

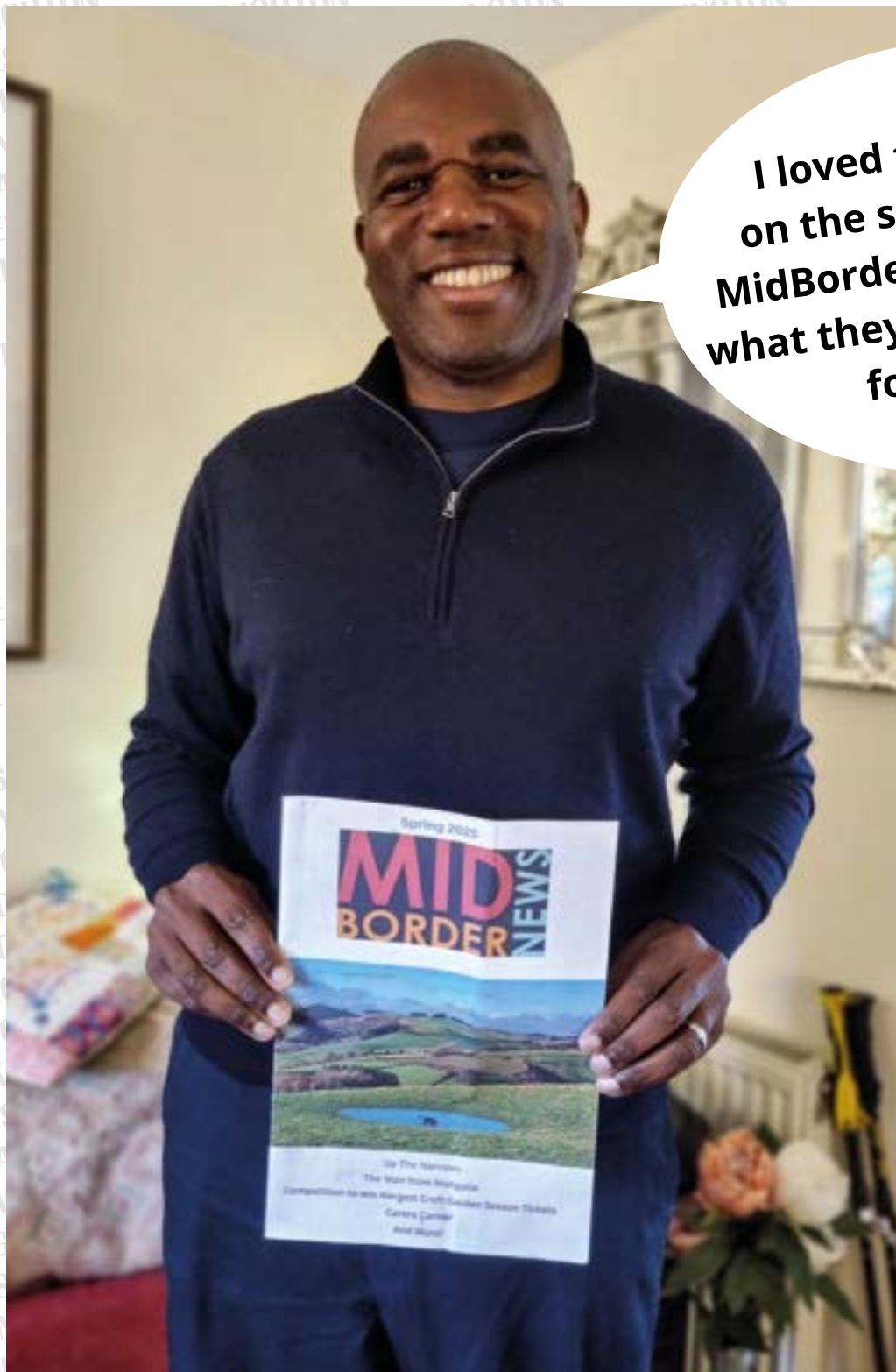
MID BORDER NEWS

BUMPER SUMMER EDITION 2025

Your **FREE**,
quirky,
local magazine!

I loved the front cover
on the spring edition of
MidBorder News. I wonder
what they will come up with
for summer?

**SEE INSIDE
FOR NEWS
AND EVENTS
INCLUDING
CARERS
CORNER,
THE MAN
FROM
MONGOLIA
RETURNS
AND MORE!**



CONTACT DETAILS

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FRONT COVER

With thanks to the Foreign Secretary, David Lammy for being my cover star.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful for support from Kington Town Council and to all the contributors. Special thanks to Matthew Lloyd for letting me use his studio and his graphic design advice and Annie Vickerstaff for not retiring just yet.

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FURTHER LOCATIONS.

SEE CONTACT DETAILS.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR



The editor and the Man from Mongolia enjoying the view from the Harp Inn at Old Radnor

What glorious weather we've had in April and May – let's hope the rest of the summer continues in the same way as there are so many amazing events going on! From Presteigne's Open Studios (see pages 10-11) to Leominster Priory celebrating 900 years, not to mention concerts and music happenings – see pages 20-21 and throughout the magazine.

If you want to fire up the barbeque, head off to your local butcher's to grab the best fresh meat available – ask the Man from Mongolia (pages 14-15) for some recipes and the summer is complete!

For those who have caring responsibilities, Carer's Corner deserves a special feature this issue as caring for loved ones can be very demanding. In May, my mum died in St Michael's Hospice, Herefordshire after being cared for in her own home. I would like to send an extra special thank you to all those carers and care workers, paid and unpaid, who helped so much at what was an extremely difficult time. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

In the meantime, as promised, this is a bumper summer edition, our coverage has extended to include Leintwardine and MidBorder News is going from strength to strength – maybe I'll do a special holiday issue next summer from the steppes and mountains of Outer Mongolia? Watch this space.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Look what I found!



DEADLINES

10th February for Spring issue coming out in March.
10th May for Summer issue coming out in June.
10th August for Autumn issue coming out in September.
10th November for Winter issue coming out in December.
email info@midbordernews.com

... NEWS FROM THE BORDERS ... NEWS FROM THE BORDERS ... NEWS FROM THE BORDERS ... NEWS FROM THE BORDERS ... NEWS FROM THE BORDERS ...



Kington Post Office Receives Award

Kington Post Office was Highly Commended in the village shop/post office category in the recent Countryside Alliance Awards (CAA), the runner-up position after the winning entry. The CAA are designed to celebrate rural

businesses, communities and individuals which have made significant contributions to rural life and cover the whole UK.

Kington postmaster Tim Allen was delighted with the Award and praised his staff for their dedication and hard work, as well as all his loyal customers who use the post office regularly. Tim has been campaigning for a banking hub in Kington for some time and although his latest bid has been turned down, he has the support of North Herefordshire MP Ellie Chowns who has spoken to the House of Commons on the subject, so there may yet be a chance of success.



Council Vacancies

There are three vacancies on Kington Town Council. There were no requests for elections, so the council can now co-opt new members. If you are interested in serving your community as part of the council, please contact clerk Liz Kelso clerk@kingtontowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01544 239098.

Send your news to:
info@midbordernews.com

Kington Marmalade Competition THE FUTURE'S ORANGE



The Barn at the Oxford Arms hosted this annual event in which around 40 jars of orange gold were tasted by top international judge Jane Maggs. The winner of the Seville marmalade class was Elizabeth Gordon Pugh and the mixed citrus class was won by Wayne Summers. Organised by Pam Peek and Gareth Clark, who are also responsible for the hugely popular Kington Food & Drinks Festival, the event was well attended and it just goes to show that you don't have to go to Darkest Peru to find excellent marmalade (somebody should tell Paddington Bear).

SPACEGUARD CENTRE TO RE-OPEN IN JULY



The Spaceguard Centre in Kington will closed from 27 April 2025 for essential maintenance and repairs. It aims to re-open mid-July 2025. Join the waiting list at www.spaceguardcentre.co.uk to stay in touch and get an exclusive invite to the opening day.



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ANY OTHERING BUSINESS

Caring Corner

If you'd like to share your accounts of care, we'd love to hear from you.
Send your stories to Julia: literacy@ymail.com

There are times when people treat my mum as though she is invisible. Maybe they do it because she's hard of hearing and has Dementia. To be honest, I think that it's more an ageist thing, where older people might seem invisible to younger people. Recently, mum's dentist remarked, "Isn't she remarkable? She's so funny and she's got such a big character. You'd never know she has Dementia!" Narrated in front of her!

Her response? Instant! Her head lowered, her face relaxed, and she looked very sad. I thought, It'd take too long to explain to him the 'othering' effect comments like that have on mum, so I whispered, "You've just reminded her she has Dementia."

Welcome to the wonderful world of othering, which is usually applied from a place of judgement or stereotype towards 'them' to separate them and us (Staszak, 2020). Often people don't even know they're doing it. The dentist's naive observation separated us (seemingly cognitively astute) from her (seemingly the one who isn't). Yet mum is quicker at thinking and cleverer than me by a mile.

When people know about othering, they can't unsee it, like referring to 'normal' behaviour. What's that? So it's satisfying to watch how mum can also disprove stereotypes:

Cue Trivial Pursuits game, Dec. 2023

I eagerly paired with mum, "Are you sure that's wise?" Sniggered a couple of distant relatives.

"Oooh yes!" Said I.

Throughout the process of

their defeat by mum, the family members' faces blanched as her encyclopaedic knowledge brushed, then wiped the floor with them. Who is the 'other' now?! Another game anyone?

Fear



I think at the heart of any stereotyping is fear: people are frightened of Dementia as it is confusing for the person. So when you hear someone remind another that they have repeated themselves with comments like, "You just said that!" Always remember that this comment comes from a place of fear and ... ignorance. What do people get from pointing out repetition to a vulnerable person that can't remember? My guess? It's a little win. A social power win. Congratulations! You outwitted someone with feelings [flex]!

I've had those awkward conversations with people that pointing out repetition is a form of othering, that makes mum feel different. I don't use those exact words. I used my far-away stare, internalised the steam from my boiling blood and was more polite, "She doesn't know she has repeated herself, obviously!"

For a while I tried to protect her from people's comments and misunderstandings but you can't. One example is when I am with my mum in public; I'd prefer friends

to act as though they've never met her because essentially you're a stranger to her.

Cue, another example of 'othering' when a friend recently met mum. He shook mum's hand, there were lots of smiles and we talked about the weather...I tried to pull mum away before his comment came ... I knew it was coming ... any minute now...

"OF COURSE WE'VE MET BEFORE, ESTHER. NICE TO MEET YOU AGAIN," Her jaw dropped and I could tell that she was suddenly reminded that her smiley chatty mask wasn't enough of a disguise to hide the memory challenges ... and boy, my mum works so hard to hide it in public.

We walked away and mum leant in and said, "Oh dear! I can't remember meeting him before."

"Well he obviously didn't make a big enough impression on you, did he mum?" She chuckled and we changed the subject.

Even though comments like that drive me up the wall, I have a confession; I used to correct mum's repetition, until I asked for help and recommendations from Julia at Tower Gallery Cafe, who lent me a book about understanding the lived experience of Dementia. Her kindness and that book turned my world around - and mum's.

Both Jan Hall, in Dementia Essentials, and Oliver James, in Contented Dementia, confirm that it is not good practice to correct people with Dementia nor remind them they have Dementia and repeat themselves: it just confuses them more.

People with Dementia have complex feelings.

By Jay



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Caring Corner

RESPIRE FOR LOCAL UNPAID CARERS

GN was a carer for her father who passed away around 3 years ago.

Dad originally stayed in our cabin in our large garden where he painted and listened to his music. In the last couple of years, we've renovated the cabin and I have always wanted to help others in the situation I was in to have somewhere for them to go for a few days respite.

I would like to offer this cabin to someone in need of care respite for a few days, for a small fee to cover expenses. I would welcome the chance to give that person some peace and relief as I understand how challenging it is to be an unpaid carer. Please contact Julia at literacy@ymail.com and she will forward these to me.



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Caring Corner

Related News

1 in 7 people are unpaid carers in England and Wales and 2 million are professional carers (Carers UK, 2024).

Unpaid carer, TJ

In 2016/17, we were told that dad was terminally ill. I was limited in what I could physically do for him. So, my role was to emotionally/mentally support him and do whatever I could to ease things for mum, whether that be cooking a meal or walking the dog. Mum did the personal care for dad. He kept fighting until 2019 when he passed away just two days before their 56th anniversary. The doctors were shocked how he continued for so long.

Come 2023, Mum had a stroke and I had to move in with her for a while as she needed supervising. Since my dad passed away, I ensure that mum gets a holiday every year with me which she gets so excited about. To be honest, I feel so drained and exhausted from not only looking after my mum's wellbeing but also trying to balance my own needs. Soon mum will be undergoing knee surgery, and the consultant has suggested I move in for three months post-surgery. This will be hard work for us both, but I know we will discuss everything, ensuring that she keeps her independence and her dignity, which we both value highly.

Mum and I are grateful for our faith, which gives us strength and the friends we have that support us as well. I will never regret the precious moments that I have with my parents, even if it is being an unpaid carer. There will be no guilt as I know that I have done my absolute best to care and provide for both my parents. TJ



CarersUK will release their fundraising appeal on Carers Week, starting 9th of June on BBC Radio 4. This will raise money for unpaid carers and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK.



Unpaid Carer, JP

My husband of 50 years had a knee replacement three months ago. He's normally fit and healthy so it was a shock to us both the level of help required for the first few weeks. As an ex-nurse, I knew what was entailed but it was a sharp initiation into the world of unpaid carer.

I found I had to be extremely flexible day and night, cancelling and rearranging things while doing all the dog walking, housework, cooking, food shopping and caring. I had to dig deep to find limitless patience,

control my frustration at how much time the littlest things took. At the same time he was dealing with having to be totally dependent on me whilst being in a lot of pain. I found I was constantly running up and down stairs with drinks, medication, icepacks – an endless list. Inevitably on going down, there would be something we had forgotten! I never sat down. It was

utterly exhausting.

Just as he got back to normality he had surgery for a detached retina. Back to square one with more limitations on what he could and couldn't do while his eye is recovering.

I have utter admiration for those of you who are carers constantly, day after day, year after year. The level of responsibility, the exhaustion, worry, isolation because there is no time to see anyone outside of the caring bubble, must be phenomenal. The guilt you must feel when you simply feel you've had enough and can't go on.

If you don't look after yourselves who is going to look after your partner, parent or child? You are incredibly special people, doing an amazing job, for love. So value yourselves. JP

Unpaid carers or grieving a loved one?

Carer's Allowance should typically continue for up to eight weeks after their death, according to Carers UK and Hospice UK. Additionally, if you lost a spouse or civil partner, you may be eligible for the Bereavement Support Payment, according to GOV.UK



Alex Ramsay



Ruth Kirkby

*Start following
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22nd to 25th August 2025, 11am to 5pm

Kitty Perceval



Bim Burton



Suzanne Boak



Alice Perceval



Open Studios Presteigne

Now in its 8th year, Open Studios Presteigne promises once more to be a fascinating aspect of this year's Presteigne Music Festival and a must to visit. Over the years, Presteigne has become a magnet for artists and makers of all kinds, and many of them will be opening their doors to the public or getting together in small exhibition spaces. This year, as well as a large number of private studios and workshops based in and around the town, a contingent of artists and makers from nearby Brampton Bryan will be taking over the newly refurbished Youth Centre, and there will also be exhibitors at the Judges' Lodging Museum (well worth a visit too) - adding even greater variety to this ever-growing event. Painting, photography, furniture, sculpture, print-making, glassware, jewellery, ceramics, weaving and more - it's all here - so take this opportunity to visit as many as possible. So far there are well over 40 participants, so there is no shortage of fascinating and skilled artwork to see.

Many of the visitors to the music festival use the breaks between concerts to wander round this gem of a border town, calling in at studios and temporary galleries, having refreshments in the many cafes and pubs, and taking in the relaxed and friendly atmosphere. As well as established artists in all media, there are many new faces too - making this a fascinating weekend both visually and aurally!

A brochure and map are usually available at the beginning of August and it can be seen on Instagram and Facebook around that time.



Alexa Summers *Morning*



Stephanie Jacobs



Celia de Serra *Towards This Place Lightly*

Norton Community Hub

Norton Community Hub presents "Music for a Summer Afternoon". An afternoon of gorgeous tunes from Dolau Mixtures, with summertime goodies from the Hub Cafe. Sunday 6th June, 3pm, Norton Community Hub, Norton, Presteigne, LD8 2EN.

A very special event from Norton Community Hub - an evening of wine tasting, with Mark from the Real Wine Company. Sample and learn about Mark's specially selected wines, with a chance to buy your favourites. Saturday 14th June 7pm. A great evening in our beautifully restored former church building. Norton Community Hub, Norton, Presteigne, LD8 2EN. Tickets £15, including light bites and all samples, available from Try Booking - <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/83710>

Contact: nortoncommunitytrust@gmail.com



Presteigne Flower Club



We are pleased to welcome top demonstrator Donald Morgan on Wednesday 9th July to present a demonstration 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' in Presteigne Memorial Hall, 7.00 pm. The designs are sure to be fabulous and will be raffled at the end of the evening. Visitors are very welcome - £10 on the door. Light refreshments available.

For further information contact our Secretary Ann – 01544 340453



FLOWERS FOR FUN CLASSES will continue on Thursdays from 12.00 to 2.00 pm in Whitton Community Hall. Friendly and relaxed. beginners welcome. Cost is £5 per session.

Dates from 5th June onwards:

19th June – this will be a 3 hour session for a collage design in a frame – all materials supplied but at extra cost

26th June, 3rd July, 17th July

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AUGUST

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2025

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20TH SEP

18TH OCT

QUALITY WORK BY LOCAL ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS

3rd Saturday of the month (Apr. - Dec.)

KINGTON MARKET HALL. 9.30 - 3.30.

In the spring edition of MidBorder News, readers learnt about my house guest Dorjraa, aka, 'The Man from Mongolia' who was staying with me whilst collecting fieldwork for his PhD in Welsh farming practices. During his original three-week visit, I was able to introduce Dorjraa to some local butchers . . .

THE RETURN OF . . .

THE MAN FROM MONGOLIA

by Carla Rosenthal

It is not everyday that a man from Mongolia drops into a local butcher's shop to ask to see a sheep being cut up, but that is exactly what we did a few days after Dorjraa's arrival in Cwmwhitton, Powys. In an area surrounded by farms, we are very fortunate here on the borders, to be able to access excellent meat, raised and slaughtered in our vicinity.



Dorjraa and Sam



My son Sam works at W.J. George Butcher's Ltd in Talgarth (above), a fine shop which has an on-site abattoir, a delicatessen and butchers situated opposite Claire's Wholefoods that sells the fruit, vegetables and other ingredients essential to help with preparing healthy, home cooked food. Sam and his boss Chris welcomed Dorjraa into the shop on a sunny Tuesday and demonstrated the entire process of boning and preparing a whole sheep for consumption.

For those readers who have visited www.midbordernews.com and read the section 'All Things Mongolian', you will have learned that despite studying for a doctorate, Dorjraa is himself a farmer and comes from a family of herdsman. His interest in the butchery aspect of farming in the UK comes from

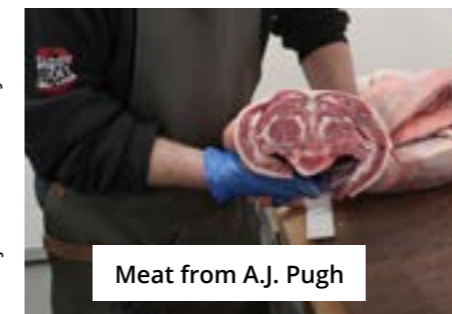


his cultural background of eating every possible part of the animal that is killed for consumption and no part of the beast is ever wasted – even the bones have significance for certain rituals and as gifts for special members of the family.

After our visit to Talgarth and over a meal (left) made by Dorjraa of *Buuz* (dumplings filled with minced beef and

onions) served with Brussel sprouts (a new vegetable for Dorjraa) and ketchup (!), we came up with the grand plan of visiting other butchers to see if he could watch other animals being prepared. And so it came to pass . . .

With thanks to Tom Pugh and his team at A.J. Pughs in Knighton and Gary at G.C.S.E. Butcher's in Presteigne, Dorjraa was able to add a pig and a cow



Meat from A.J. Pugh



to his fieldwork on butchery. From Gary in Presteigne, we ate award winning beef reared on Colin Pugh's farm where Dorjraa had been helping out with the sheep, and the succulent steaks courtesy of Tom Pugh in Knighton were second to none.

In a country where 'organ soup' is regularly served for dinner, Dorjraa was fascinated by how different our diets are. In Mongolia, meat is the primary food with vegetables such as carrots, onions or potatoes being secondary. Personally, I do like a salad so Dorjraa and I were going to have to compromise on meal choices but fortunately, Dorjraa does love a Pot-Noodle so at least he wouldn't starve.

With thanks to the incredible hospitality of Mel and Martin in the Harp, they introduced us to farmers Lisa and Ken from Cadair

Idris where Dorjraa found a new farm to experience a later lambing season in the mountains. But not before he'd spent 3 weeks lambing in the hills in Norton . . . and then bounced back to me – but that's a story for the autumn edition of your free, quirky local magazine.



Over the three weeks, beyond our tour of local butcher's, we attended the St David's Day celebrations in Knighton Comm and were captivated by the beautiful harp performance of Eleri Darkins (see www.eleridarkins.com).

This led us neatly onto making a contact through the landlord and landlady of the delightful Harp Inn at Old Radnor – well worth a visit for the spectacular views, delicious home cooked Welsh cakes and a great selection of drinks.

Eleri Darkins



NOT FOR VEGETARIANS OR THE SQUEAMISH

Read more about the Man from Mongolia on our website where there are more images of butchery, a video of sausage making and some links to Mongolian cuisine: Mongolia's answer to Delia Smith shows you how to make your own 'organ soup' should you run out of pot-noodles. Cooking best accompanied with harp music from Eleri.



Kington Town Council are delighted to be able to support the MidBorder News magazine and help to share the details of local events and information.

**The Oxford Arms, Kington
Summer 2025 – Events & Opening Hours**

More info & tickets: openarmskington.co.uk
Tel: 07301 081444 | Email: info@openarmskington.co.uk

JUNE

Wed 4 & 11, 12:30–1:30pm – Chair Yoga with Georgie Treasure-Evans · £5
Wed 4, 10am–12:30pm – Sunflower Social (Hidden Disabilities) · Free
Sun 8, 1–5pm – Fundraiser for Mind · Music, kids' activities, food · Free
Wed 11, 10am–12:30pm – Dementia Matters · Free
Sat 14, from 5pm – Kington Wheelbarrow Race Stop · Food from RJ's · Free
Fri 20, 10am–2pm – Antiques Valuation with Halls · £2/item · Café open
Sun 22, 1–5pm – Folk Club Sunday Sessions · Live music · Free
Fri 27, 7pm – Ceilidh · £10/£5 incl. raffle · Bar open 5–10pm
Sun 29, 3–5pm – Creative Workshop: Paper Cutting · £5 suggested
Open:
Weds (weekly) 10am–12:30pm · Fri 6, 20, 27, 5–10pm · Sun (except 1st) 1–5pm
Closed: Sun 1 June

JULY

Wed 2, 10am–12:30pm – Sunflower Social · Free
Sat 5, 11am–4pm – Dance Event with 2Faced Dance · Free
Wed 9, 10am–12:30pm – Dementia Matters · Free
Sun 13, 1–5pm – Bastille Day Celebration · Free
Sun 20, 1–5pm – Folk Club Sunday Sessions · Free
Sun 27, 3–5pm – Creative Workshop: Macrame · £5 suggested
Open:
Weds (weekly) 10am–12:30pm · Fri 11 & 25, 5–10pm · Sun (weekly) 1–5pm

AUGUST

Sun 3, 1–5pm – Kington Castaways with Rita Langford BEM · Free
Wed 6, 10am–12:30pm – Sunflower Social · Free
Wed 13, 10am–12:30pm – Dementia Matters · Free
Sat 16, 12–10pm – Vintage Show · Pizza from The Pizza Box · Free
Sat 23, from 12pm – Folk Club Music Day feat. Project Smok · Tickets TBA
Sun 31, 3–5pm – Creative Workshop: Collage · £5 suggested
Open:
Weds (weekly) 10am–12:30pm · Fri 1 & 29, 5–10pm · Sun (weekly) 1–5pm

KINGTON MADE A MILLION!

A Genius Idea in Tiny Town

Over almost 20 years, the grandest total raised by all the local organisations' fundraising in the Community Shop has just passed the £1,000,000!
It's amazing what all those bargains have added up to.

In Kington and District Community Shop, a different group takes on the shop every Tuesday afternoon. We load its shelves with tat, 'treasure', clothing, some furniture etc. that has been donated by supporters of the group. There's a queue outside on a Wednesday morning!!!

Most transactions are generally around the £1-£2 mark which makes the £1,000,000 grand total of funds raised even more astonishing. Groups pay £130 a week for use of shop, which includes PAT testing.

Funds raised ranging from £1000-£2000+.

Most shops would love to have this in their tills.

It also benefits other shops as people pop into other shops too.
100% win win!!

It is the most perfect circular phenomena, keeping stuff out of landfill, giving something a new life, raising vital funds.

It was set up by the amazing Rita Langford about 20 years ago for which she was presented with a British Empire Medal. It is still run by her with the support of a small committee. This model should be rolled out nationwide.

by Suzie Hughes, a megafan of the Shop and of Rita :)



JUNE

04-10 Bryngwyn Riding for the Disabled (RDA)
11-17 Kinnerton Village Hall & WI
18-24 Kington Community Choir
25-01 New Radnor Community Centre

JULY

02-08 Knill Church
09-15 Almeley Church
16-22 Music at St Mary's
23-29 Marches Maker Festival
30-05 Huntingdon Church

AUGUST

06-12 Kington Museum
13-19 New Radnor WI
20-26 Kington Youth Club
27-02 (KADOS) Kington Amateur Dramatics & Operatic Society



KINGTON TOURIST GROUP ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be changes to the Kington TIC at the end of 2025.

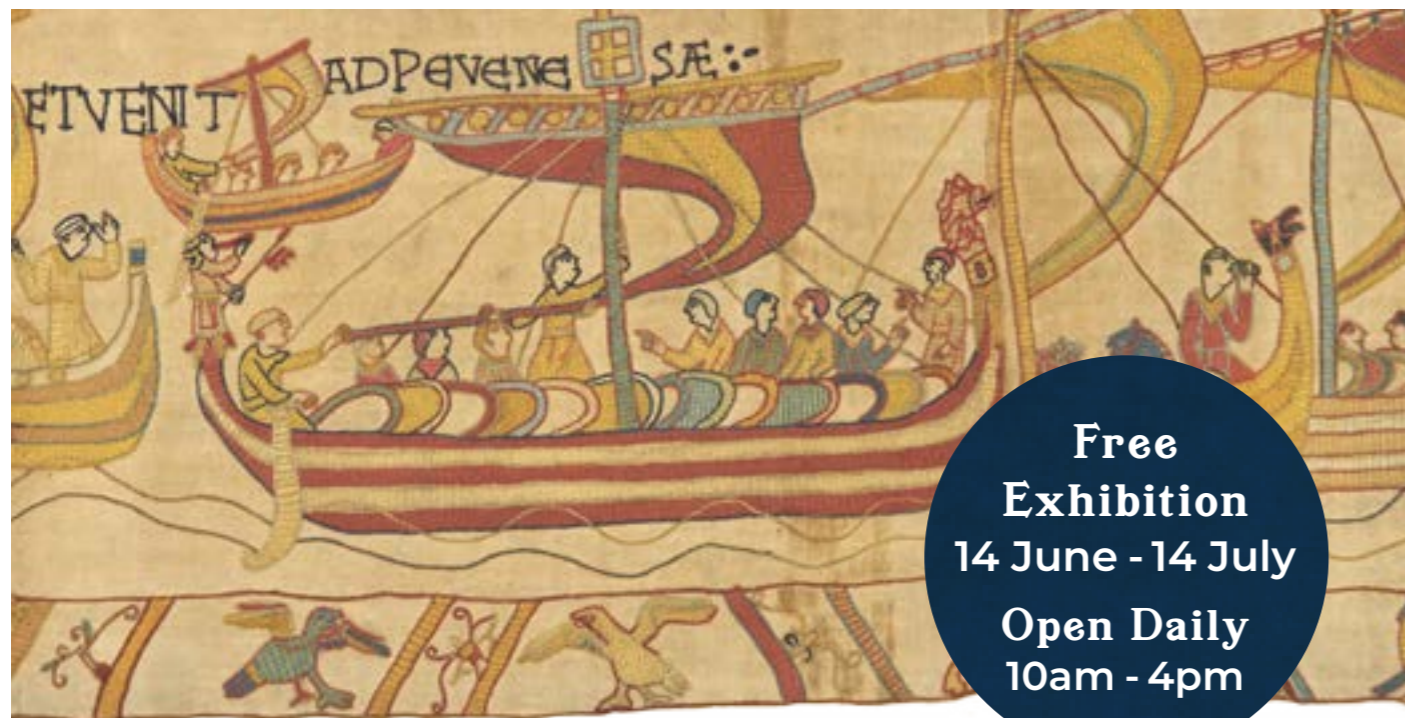
Four committee members are resigning after many years of service, this includes the Treasurer and Secretary. If there is anyone out there who would be interested in joining the TIC and would like to know more about these roles please contact Margaret Pengelly at alpini@hotmail.co.uk or mobile no: 07881 564668 .

The TIC is currently open from March until the end of October

There has been an independent Tourist Office in Kington for over thirty years. It was first started by Mr. Richard, Mrs. Ros Banks and Mrs. Audrey Cresswell. This was when it was one of the only ways for visitors to find out what Kington and the surrounding area had to offer.

See: www.kingtontourist.info for more details.

Priory 900 Celebrating 900 Years of Leominster Priory



CRAFT WORKSHOPS • CONCERTS • TALKS • WALKS BAYEUX TAPESTRY STORIES • NORMAN LEOMINSTER

The exhibition and events will explore Leominster's amazing history, including the Normans in Leominster, the Priory as a place of pilgrimage, Romanesque Sculpture and the Ducking Stool.

www.prioryarts.org.uk



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Town Council



BOOK
TICKETS

With support from The Harley Charity and The Friends of Leominster Priory. Printed by Orphans Press.

ALL WELCOME



Events and Free Exhibition at Leominster Priory 14 June – 14 July 2025

Celebrating 900 years of Leominster Priory 1125 – 2025

The exhibition and events will explore Leominster's amazing history, including the iconic Herefordshire School of Romanesque Art, the Priory as a place of pilgrimage, the Lost East End and its famous Ducking Stool. What did the Normans do for Leominster? In a display about the Bayeux Tapestry, find out what the Priory's last abess had to do with 1066 and all that!

The exciting programme of events will include craft workshops, concerts, talks, walks, original community collaborations, school visits, and art works by local artists and students.

A **Norman Churches Open Day on Saturday 21 June 10 am – 4 pm** will include Yarpole, Eye, Orleton, Monkland, Ford, Hatfield, Pudleston, Bockleton, Leysters and Middleton-on-the-Hill. To accompany the day Rob Walker has produced a new illustrated booklet *The Normans in and around Leominster* which features the open churches.

A special **Priory 900 Team Celebration Service, Sunday 29 June 2025, 10:00 am** will take place at the Priory Church and will be followed by a 'Bring & Share' Picnic in the grounds. All welcome.

Priory 900 is supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, The Elmley Foundation, The Harley Charity, The Rowlands Trust, and The William A Cadbury Trust.



Find out more about the festival events at www.prioryarts.org.uk

© Geoff Bricknell 2025



Above: Celebrating the arrival of the programme brochures for Priory 900 at the medieval west door of Leominster Priory are (left to right): artist Neil Ramsay, mayor designate Councillor Tessa Smith Winnard, Mayor of Leominster Councillor Gill Murdoch, Vicar of Leominster Father Guy Cole, Heppy Cole, volunteer coordinator Wendy Pridie and Hilary Norris, Director of Music at Leominster Priory and project coordinator for the Priory 900 programme.

© Clare Stevens 2025



Above: Leominster Priory, west end

© Neil Ramsay 2025



Above: Leominster Priory Norman nave looking west
Ramsay

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Old School, New Master

Five years ago this summer Matthew Lloyd moved his business into The Old School Room, in Leintwardine, the original village school behind the community centre on the High Street. The building had been refurbished after coracle maker Peter Faulkner had been making his river craft from locally sourced materials.

Whilst fitting a wood burning stove, Matthew's builders discovered a sealed biscuit tin, stashed between the rafters. Inside they found another tin. Inside this, was a business card, leaflet and letter. Written by Mr Faulkner, it stated that in 2006 he installed a stove into what was his first school in 1948. What a find! The obvious next step was for Matthew to contribute to this time capsule and the tin was then returned to the roof, ready for a future tenant to find.



"I have been working as a self-employed graphic designer since 1999. The Old School Room is just what I had been looking for: a space to do graphics work and cob oven workshops under one roof".

Matthew has a varied graphics portfolio, with an emphasis on interpretive graphics. "I really enjoy working on interpretive graphics, such as museum installations, outdoor panels, trail leaflets and way-finding. I discovered a love for researching the histories of places and then conveying these stories."

In 2022 Matthew graduated with a distinction from Hereford College of Arts with a Master's degree in Contemporary Crafts. "I felt that the course resonated with my practice, and I wanted to deepen my experience of working with clay. My research led me to explore foraged clay soils. I developed a process creating artefacts that are fired using the cob oven I have at The Old School Room." The project 'We Are Here' focuses on a sense of place. "This work is all about connecting: my connection with the natural world and connecting with others when sharing the process." Matthew has shown this work in galleries and delivered workshops in schools and community spaces.

The Old School Room is still very much alive, just as it was for Peter in 1948. "I see the building very much as a community space. I am humbled by the distances people travel to join my oven workshops and fulfilled by their smiles when they leave. I look forward to continuing sharing and working here long into the future!"

www.coboven.co.uk
www.matthewlloyd.design
www.wearehere.art



In Matthew's letter for the time capsule, he described how he intended to use the space. Prior to moving in, Matthew had been regularly hiring Leintwardine Centre to deliver his Cob Oven Workshops. Over one day, students learn how to build and use a wood fired oven made from a mix of clay, sand and straw. "I have been teaching my workshops since 2013" Matthew explained. "In 2008, I delivered my first

School Cob Oven Project at Bitterley School, just outside of Ludlow, which won a National PTA Award for 'Changing the Life of a School', and this propelled me to work with schools and communities across the UK ever since."

"This is not my only work", says Matthew.



Photographs©Matthew Lloyd

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SAVE THE DATES

'The Happening' is a weekend of music for everyone (over half of which offer children free entry) at the Assembly Rooms, Presteigne,**29th-31st August.****Confirmed events include:**

Virtuoso violinist Elena Urioste and international concert pianist Tom Poster playing a varied programme of short pieces of popular and classical music (see them on YouTube #UriPosteJukeBox)
 Harmony-driven folkies 'Taradiddle', on tour from Switzerland (check them out here: <https://taradiddle.ch/>)

A Northern Soul & Funk Disco

The Words and Music of Bob Dylan

Instant Choir (come and sing for all ages)

Screening of Charlie Chaplin's classic 'The Kid' with live piano accompaniment by Father Richard

This is a community-based, not-for-profit mini festival which encourages family participation.

Full details and tickets will be available from the end of June at <https://www.midborderarts.com/> but to get more information sooner drop a line now to sarahburton@me.com

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 Peter Challenger, Bass

Conductor - Simon Harper

with the Central England Camerata

St Andrew's Presteigne

7.30pm

Earlybird tickets £18 online from www.kingtonchofal.org.uk and www.trybooking.com, or from Salty Dog (Presteigne), Tower House Gallery (Kington) and Border Bean (Kington) £20 on door (+18s free)

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Artificial Intelligence?

Thank you to all the AI text-to-image bots who sent me in their versions of what they think the following descriptions should look like:

- A perfect world
- A house in a welly boot
- Moles in baseball caps and sheep on skateboards

The winning entries are shown here.



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 - Have trees you need to fell?
 - Want to improve biodiversity?

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We are a small community woodland group based at Knighton, Powys. We do not charge for what we do but only ask in return that we can keep the wood we fell, as we make it into logs, kindling and charcoal. We have fully qualified chainsaw operators and full insurances.

We are looking at sites in the Knighton/Presteigne area. References can be provided.

Contact: Knighton Community Woodland Group,

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

Special thanks must go to the MS365 co-pilot who has provided a MEDIUM Sudoku for readers to tackle.

Fill the 9×9 grid so that every row, every column, and every 3×3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 exactly once. Answers on the website.

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LOST AND FOUND

Sense of humour

Recently found and returned to owner.

Dignity

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Hope

See www.eternalsprings.org as access has now been restricted for non-members.

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More information on the Government's ECO funding scheme can be found on the OFGEM website:

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/eco/about-eco-scheme>

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a government energy efficiency scheme in Great Britain to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty.

Further information can be found at **www.energysavinggrants.org**