In this issue
A Potted Pub History
A Gap Year
A Beneficial Break

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Editorial: Catherine Rose, Jennie Billings, Carol H Scott, Rachael Leverton, RSPCA, R.A.T.S.

Advertising Sales/Local Editorial
Nigel Frost - 01767 261122
nigel@villagermag.com

Photography
Nick Stubbs and Darren Harbar Photography

Design and Artwork
Design 9 - Tel 07762 969460

Publishers
Villager Publications Ltd
24 Market Square, Potton, Bedfordshire SG19 2NP
Tel: 01767 261122
nigel@villagermag.com
www.villagermag.com

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A public house is a building licensed to serve alcoholic drinks. Its roots can be traced back to Roman taverns and Anglo-Saxon alehouses. Let’s take a look at how our much-loved local has changed over the centuries.

The Roman invasion brought many enduring features to our island, such as major road routes, city names and street food. Another Roman contribution were tabernae, introduced to England in around 40 AD.

Originally set up to serve wine to thirsty Roman troops, these tabernae or taverns soon began to sell the English ale that was brewed and much loved by the local population.

Subsequent invasion saw the Anglo-Saxons adopting the tradition and ale (and later beer) houses became a feature of every village. There were very often several in a village and many more in towns. They were popular places for people to get together and spend their leisure time in.

This community focus grew over the years. Pubs became the social hub within a neighbourhood and the publican was an important local figure.

Some alehouses and taverns started to offer hot meals and overnight accommodation to the weary traveller. These became known as inns (the word ‘inn’ means ‘lodging house’). Coaching inns sprang up on popular long routes (often, ironically, the old Roman roads) and were required to provide overnight stabling for horses.

The term ‘public house’ came into use during the reign of King Henry VII and, in 1552, an Act was passed to ensure that innkeepers had a licence to run their premises. The word ‘bar’ - simply referring to the counter separating the publican from the public - dates from the 1600s and is derived from the Latin word ‘barra’ meaning ‘barrier’.

In those days, beer would have been very different to what we drink today. It was generally home-brewed, much weaker than today’s beer and widely drunk in lieu of water which was usually unsafe, especially in towns and cities. English ale was originally brewed without hops (or ‘hoppes’ as they were known in the 1600s). Once hop flowers were added to the ale, beer was born. It was Dutch and Flemish immigrants who
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set up hop gardens in counties such as Sussex and Kent (famous for its ‘hop-picking holidays’ up until last century). Today, beer encompasses a wide range of beverages from ales, bitters and mild to lagers and stout.

By the mid-1600s, cheap spirits were being imported from France and Holland and these also became very popular – too popular in fact. The Gin Acts in the early 1700s sought to curb excessive drinking which had become something of a social problem.

Pictorial pub signage developed at a time when many people were illiterate, and it was customary to have visual signs hanging outside shops (for example, the barber’s red and white pole or the three balls of the pawnbroker). Some popular pub names are in fact corruptions of old English - for example, the ‘Pig and Whistle’ is said to have evolved from the ‘Peg and Wassail’. A ‘peg’ was a unit of measurement inside a tankard and ‘to wassail’ means to drink to someone’s health. Many old pubs also use the word ‘Arms’ in their name. Again, this is a long-standing tradition to denote ownership or patronage by the noble family of the area.

In 1830, beer tax was abolished and there was a huge growth in unlicensed beer houses, which were frequently set up in people’s homes. Different rooms for imbibing purposes developed from this, so for example, you could have a drink standing in the tap room (where the barrels were), sit in the bar or choose the more comfortable parlour. Having separate bars in a pub developed further during the class-conscious Victorian era, when people would segregate themselves according to social status.

In 1869, the beer regulations were tightened again, heralding the growth of the brewing industry. Breweries began to take ownership of many of the public houses, leasing them back to landlords.

Today, the pub as we know it is changing. Due to the current financial climate and the wide availability of cheap alcohol in supermarkets, many village and town pubs have had to close their doors. The beer house is all but obsolete and those pubs that remain are shifting their focus towards being restaurants or gastropubs in order to maintain a profitable business.

The quaint separate bar rooms have gone to be replaced with open plan spaces and classy decor. And with air conditioning and refrigeration, many pubs no longer need to have an underground cellar, traditionally used to keep the beer cool and store wine.

The art of signwriting is sadly in decline and fewer pubs now sport the old beautifully crafted hand-painted pub signage of the past. Breweries are also selling off their premises due to lack of profitability.

One positive outcome is that there are more ‘free houses’ again and microbreweries are enjoying a resurgence as a result.

Despite the decline, the British pub remains loved and admired all around the world for its atmosphere and character. And there is still nothing like having a pint in your local on a Friday night.
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Local News

Sue Ryder St John's Hospice's Big Weekend returns again this year with Busk Till Dusk and the Country Fayre taking centre stage in Moggerhanger on August 12/13.

On the Saturday, 3pm-10pm, bring your picnic blanket and festival vibes to rock out and watch performers at the annual Busk Till Dusk music festival; now in its third year.

The fun continues on the Sunday, 11am-4.30pm, with the Country Fayre at which you can enjoy a host of family-friendly activities.

Pony rides, a scarecrow dress-up competition, line dancing, 4x4 driving experiences and a vintage vehicle display are just some of the activities on offer at the event set in the hospice’s beautiful grounds.

Sue Ryder St John's Head of Fundraising Shirley Scotcher said: “These two fantastic events help to raise thousands of pounds to support the hospice so we can continue to provide incredible care to patients and their families across Bedfordshire and the surrounding area.”

The 15-bed Sue Ryder St John's Hospice, which last year provided 90,000 hours of care, needs to raise £1.4million to continue to provide incredible care this year.

To support the hospice and attend the festivities you can either purchase tickets for both events happening during the Big Weekend, or buy tickets for one specific event only.

Tickets for Busk Till Dusk are limited so visit www.sueryder.org/busktilldusk to get yours while you can.
Spending money abroad can be costlier than you think if you're not prepared for the fees and 'hidden' charges. Whether you choose to take a debit or credit card, it pays to check the small print in your terms and conditions before you go - you could save a considerable amount in added interest and charges.

Specialist credit and debit cards for overseas use only
Rather than taking your 'regular' credit or debit card on holiday, look for specialist cards designed to be used abroad, as these are intended to reduce the cost of holiday spending. If you find one that’s suitable and your application is successful, however, just make sure you pay off the balance in full every month. The interest rates on these cards are extremely high if you don’t, which could wipe out any savings you’ve made. The best overseas credit cards generally offer much better exchange rates than local retailers. So if you use a credit card and you’re asked which currency you want pay in, choose the local currency as it’s likely to save you money – more on Dynamic Currency Conversion below.

Credit cards for holiday spending are generally easier to obtain than debit cards
If your current bank doesn’t offer a specialist debit card for use abroad, you may have to switch your bank account to obtain one. Alternatively, you could just open a new account with the provider, but this might seem a little unnecessary when there is an easier alternative in credit cards.

Be careful when you apply for a new card though - your credit file is adversely affected when applications are refused. The Money Saving Expert website offers an 'eligibility calculator’ to give you an idea of your chances of acceptance, and help you narrow down the choices.

Debit cards can be better if you’re going to withdraw mainly cash
Although taking a dedicated credit card for use abroad has many benefits, if you intend to withdraw mainly cash, a specialist debit card will probably be cheaper overall as there are usually no added charges or fees for this.

Be careful about card ‘cloning’
When you use a card abroad, or anywhere in fact, be aware of the danger of cloning. This can happen when the card is taken out of your sight, or even when it’s right in front of you if you aren’t taking notice.

Dynamic Currency Conversion (DCC)
Some retailers abroad will offer to convert your purchase into sterling when you pay by card, so you can see exactly how much you’ve spent. This process is called dynamic currency conversion, or cardholder preferred currency. The problem is that you’ll probably lose out on the exchange rate by paying this way.

Local retailers choose whether or not to offer this service, and in some cases may automatically convert your purchase to sterling without asking you. It’s a good idea, therefore, to check whether DCC has been used prior to signing a payment slip or entering your PIN.

Avoiding the non-sterling transaction fee
Although your bank uses the MasterCard, Visa and Amex optimum exchange rates, the charge for conversion adds a non-sterling transaction fee of up to 3% to your bill when you use a non-specialist card abroad.

Finding the best card may take a little research, but your time and effort will be repaid via the extra holiday treats you’ll be able to enjoy.

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Brit award winning British harmony trio BLAKE are back on tour featuring the finest songs from stage and screen, with projections and lighting that bring the cinematic magic to life and are making their way to Milton Keynes on the 2nd of September 2017. Linked together with the boys’ famous improvised banter, the show features music from Hanz Zimmer, Ennio Morricone, Leonard Bernstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Leonard Cohen, The Beach Boys & many more. This is the ultimate celebration of movies and musicals, all sung in thrilling vocal harmony.

Blake are celebrating their 10-year anniversary together, and to mark this milestone achievement, Blake are releasing a new, fan funded album! Even better, their upcoming album will return to their classical crossover roots including lush vocals, full orchestra, big band & choirs, plus special guests. It can be pre-ordered from Pledgemusic.com where you can get involved with the creation of the album. From spending the day in the studio with BLAKE, going to dinner with the guys or a private concert on the London Eye, you will be helping to fund their new album.

Their last album ‘In Harmony’ was released in 2014 which was followed by their 2015 Christmas single collaboration, with the one and only Dame Shirley Bassey. An evening at one of Blake’s concerts will convince you into becoming a fan of their beautiful sound and entertaining performance.

To enter our competition to win two tickets to see Blake on Saturday 2nd September 2017, simply answer the question and complete the form below. Send your entry to: Blake Competition, Villager Publications Ltd, 24 Market Square, Potton, Bedfordshire SG19 2NP

The winner will be randomly selected from all correct entries. Deadline: 16th August 2017

BLAKE COMPETITION ENTRY
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The choir is made up of locals who come together every week to let their voices out and really raise-the-roof with their favourite numbers. Be it powerful, heart-wrenching ballads or rip-roaring classics, there’s something for everyone and each session promises great fun and a lot of laughs.

Somewhere 2 Sing has had a busy summer. It all kicked off when they were selected as finalists to sing at The Great British Proms at Knebworth House. It was their rendition of Elton John’s I’m Still Standing which rendered them worthy of a place and they look forward to entering next year. Maybe you’ll be joining them?

Next, it was off to The Gordon Craig Theatre when Stevenage Arts Festival invited the choir to sing as part of their finale performance in June, which just happened to be one of the hottest days of the year. 40 members sweltered whilst belting out Don’t Stop Believing but perhaps Hot, Hot, Hot would have been a more appropriate song choice.

Last month they staged their own version of Pitch Battle, when the Somewhere 2 Sing choirs from neighbouring towns met on stage at the Hertford Theatre, treating the audience to an hour and a half of glorious singing. It was hosted by a TV and West End star, supported by a live band, resulted in lots of drinks afterwards and certainly created wonderful memories for them all.

Want to get involved? Fancy a taster? Somewhere 2 Sing meets weekly at venues across Hertfordshire. Find your local one and give it a go!

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<tr>
<td>One Ear</td>
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<td>Both Ears</td>
<td>£60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation Fee*</td>
<td>£25</td>
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</table>

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You may be feeling the pressure with what to wear to an event. To hit the right note follow this easy guide.

1) **Check the etiquette**
   Most events will put the dress code on the invitation. Do follow it. Even at relatively informal events, an inappropriate outfit makes you feel uncomfortable. At worst, you may be refused entry.

2) **Weddings**
   Always check how formal the wedding is going to be. A country wedding, for example, will call for a different dress code to a city wedding.

3) **Heels**
   On grass, stilettos and kitten heels won’t be your friend. You’ll spend the whole day toppling backwards. Fortunately, block heels are bang on trend at the moment so it’s worth investing in a pair. These days, hats are optional. If they don’t fit your clothing personality, they’re not essential. But if you’re comfortable with hats, they can certainly add something special to an outfit. Before you buy your wedding hat, it’s worth checking out Debrett’s thoughts on the subject. Along with some useful advice, they have a hilarious section about the perils of “socially kissing” in a wide brimmed hat.

4) **Remember the skin rule**
   This one’s especially important for work parties but it applies to any event. Show off legs or décolletage - but not both, otherwise you’re in danger of losing authority.

5) **Test run your outfit**
   Give it a workout beforehand. Sit down, stretch up, do whatever’s needed to make sure it’s comfortable. After all, there’s nothing worse than spending an entire event feeling uncomfortable. Actually, there is something worse… A public clothing malfunction. For instance, if you’re wearing a tight skirt, make sure you can tackle stairs, get on and off minibuses and generally have room to manoeuvre.

6) **Think outside the box**
   Even at formal functions, you don’t have to wear a dress. A trouser suit can be perfect - and if your clothing personality can do it, culottes are popular at the moment. The key is to understand the dress code and apply your clothing personality accordingly.

7) **Minimise your handbag**
   A beautiful handbag is always good, but it’s best to minimise the contents - perhaps a retractable lip brush, compact, tissues and spare tights. Try and make sure everything you take out of your handbag is beautiful (apart from the spare tights!) And finally, if the weather looks iffy, bring an umbrella in your best ‘wow’ colour.

---

By Jennie Billings
www.houseofcolour.co.uk/jenniebillings

---

House of Colour

An easy guide to Event Dressing

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**Price List - No appointment necessary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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<td>Clipper cuts 1-4.</td>
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<td>Senior citizens. (Over 65 yrs mon-thurs)</td>
<td>£7.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children. (Up to 11 yrs)</td>
<td>£8.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beard trim</td>
<td>£3.50</td>
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<td>Beard trim (With cut throat shape up)</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
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<td>Shape ups, Lines &amp; patterns</td>
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**OPENING TIMES**

<table>
<thead>
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Employment Matters

Don’t get taken to tribunal
Give your employees a break

Carol H Scott
HR and Business Consulting Ltd

Failing to ensure staff take regular breathers could decrease productivity and land employers in hot water. With business and work related pressures on the rise, encouraging employees to take a breather can be beneficial. Whatever the role in a business, we all know taking even a short a break can give you a pep-up and five minutes walking away from a computer screen or a sit down from a role that has you mainly on your feet all day, can help your productivity, creativity or both.

The case of Grange v Abellio London Ltd gives employers another incentive to proactively urge workers to ‘step away from the workstation’ – whatever that may be – to prevent the possibility of defending a claim in an employment tribunal. All employees and workers are entitled under the Working Time Regulations to a 20 minute break after working 6 hours. We know this right arises regardless of whether they’ve formally asked their employer for a break. In practice the employer needn’t expressly/literally ‘refuse’ a worker’s ‘request’ for a break for the employment tribunal to find against them: an employer that simply sits back, knowing that their worker doesn’t have rest breaks – perhaps working through their lunch break every day - but doing nothing to change that, may also end up with judgment against them.

It is the duty of every employer to make sure all people working for them have a real opportunity to take a rest break whenever a right to one arises and actively create arrangements and an atmosphere, to enable this. Where it is necessary to ensure continuous business cover, schedule will need to be drawn up.

Add into this the current unusually extremely hot weather – which is gradually becoming more usual in our summers as years go on – it is even more important. The question constantly being asked in every workplace is “what is the maximum working temperature, and when can we go home”? Every employer has the duty and must provide a working environment which is as far as is reasonably practical, safe and without risks to health, taking into consideration their workers’ ages, current health status and disabilities.

In addition, all employers have to assess risks and introduce any necessary prevention or control measures for people at work indoors and put protection in place for people working outside or driving for a living too.

Employers need not force workers to take rest breaks. But if an organisation’s workers regularly ‘decide’ not to take one, it’s time to look more closely at the working arrangements. Are workers being encouraged, rather than discouraged, from taking work breaks? Could the organisation adequately demonstrate this to an employment tribunal? In the current climate with allegations about the poor treatment of workers hitting local and national headlines, reviewing all employees and workers break arrangements and providing working environments which are safe and without risks to health –whatever the weather - makes perfect sense.

Now go, have a break and get some air – you deserve it!
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Once upon a time I was admittedly, not the best candidate to write this article, given that I never once intended to take a year off myself. I was in fact, deeply perturbed when having missed my university offer, I was faced with the prospect of mulling over my apparent injustice for an entire, seemingly interminable year. However, the outcome of said year has arguably left me better positioned than even the most fervent of gap year advocates to convince you that you too would benefit enormously from taking a few months off. You can use these months to gain a metaphorically valuable experience, so why not take a few deep breaths before ploughing head first into the world of academics. I will explain in a bit more depth:

1) School can be very stressful, especially in your final years. University is great fun, but it can occasionally also be hard work, so entering into your first year with all of your batteries recharged and refreshed is, in my experience, very helpful. If you're worried that you'll never look back once you've hopped off the education wheel, I for one didn't find this to be remotely true. Why would you not want to take a little break from your education to try a few other things, before entering back into it with all of those lovely mind guns blazing? As cliché as it may sound, gap years are excellent balm for the soul.

2) Another cliché aspect of the gap year, which will also prove very helpful once you arrive at university, is the independence you will inevitably gain. Whether you spend your year working, travelling, or a bit of both (which is what I found to be the best option), you will pick up a lot from living in a world outside school. This will place you in excellent stead when you get to university and realise that you’re the only one who knows how to use a washing machine. Admittedly, this might not sound like too much of an incentive now, but it will leave you with much more time to actually enjoy yourself whilst your new friends are fretting about living away from home for the first time.
3) If you choose to work or volunteer at some point in your gap year, you will also pick up a few valuable assets for your CV and an idea of what you might want to pursue later on. You will thank yourself for this later when everyone around you is ferociously grappling for work experience.

4) Another thing you will gain, if you work on your year off, is money. You could use this money either to travel, or you could simply save it up until you get to university. A gap year doesn’t have to be the luxury some people take it to be if it’s entirely self-funded. By working throughout the first half of my year and travelling in the second, I was able to cover most of my travel costs myself. If you choose not to travel, once you arrive at university you will be able to contentedly feast on your takeaway pizza without experiencing a twinge of the financial guilt your fellow students may incur.

5) And finally, the very embodiment of the gap year cliché, but one that is a cliché for good reason—travelling. Whilst it is of course entirely up to you whether you decide to travel or not on your year off, I found this to be the most rewarding aspect of my year. It doesn’t have to be as expensive as you might expect, either. Seeing how other people live and a few of the vastly different places in the world really broadens your horizons before you trot off to live in another part of England with a lot of other English students. It’s exciting and very worthwhile. You might even ‘find yourself’ along the way…

If you happen to be interested in what I did and where I went during my year off, I shall proceed to tell you a little more. I started the year by working before heading to South Africa to volunteer at an elephant sanctuary in March. I then came home for a little while, before inter railing with a friend around Europe. I volunteered at the sanctuary through a company called Oyster, as I thought it was a better and potentially safer way of approaching solo travel in a country I didn’t know well. They were very helpful and sorted a lot of the logistics out for me, so I would recommend them if it’s your first time travelling alone. You can also volunteer directly through the park, which is the cheaper option. All of the accommodation is on-site, and the volunteering program is very popular so you’ll never be short on company. Everyone working at the park was lovely, and although South Africa is not necessarily renowned for its safety you are definitely well looked after there. The highlight of my experience was the elephants, each of whom has their own unique personality. They are all at the park because for one reason or another they can’t be released back into the wild, but they have lots of space to roam as they chose. I spent most of my time recording behavioural data for a research project, and we also did a fair amount of cleaning, feeding and even administering worming medicine, so the days were very varied and rewarding. If you have the chance to go, I would definitely recommend it.

Inter railing was also a lot of fun, and it was nice to do some travelling with a friend, too. We bought an inter railing pass, stayed in hostels and generally got by without any problems, other than a minor incident involving a passport left on a train heading to Germany whilst we remained in Amsterdam, but that’s one for another day. Essentially, as long as you hold onto your passport you should be fine. And so, if you’re still perched on the fence between university and gap year, I hope I might have given you a helpful push towards the latter. I might not have been thrilled about my fate at first, but I wouldn’t bat an eyelid before choosing to take another year off. In fact I may do just that once I graduate next year…

http://knysnaelephantpark.co.za
Honeysuckle

By Rachael Leverton

I know Wisteria is considered the king of climbers by many gardeners but surely honeysuckle must be the crown prince. The fragrance is nothing short of heavenly. It grows wild in a wood near my home and the scent stops walkers in their tracks whenever they come across it.

Honeysuckle stems emerge from the ground and grow slowly upwards until they find something around which to twine. At this point they romp away, scrambling up frameworks or trees decorating them with spidery flowers and showering the air with that heady scent on warm summer evenings.

The most common complaint I get about honeysuckle is ‘failure to thrive’. People buy one, plant it and it struggles on for a couple of years before it turns up it’s toes and keels over. ‘Why did that happen?’ they ask imploringly. Mostly it happens because although they are undemanding once established, honeysuckles are quite fussy about their situation. Honeysuckle prefers its roots in damp soil, not too heavy, and enriched with plenty of leaf mould. This makes perfect sense if you think about the forest floor where it grows wild. And it likes its head in the sun to encourage prolific flowering.

I grow it like clematis - I place a couple of bits of paving over the soil that surrounds the roots to over the cool shade they require.

Honeysuckle is not at all fussy about the support it needs. I have some growing over a pergola, and some over a wigwam in a border near a bench, just so I can get the benefit of the scent when I sit there. I’m trying to establish one over the porch too. As it’s against a wall I am having to make sure that it receives enough water.

My father had one growing over an old tree in his garden. If you want to do the same I’d advise planting it near the extremity of the branch canopy rather than near the trunk where root-competition will be fierce. Train the stems upwards along some garden twine into the branches and the result will be breathtaking.

There are lots of varieties to choose from. Our native honeysuckle, Lonicera periclymenum has early and late-flowering varieties and for scent they are difficult to beat. I do have a lovely Italian honeysuckle, Lonicera caprifolium, which was recommended to me by Alan Titchmarsh at a Gardeners World event many years ago. I wanted summer fragrance and I have not been disappointed with the great Mr. T’s suggestion. Now is actually a good time to buy a honeysuckle as you can conduct a scent test at the garden centre. Happy sniffing!

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If you would like to find out more about Rita please call Julie on 01763 289827 Alternatively, please e-mail Philippa at info.rats@gmail.com who will be pleased to forward your enquiry on to the team.

View other small mammals, dogs and cats currently in our care for re-homing on our website: www.rats-animalrescue.co.uk or facebook: www.facebook.com/ratscharity

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This is our third update on the progress of the handsome Timon. Earlier in the year, two little brothers came into the care of the RSPCA’s North Bedfordshire branch. One of them, Timon, had some some serious health problems. We appealed for donations to help pay for his operations.

Timon was born with under developed eyes and although he had some vision, it was very limited. When he came into our care, things looked quite bleak for him.

Despite this, the brothers were lucky enough to find their forever home. They now have a lovely new family who understand how special they are – and a secure garden to keep them safe.

This before and after photograph shows how well Timon has progressed. His eyes are much more open and he is so much happier in himself – which is wonderful to see.

Thank you to everyone who has followed and supported Timon’s journey. Also a huge thank you to our fantastic vets – Deepdale Veterinary & Aquatic Centre – who have been amazing.

Timon may need further treatment, so we are still fundraising for his treatment. If you would like to contribute, any donation would be greatly appreciated.

Please donate whatever you can by any of the following ways:

- dropping your donation in at our Thurlow Street shop in Bedford.
- posting your donation to our shop. The address is: 6 Thurlow Street, Bedford, MK40 1LR
  Tel: 01234 930304
- emailing: donate@rspcabedsnorth.org.uk

Although, this article is specifically about Timon – there are always animals needing our help. Fortunately, there are many ways you can support our work:

- We’re constantly in need of stock for our shop. Please donate any unwanted clothing, bric-a-brac, DVDs, CDs, books, toys, jewellery, electrical items or small furniture.
- As well as donating items, making regular visits to the shop and buying from us, helps enormously in bringing in funds to help the animals.
- Volunteer! We need foster carers, help in our shop – whether it’s on the till, or behind the scenes sorting out donations – help with fundraising.

Supporting your RSPCA Bedfordshire North branch ensures that this local charity will always be here for animals such as Timon – protecting them and giving them new beginnings.

Animal Stories
Another update on one brave little cat...
Cream of Pea and Herb Soup
Serves 4  Ready in 45 minutes, plus cooling

This light and creamy summery soup tastes delicious hot or cold.
To serve cold, leave the soup to cool then chill in the fridge for 2-3 hours before serving.
Top with a dollop of crème fraîche and serve with crusty bread, if liked.

INGREDIENTS
25g butter
1 leek, trimmed and chopped
1 potato, peeled and diced
1 litre vegetable stock
400g fresh podded peas
Few fresh mint leaves
Few fresh dill sprigs, plus extra to garnish
Pinch of sugar
100ml double cream
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1  Melt the butter in a large deep pan. Add the leek and potato and cook over a medium heat for 10 minutes until beginning to soften.
2  Pour in the stock and bring to the boil, then simmer for 10-15 minutes until the potato is tender. Add nearly all the peas (reserve a few for garnish), mint, dill and sugar and simmer for a further 4-5 minutes.
3  Cool the soup for 10 minutes then puree until almost smooth with a stick blender or in batches in a food processor.
4  Return the pureed mixture to the pan and heat through gently. Stir in the cream and simmer for 2-3 minutes. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
5  Ladle into four warmed bowls and serve garnished with the reserved peas and dill sprigs.

Tip
If fresh peas are unavailable use the same quantity of frozen peas instead.
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What’s On

In August

2 August
Wildlife Trust Guided Walk Flitton Moor
10am-midday
A walk around the reserve led by David Sedgley tracing the Two Moors Trail.
Tel: Betty Cooke 01462 851954
Email: bettycooke954@btinternet.com

3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 August
Sapphire Social Club
8.30pm The Orange Tree, Hitchin
We are a small and friendly group for single people generally aged 50 and above. We offer a variety of social events during the month and the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Potential new members are warmly welcome to come along and meet us with no joining fee for the first two months.
Tel: Joyce 07952 678021 or Ian 07900 890583
Web: www.sapphiresocialsinglesclub.co.uk

5 August
Wildlife Trust celebration
25 years at Pegsdon Hills
10am-3pm
The Wildlife Trust BCN has managed the Pegsdon Hills nature reserve for 25 years this year. Come along to help celebrate this milestone: go bug hunting, have a guided walk, meet some of the reserves grazers (baaa!) and try some crafts. Trust staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions and to reveal the delights of the reserve.
Tel: 01525 874317

5 August
The Signals Museum Open Day
10am-4pm
The Signals Museum at RAF Henlow is open to the public. Entry is free but official photo ID such as a driving licence, passport or over 60s Bus Pass is required to get an entry ticket from the Guardroom. See website for full information.
Web: www.rafsignalsmuseum.org.uk

7, 14, 21 & 28 August
Branch Out Social Club for Single People
8.30-11pm Cromwell Bar, The Sun Hotel, Hitchin
Branch Out meets every Monday night and is a medium-sized Social Club for single people.
It was formed in 1995 to bring together single, divorced, widowed and separated people, aged 40 upwards, from the Herts, Beds and Bucks area, to socialise and enjoy one another’s company. The club organises regular events, such as dinners, discos, meals, parties, Sunday walks, theatre and concert visits, day and weekend trips and holidays.
Tel: Lorna 01438 233657
Web: www.branch-out.org.uk

9 August
Henlow Branch R N A
7.30pm Community Centre, The Gardens, Henlow
The Henlow Branch of The Royal Naval Association meets on the second Wednesday of each month.
Tel: Les Dessent 01767 223212 for further information

10 August
Ballock & Clouthal WI
7.30pm United Reformed Church, Whitehorse Street, Baldock
Visitors £3 including refreshment and raffle ticket
The WI has all sorts of good things lined up for 2017 and lots of other things you might be interested in - a book club, a walking group, a craft club, a knitting and crochet group, a cinema group and a supper club. Hopefully there is something for everyone.
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ballockclouthallwi

12 & 13 August
Broomstock 2017
Live music Sat 12pm-11pm,
Sun 12.30pm-8.30pm The Cock Inn, Broom
Web: www.broomstock.co.uk info & tickets
Facebook: Broomstock festival
Twitter: @broomstock

12 & 13 August
Busk Till Dusk & Country Fayre
Sat 3-10pm, Sun 11am-4.30pm
St John’s Hospice, Moggerhanger
Busk Till Dusk Adults £10, Under 16 £6, Under 5 free, Family 2 adults & 2 children £28
Bring your picnic blanket and festival vibes to rock out and watch performers at the annual Busk Till Dusk music festival; now in its third year. The fun continues on Sunday with the Country Fayre at which you can enjoy a host of family-friendly activities. Pony rides, a scarecrow dress-up competition, line dancing, 4x4 driving experiences and a vintage vehicle display are just some of the activities on offer at the event set in the hospice’s beautiful grounds.
Web: Busk Till Dusk Tickets www.sueryder.org/busktilldusk

14 August
Icknield Quilters
7.30pm for 7.45pm start
Baldock Community Centre
£3
Sewing evening. Visitors welcome.
Web: www.icknieldquilters.co.uk for more information


In August

15 August
Albert (Hitchin) Oddfellows Friendship
Group Coffee Morning
10.30am-12 noon
Tilehouse Street Baptist Church,
Upper Tilehouse Street, Hitchin

Would you like to make new friends? Come and join us for a coffee and chat at our monthly coffee morning. We would love you to join us. Call Helen or just turn up on the day. Tea/coffee provided - donations to Garden House Hospice.
Tel: Helen Lindsey 01462 432321
Email: helen.lindsey@oddfellows.co.uk

16 August
Herts at War Talk
Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm
Free admission - donations welcome
The Large Lecture Theatre (adjacent to Western Auditorium), University of Hertfordshire, De Havilland Campus, Hatfield

Return of the successful series of military talks. Dan Hill talks about The Hertfordshire Regiment in 1917. Please book tickets online.
Web: http://hertsatwar.co.uk/talks

25 August
Grand Summer Tour
11am-1pm & 2.30-4.30pm
Warden Abbey Vineyard, near Old Warden
Adults £8, Accompanied children free, £5 for Friends of Warden Abbey Vineyard members + 1 guest

You will be met by the vineyard manager or one of the experienced volunteers. The tour takes about 1.5-2 hours and includes a walk and talk around the vineyard discussing the history of the vineyard from its medieval origins to modern times, the varieties of vines and their care, the challenges of growing vines in our climate, and the modern English wine industry, as well as the community vineyard project and the special role played by volunteers. Round off your visit with a tasting of a couple of the wines. If you would like to take a bottle or two home with you(!), wines will be available to buy at the end of the tour (cash or cheque only please).
Advance booking only.
Web: www.wardenvineyard.org.uk/tours

26 & 27 August
The Pantaloons perform A Midsummer Night's Dream.
Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm
RSVP, The Lodge Nature Reserve,
Sandy, Bedfordshire
Adults £13.50, Children 7-16 £8,
Under 7s free, Family 2+2 £37

Midsummer night. An enchanted forest. Puck and his musical fairy band tell a tale of lovers, mechanicals, and magical mayhem.
The critically-acclaimed Pantaloons present their innovative and hilarious open-air version of Shakespeare's timeless comedy - told, as ever, in their own distinctive and anarchic style. Held on the lawn at The Lodge Nature Reserve and gardens. Bring your blankets, picnics and chairs and parents bring a bottle of your favourite tipple to enjoy Shakespeare in the open air. Please note: Assistance dogs only at the performance please.
Tel: Tickets 01767 693333
Web: Tickets www.thepantaloons.co.uk
(online booking fee £1.25 per transaction applies)

27 August
Afternoon Tea 2-5pm
St Marys Church, Graveley
Teas in church and a tombola. The Maze at Crow End will be open by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Hogg (small charge applies). St Marys Church is a gem of a church with parts dating back to Norman times. The church is situated 200 yards off the High Street on the B197.

26-28 August
Westmill Art Exhibition
10am-5pm
Westmill Village Hall, SG9 9LJ (just off of the A10 south of Buntingford)
Free admission – donations welcome
The time is fast approaching. Are you busy painting? New artists are always welcome. Artists who have exhibited previously have been contacted. Everyone welcome. All works are for sale. Funds raised go to local charities and good causes.
Tel: Olga 01763 273654 for further information or an entry form
Email: phippsapleyard@btinternet.com

26-28 August
Westmill Village Hall, SG9 9LJ (just off of the A10 south of Buntingford)

Web: www.wardenvineyard.org.uk/tours

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Fun Quiz - Logos

1. The logo of the film studio Dreamworks features a boy sitting on a crescent moon doing what activity?
2. Best known for its sportswear, which Italian clothing company has a logo that features the silhouettes of a man and woman sitting back to back against each other?
3. Featuring on its logo, in what year was the company Guinness founded?
4. A new lion logo for what was unveiled in February 2016, with many people saying that it resembled Mufasa from The Lion King?
5. What type of animal is used as the logo of Bacardi?
6. The logo for the beer brand McEwan’s was based on which famous painting by Frans Hals?
7. How many dots in total feature on the domino that is used for the logo of Domino’s Pizza?
8. In 2011, Iran threatened to boycott the 2012 London Olympics, saying the logo was racist as it spelt out a biblical name used to refer to the city of Jerusalem. What is this name?
9. Which famous company has a logo featuring a twin-tailed siren, and caused controversy in 2006 when briefly reintroducing the original version of the logo where the siren’s breasts were visible?
10. Which famous person from history was depicted sitting under an apple tree on the very first logo of the company Apple?
The Villager Prize Crossword

Complete the crossword, fill in your details below, cut out this page and send to the address below before

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