall. Open Friday Morning.



Frederick Construction @frederickc · Nov 5
Alternative business progressing well on our project in Heswall. On programme for completion in August 2017.



Heswall FC @heswallfc · Nov 5
Lovely to welcome @heswallfc into the club yesterday for a chat about the Heswall FC @heswallfc business.



Diana Smith @dianasmith · Nov 4
Heswall FC @heswallfc 2017. 100th Anniversary Celebration the 1st November. Heswall FC @heswallfc



Wesley's Pet Services @wesleyspets · Oct 28
A few more pups for the day!!
@wesleyspets on Instagram Heswall FC @heswallfc
Thank you very much...



Heswall Today @heswalltoday · Oct 26
We're having our Christmas events in Heswall @heswalltoday
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West Fabrics @westfabrics · Nov 4
Little bit of hot digger action this morning in Heswall. @westfabrics



West Fabrics @westfabrics · Nov 2
Did you see our work on @heswalltoday @heswalltoday.com last night
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Widmore & White @widmorewhite · Nov 2
We have a lovely display of @heswalltoday @heswalltoday.com gift sets in place. @heswalltoday @heswalltoday.com



Richard Collins @richardcollins · Oct 21
Me and the new people from @Loughborough at my old workplace in the
judo club at Heswall FC.



Wesley's Pet Services @wesleyspets · Oct 28
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Christmas beauty: Turn time on its head (or body)



Seeing the children or grandchildren's eyes light up on 25th December is magical. But, rather than lighting up, it can be hard to keep your eyes open, let alone hide the dark circles by the time Christmas arrives. If you look good, you feel better, but so many people tell me they 'don't have time' or 'feel guilty' taking time for themselves in the run-up to Christmas. What if I were to tell you that a visit to a salon or clinic could save you time and help you feel great?

You may be dubious, but read on and my theory will start to make sense.

Hair

Think about it. How many times are you going to have to shave this Christmas and New Year? Fair enough, it may be a quick 15 minutes in the shower before you drag on a dress, but add it up. Then factor in the random hairs you'll miss as you're in a rush (but will become glaringly obvious as you perch on a bar stool) and both your time and confidence will diminish. Compare that to taking time to have professional waxing or hair removal at a clinic that will last through the festivities and be done properly.

Face

Brows: Similar to hair removal. You don't want to spend your Christmas madly plucking (apart from the turkey)! Opt for a proper brow shape or tint to save time, or go for HD Brows that use up to seven different techniques to give you definition and even lift the look of tired, sagging brows to shape your face.

Lashes: Clumpy mascara or 'panda eyes' are not good looks on anyone and just emphasise tiredness. Semi-permanent lashes add length and fullness, so you can look great, wide-awake and save time every day over the holidays.

Skin: You might not think there's time to have a facial or (heaven forbid) it's not important. But, looking after your skin is vital when you're stressed, not eating as well as you maybe should, dehydrated due to central heating, alcohol, etc. A facial treatment will save you time, too. It means your skin and complexion will be brighter and your skincare products will work better, so you'll spend less time piling on tons of make-up or squinting at wrinkles.

A few treatments I'd recommend include: microdermabrasion which is great for sloughing away dull, dead skin to brighten and allow products to penetrate; the COMCIT facial, which can boost collagen production in as little as 4 to 14 days to plump, rehydrate and rejuvenate; LED light therapy repairs tissues and also counteracts the effects of SAD so is a mood-booster as well as a time-saver; the CACI Ultimate to combat dullness, dehydration and redness; micro-current facial lifting for sagging skin, drooping eyes, lines and wrinkles, which none of us want to have at Christmas or any other time.

Nails

Why spend your over-stretched time constantly applying and reapplying nail varnish? Gel nails, Shellac or acrylics are the way to go. A quick trip to a good salon or clinic and you can forget about your fingers and toes for the party season, apart from admiring how great they look.

Body

Why do we all wait until January to try to get our bodies into shape? And, more importantly how much time do you spend trying on dresses and outfits before you go out, because one shows up your bingo wings, another highlights your tummy bulge, muffin top or saddle bags? With incredible results (sometimes in as little as one treatment) non-surgical body contouring can really change your shape. When we're happier with our body shape we feel and look good in our skin... and clothes, so you can save all that time and effort trying to find an outfit you feel nice in.

For a really quick fix, make sure you have a good spray tan as this will also help you look slimmer, feel better about yourself, and reduce 'dress dilemma' time!

Make time to save time

Not only will treatments save you time and stress over the holiday season, they could even give you back time. While you let the professionals get on with making you look and feel great, you can still be getting on with preparations. Think of the mental lists you can go through. Plus, you can also do some shopping at the same time. Nearly all clinics stock great gift products, so you can even tick some names off the list. Or, give something that everyone craves in the modern world... 'time', with either a pamper treatment or a voucher.

Happy Christmas!

Tracey Locke, Lead Clinician



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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 £800 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!

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Having the right will in place is very important these days to ensure that your main assets are protected and that the maximum possible will eventually pass to your children and grandchildren.

We all know that many thousands of homes have to be sold each year to pay for long-term care home fees. Such fees are always burdensome and could easily exceed £700 per week.

You can ensure that your home and other assets like cash and valuables cannot be lost and are protected by writing protective asset trusts into your wills, or by setting up an asset protection trust.

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Finding the Missing Peace



By Stephen G Baker

Do you appreciate your children and grandchildren? Do the stories of disadvantaged and ill children that you see when the various charitable appeals run pull at your heartstrings? Do you think - 'that could be me or my child'? Do you wonder how you would cope? We should be truly grateful for how well off we are! It's another reason why we all need to play our part in giving to charity this festive season.

Recent political debates are in danger of encouraging a view that says we need to be selfish and look after ourselves. The great tradition in this country has been to be generous and look after the needy, the poor and the disadvantaged.

Have you ever wondered why there is consistently such a need? Why is there cruelty? Why are there disadvantaged children? Why does the problem never go away? What is the cause of the problem? It's one thing to give money to change people's lives, it's another to consider why the situation exists in the first place. That's just life I hear you say! These things happen!

The Bible tells us why. It is because of sin. Our Forefather, Adam, brought 'sin into the world and death by sin'. If we are honest we are all in the habit of sinning. Sin is dressed up in many guises; pride, selfishness, lust, coveting things and people and so on. Sin rarely only affects me, it affects others as well and sadly it often affects people who have no power to do anything about it, i.e. the young, the weak and vulnerable.

But the good news is things can be different! I do not believe that society can enjoy permanent reform as a result of a political solution. The Bible promises a reformed world when Jesus returns to earth, but until then change is made on a 'case by case' basis! This is the essence of why Jesus came. He came to bring hope in despair, joy in sorrow and life where there was death. This life is of a different quality. It is the life of God as opposed to human life. It is described in the Bible as 'eternal life'. Jesus talked about it in terms of knowing God - '*and this is eternal life that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent*', John 17. 3. It describes the quality of life now and well as the length of existence in the next life. This life is available to everyone because of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, but it only becomes effective in a person's life when they repent and receive salvation as a gift from God.

Please, don't stop giving to good charities this Christmas but also give some thought to your need of forgiveness and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Thanks for reading this.

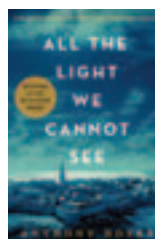
www.findingthemissingpeace.blogspot.co.uk

www.seekthetruth.org.uk



Shelf Indulgence is a book column from award-winning Wirral novelist, **Margaret Murphy**, who also pens forensic thrillers as **A.D. Garrett**. In this regular feature, Margaret recommends two books across a range of styles and genres and a mixture of new and old.

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE by Anthony Doerr
Fourth Estate, 2015, ISBN-10: 0008138303



This Pulitzer prizewinner tells the story of a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in Occupied France as both are swept up in the devastation of World War II. Marie-Laure lives a secluded life with her father, locksmith to the Paris Museum of Natural History. When she loses her sight, her papa builds a perfect miniature of their neighbourhood - a kind of 3D map - and she learns every street by touch. As the Nazis approach Paris and they flee to seek refuge in Saint-Malo with her reclusive great-uncle, Marie-Laure is unaware that they are carrying the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. But when her father disappears, she unwittingly becomes its custodian. Marie-Laure is a wonderful creation: the wise and courageous blind girl who sees the world with far greater perception than many of the sighted who pity her.

In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner, a genius with electronics, is inducted into, and miraculously survives, the brutal Schulpforta Academy. At just sixteen, he is sent on special assignment to track the resistance across the continent, finally reaching Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge.

All The Light We Cannot See is one of those seductive books you don't want to finish. Which is perhaps an odd thing to say about a novel that reminds us of the horrors of World War. But Doerr's use of language, though spare, is shot through with exquisite images. And when Marie-Laure marvels at the beauty of a seashell, or the boy stands by the sea for the first time, we too are invited to see the world afresh.

TRUMAN CAPOTE - THE COMPLETE STORIES
Penguin Modern Classics, 2005, ISBN-10: 0141188081



In this collection we see Capote in all his moods: cynical, whimsical, warm, angry, fatalistic, and even sentimental. There is something for everyone, here - hauntings and moral tales rub shoulders with truly disturbing insights into the psychopathic mentality. And in 'Shut A Final Door', a tale of self-haunting every bit as chilling as Poe's 'William Wilson', Capote opens a window into his own tormented soul.

His Christmas stories were a revelation to me, having come to his work through his so called 'faction' *In Cold Blood*, which told in fictionalised form the real-life story of the brutal murders of the Clutter family in Kansas in 1959. Stories like 'Jug of Silver' and 'One Christmas' show a more tender Capote, but 'A Christmas Memory' is my favourite. A small boy shares Christmas preparations with his child-like elderly cousin. They experience joys and adventures as she begins her winter ritual of baking Christmas cakes for slight acquaintances "who make us feel connected to eventful worlds".

The relationship between the old woman and the 5-year-old child - their pleasure in giving when they have so little - encapsulates the true spirit of Christmas. Capote's restrained use of metaphor is a delight, and the cousin's homespun philosophy adds layers of richness and complexity to this deceptively simple tale.

The Crime Vault is offering the chance to win all three books in the **A.D. Garrett** series - *Everyone Lies*, *Believe No One*, and the brand new addition to the collection, *Truth Will Out* at www.thecrimevault.com

Connect with Margaret Murphy @crimin8 and @adgarrett1 on Twitter, and at www.adgarrett.com

All Things Auctioneering

by John Bathurst Crane

Once again it is a pleasure to be able to share some thoughts and images with you about the interesting world of discovering objects with which collectors are able to adorn their private homes.

A question I am often asked is 'What are people buying to put in their houses these days?'. The answer is simple – items that are rare, decorative, high-quality, the right scale, size and colour. Even quality 'quirky' and 'focal-point' objects can attract many bidders at auction, which we will see later. Fashion and trends play a part in desirability, but it is mainly colour, size, and top quality that attracts the big money.



Cato Crane office in Heswall

Cato Crane Auctioneers and John Crane Fine Arts has opened an office at 48 The Mount, Heswall in Wirral, which is already becoming extremely busy with appointments by phone on 0151 342 2321 and is open every Friday morning without fail!

John Crane Fine Art arranges the sale by auction or private treat to collectors of good quality pictures; some are quite valuable. Recently we brokered the sale of a picture by the c19th artist John Atkinson Grimshaw for a client and I have illustrated some detail from the work. I don't wish to reveal the price we achieved by negotiation with the buyer, but suffice to say that for the same amount of money you could have bought a small detached house in Heswall! Our vendor client was, needless to say, delighted with the result!



Sold for undisclosed but substantial sum!

An object of great beauty is a joy forever across several generations. We had a very successful auction of 700 lots at the beginning of November with a mid-month auction, again achieving satisfactory results with high prices.

So, how much would you pay for a broken vase? Probably not very much! A bidder in our November Fine Art Auction was prepared to pay several hundred pounds for the illustrated broken and glued Chinese c18th ovoid storage jar; these are often referred to erroneously as 'ginger jars'. The original china cover was missing being replaced by a carved wooden one. This particular pot still bore a label on its base from about 1920 with the original



C18th K'ang Hsi ovoid vase

purchase price of six guineas (about £6.30 in today's money). It was purchased in Liverpool from a fine art supplier called Phillips & MacConnal who had premises in Castle Street in the busy city centre.

So why was this broken vase still desirable? Quite simply it was rare, and extremely old or 'early' as we say. It was made in China about 1780 in the K'ang Hsi period and it has survived. The shape was good and the colour and design very appealing. What would it have made if it were perfect, you may ask. Probably five times as much! So here is the rule. If a piece of china is very early and rare it is probably worth restoring and not for the bin because you may well be throwing away a great deal of money without realising it.

I can still remember the 1950s when Liverpool had several high-quality antique and fine art retail outlets. Even buying then with great care would now produce a healthy profit!

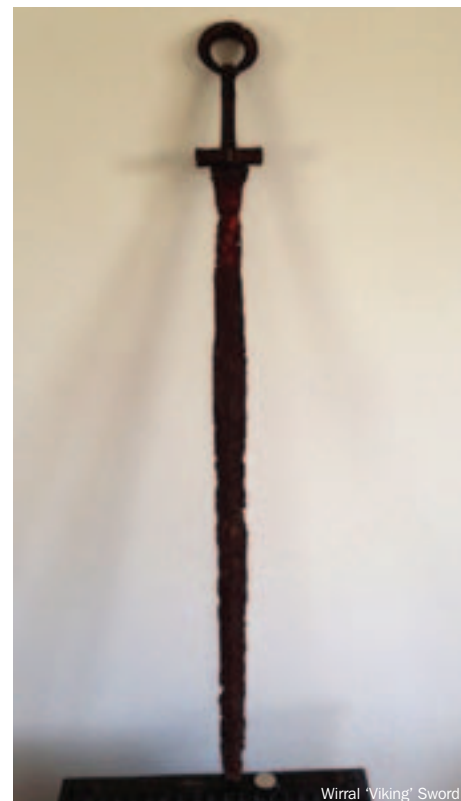
While this broken vase was not the 'lost' £1,000,000 vase that we and others are still looking for, the vendor was pleased with the result.



£2,400,000 Chinese c18th teapot

A Chinese teapot recently made £2,400,000 in auction and most of these major discoveries are found at the back of kitchen cupboards. One of our clients recently bought a picture at a charity shop which is worth hundreds of times what she paid for it. So discoveries are still being made around Merseyside and the prize for finding a good object can be a huge pay-off which will buy a new car or even pay off the mortgage!

Silver and jewellery were making high prices at the auction and seem to be increasing in value again, as are gold sovereigns. Our next auction has a consignment of over 100 in fine condition and all our auctions are busy with many lots of fine jewellery; many of which bring very high prices for the desirable designs and quality.



Wirral 'Viking' Sword

Occasionally extremely interesting objects are brought in to us for research and then sale. They are so rare that they don't appear on the open market very often. One such item was brought into our Wirral office in Heswall last week. The client had telephoned me to say she had a 'Viking' sword and I expected that I would actually be looking at a modern reproduction. This was not in fact the case and I remember discussing this sword with the current owner's late father about 30 years ago. The sword is about a metre long and is in 'excavated condition'; rusty in other words, but most of them are! These weapons generally date from 800–1100 AD and it is amazing that they have survived at all buried underground for several centuries. Our 'Viking' sword will be in one of our forthcoming auctions but only after further investigation by me, as Viking swords usually have a three- or five-lobed pommel (the end cap of the grip).

Other Viking weapons denoted the status of warriors, and these included spears, javelins, wooden shields, battle-axe, and bows and arrows with a range of two or three hundred metres. Only wealthy Vikings would own swords and even fewer owned metal helmets and armour. Swords were sometimes buried with warriors, and were often intentionally broken or bent to deter the plunder of graves to gain possession of these prized items of battle and social status. Luckily my client's sword escaped such damage.

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Our main offices and two auction rooms are located in Stanhope Street, opposite the Liverpool Marina. There is free on-road parking. Visits to clients in Wirral, Chester and North Wales are made every week. Evening and weekend visits to clients homes can be made by prior arrangement.

To book your appointments simply telephone **John Crane** personally on either **0151 709 5559** or mobile **07836 209995**

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Telephone Soon For Home Visit Appraisals

A local Wirral Viking sword story is a much more romantic tale than a Roman North West European 'regular issue' legionnaire's sword story! Some family folklore tales of digging up metal objects in Wirral gardens in the moonlight sometimes have to be somewhat discounted in order to achieve auction cataloguing accuracy! More on this in the next issue.

The Vikings have a reputation for conquering new territory and Wirral was no exception. Near Thingwall in Wirral was a Viking settlement and parliament, and Wirral has many villages with names derived from the Norse. Thurston it is said is derived from Thor's Stone, a sandstone promontory on Thurston Hill. In 1938, the Railway Hotel in Meols was rebuilt and resited further away from the main road as motor traffic had increased and a car park was required. During the excavation a clinker-built Viking ship was discovered, buried about ten feet down in the clay and mud. The site manager gave instructions for this priceless discovery to be covered over immediately as any investigation by archaeologists, local museums and historians would delay the



Chinese Sectional Ivory Chicken Boat

Oriental objects continue to attract interest at auction from overseas buyers and four miniature cloisonné vases (one illustrated) made over £200, and an ivory Chinese chicken boat made over £650 with premiums.



Miniature Cloisonné vase



1922 portrait signed 'KH'

Finally, accessing correct information sometimes takes time and it is usually knowing exactly where to delve for information, so here is a challenge for you. The good quality portrait illustrated is by an artist who signs his work with initials KH. See if you can find out who he is and join the professional antique researchers and discoverers. I do know the answer but it will be interesting to see if you can find out too!

Call me on 0151 342 2321 for our Wirral Office or 0151 709 5559 for information from our main Auction Rooms in Stanhope Street in Liverpool opposite Liverpool Marina. CatoCrane.co.uk for our website.

Finally, finally ... a quirky object for a gardening enthusiast. This is a 'must' for listeners of *Gardeners' Question Time*... Discovered in an apartment in a former Wirral mansion ... The perfect Christmas gift ... Hoe Hoe Hoe!



The perfect Christmas gift

Part six of *A History of Thingwall Recreation Centre* – a personal memoir by the late Frank Nicholson

I should say more here about the Dancing School. Hilary Dickenson hired the use of the Hall and ran this popular school of dancing for many years, enjoying a very good relationship with the Centre. She held a number of special events over these years to make extra, and much appreciated, donations to the Centre.

So here we are in 1966, and by this time the population of Thingwall was growing considerably, with housebuilding proceeding to the west of the centre, the extension to Barnsdale Avenue, Axholme Road, Gwendoline Close and development up Seven Acres Lane. In addition to the estate on Thingwall Corner, the space between Barnston Road and Mill Lane was beginning to be built up, and, of course, there was considerable development in the Heywood Boulevard area. There was not, though, a proportionate boost to membership of the centre, a factor which in the coming years was to cause some concern. However, with a membership upwards of 300 there followed a period of healthy activity. A Gardening Section was formed in 1967, also a Bridge Club. The Gardening Section held a very successful annual show in September for quite a number of years. Here I will let you into a little secret. On one occasion I entered some tomatoes and I had removed the stalks, only to learn from a friend that I should not have done. These tomatoes were my very best, so there was nothing else I could do but to glue them on again. No, I didn't get first prize, only second; it seems that judges prefer them to be a very deep red, the sort that I would call frying tomatoes.

But to continue, the centre went on merrily for a number of years until about 1975, after which its fortune seemed to decline steadily. From a membership of 314 in 1974–75 it fell to 207 in 1975–6, in spite of the greatly expanded community that now surrounded it. I had been a member of Management Council again as Chairman of the Bowls Section for four years, between 1966 and 1970, and I recall that a number of efforts were made to attract members by advertising, and even by distributing leaflets through the letterboxes of the neighbourhood. All with little effect. Clearly we were no longer offering what the community wanted.

I found myself on the Management Council again in November 1979, and it was something of a revelation to find how much the centre was running down. Looking back now, with hindsight, I appreciate how much of a struggle faced those people who officiated as the management team during the period from 1975 to 1980. Raising sufficient revenue was, of course, the major problem. For a number of years, the Men's Bowls section, mainly thanks to Harry Hall and Joe Smith, assumed responsibility for the collection and sale of old newspapers, and this was a considerable help until the closure of Bowater's pulp mill brought demand to a halt.

Letting of the Hall and rooms was a growing tendency, even including use of the Main Hall for dog training. That had to end, as it did not improve the sanitary condition of the premises. There was one very worthwhile letting, during school terms, to a very well run, privately managed, pre-school nursery on weekday mornings. This, at least, as well as the income for the centre, provided a much appreciated service for children and their mums in the district.

In spite of all their efforts, the records of the Management Council monthly activity reports have an air of doom and gloom, and vandalism was an increasing threat. We owe a lot to those people who kept holding on in those difficult days. Management can be very much more rewarding when you are not continually pushed for income and your sectional activities are alive with interest.



Our Heswall Lifestyle column is brought to you by local Personal Trainer and Fitness Queen founder, Hayley Lundy. Our column aims to educate, motivate and inspire our readers to keep active and lead a healthy lifestyle.

Do you take supplements? If so, do you know where they were made? And do you know who made them?

Botanicals, herbs, meal replacements, vitamins, and minerals, fill the shelves of shops from local supermarkets to high-end nutrition stores. Like many other health products, dietary supplements have pros and cons. Knowing the benefits and drawbacks of supplements is highly important so that you make an educated decision when it comes to buying or using them.

These days it's harder to get all the goodness we need from our food, due to 'over farming' which means produce isn't as good quality, and food being over processed. The nutrients present in our food has reduced, which means we need to eat a lot more food to get the same amount of nutrition we got 10 to 20 years ago. To get the same amount of goodness, we would need to eat a higher quantity so supplements can help to bridge the gap. Eating organic or buying food from local, home-grown producers can help to ensure that your fruit and vegetables have a higher nutritional content.

Disease Prevention. Different types of dietary supplements can help prevent certain diseases and other medical conditions.

Nutrient Deficiencies – Nutrient deficiency can lead to medical problems like bone fragility, anaemia, nervous system abnormalities, and a poor immune system. If you have developed nutrient deficiencies, dietary supplements can help reverse the effects to your general health as well as help to prevent them from developing.

Toxicity – Vitamins can accumulate to toxic levels within the body if taken in doses exceeding the recommended daily allowance. You need to be extra careful when taking more than one supplement to ensure that they will not exceed your daily recommended servings. It's best to get advice from someone with good knowledge and understanding if you're unsure about this.

Medications – Supplements can interfere with medications so its best to take them at separate times and check they are safe, but always consult your doctor if you're unsure!

Just be aware that supplements should supplement a healthy diet, not replace food! Dietary supplements are not food replacements. They do not contain the complex constellation of vitamins and nutrients that foods contain.

I personally only use products I have taken the time to research and I would recommend you do the same to ensure you can trust the company's quality and integrity.

We offer one-to-one personal training and group exercise. If you would like help with your health and wellness as well as your fitness, drop us an enquiry with any questions you may have. Additionally, I run private one-to-one nutrition consultations, where we can discuss your health, wellness, and any issues you need help with.

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