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## MAGAZINE



JUNE 2023  
Issue 74

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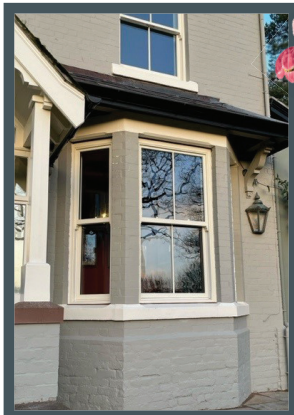
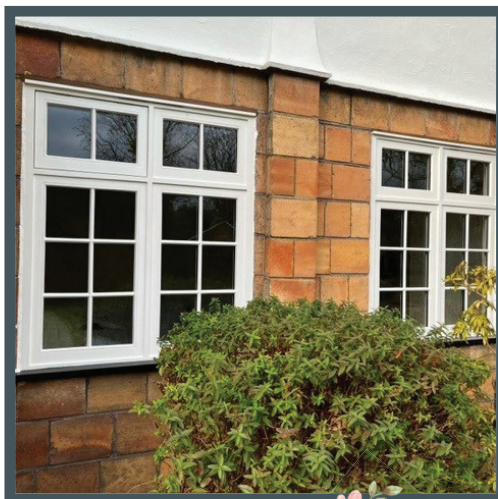






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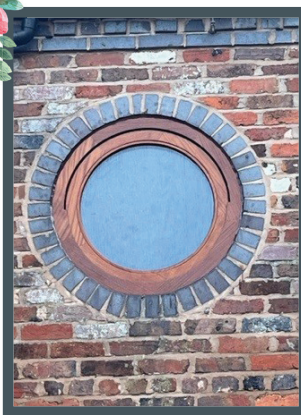


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# WHAT'S IN THIS MONTHS LOVE CHESTER MAGAZINE

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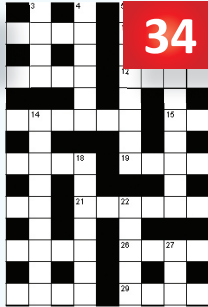
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**Cover Photo:** Foregate Street, Chester.



Dear Friends,  
Summer is here at last!  
Longer days and lighter  
nights, lovely weather  
(fingers crossed), we  
always seem to fit so  
much more into the  
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page.

All our magazines are available online - as well as  
the answers to our puzzle page :o)

*Best Wishes*

*Maxine & Mike*

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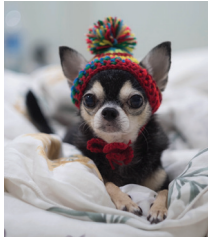
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# DO YOU KNOW?

1. The smallest known dinosaur was about four inches (10 cm) tall and weighed less than a chihuahua.



2. The word "Dinosaur" comes from the ancient Greek and means "terrible lizard".

3. One-third of Earth's land surface is partially or totally desert.

4. The word "desert" comes from the Latin "desertum" which means "an abandoned place".

5. Within three days of death, the enzymes that once digested your dinner begin to eat you.

6. Greek philosopher Chrysippus is said to have died of laughter after getting his donkey drunk, trying to eat figs.



7. Anne Frank was born Annelies Marie Frank on June 12, 1929. Anne was born in Frankfurt, Germany, but her family moved to Amsterdam in the early 1930s when the Nazis gained control.

8. Benjamin Franklin invented the bifocals eyeglasses in 1784.

9. Ancient Rome was eight times more densely populated than modern New York.

10. 144 prisoners are known to have escaped from Auschwitz successfully.

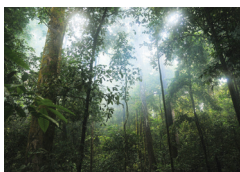
11. The Berlin Wall was more than 140 kilometres (87 mi) long.

12. Theodore Roosevelt Jr was the only General involved in the initial assault on D-Day, after insisting to his superiors to be one of the first ones off the boats. He survived, then died of a heart attack one month later.

13. The Earth's core is about as hot as the sun.

14. In Japan, Ronald McDonald is called Donald McDonald due to a lack of a clear "r" sound in Japanese.

15. Sand from the Sahara is blown by the wind all the way to the Amazon, recharging its minerals. The desert literally fertilizes the rainforest.



16. The Amazon rainforest has been in existence for at least 55 million years.

17. All of the bacteria in our body collectively weighs about 4 pounds.

18. Some 15,152 types of life forms, from insects to bacteria, have been identified on the New York subway.



19. Argentina's national sport is not soccer. It's Pato, an ancient horseback game.

20. Your brain uses 20% of the total oxygen and blood in your body.



21. It's scientifically proven that even a small dose of POWER changes how a person's brain operates and diminishes empathy.

22. Canada has more lakes than the rest of the world's lakes combined.

23. Licence plates in the Canadian Northwest Territories are shaped like polar bears.

24. In Turkmenistan, car drivers are entitled to 120 Liters (31 gal.) of free petrol a month.

25. Cockroaches appeared 120 million years before dinosaurs.

26. Cleopatra, the last Pharaoh of Egypt, was actually Greek, not Egyptian.



27. Cy Twombly's painting "Untitled" is worth up to US\$2,3 million.

28. In 1967, the Nigerian Civil War ground to a halt for two days because both sides wanted to watch soccer player Pele in an exhibition match.

29. Mathematician Paul Erdos could calculate in his head, given a person's age, how many seconds they had lived, when he was just 4 years old.

30. In 2015, a man dressed up as an armored truck driver and tricked Walmart into giving him US\$75,000.





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# THIS MONTH'S HISTORY

This feature each month will give interesting facts from years gone by. See what you remember that happened in your lifetime.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

### 5th June 1968

Not long after midnight, Senator Robert Kennedy was shot several times by 24-year-old Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Kennedy was pronounced dead a day later.

Sirhan confessed to his crime and received a death sentence on 3rd March, 1969. However, since the California State Supreme Court invalidated all death sentences in 1972, Sirhan continues to spend the rest of his life in prison and has since said that he believed Kennedy was largely responsible for the oppression of Palestinians.

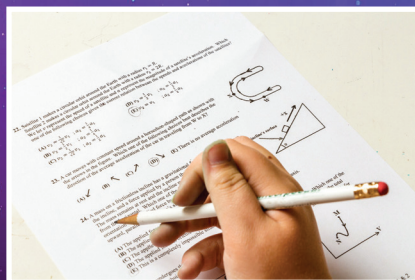


*Official portrait of Robert F Kennedy 1975*

### 20th June 1984

The biggest exam shake up for over 10 years was announced with O Level and CSE exams to be replaced by new examinations, to be known as GCSEs.

Under the old O Level and CSE system, grades were awarded primarily according to statistical rules which measured each candidate's performance relatively against those of competing candidates.



The new system put all children on the same scale on a range of seven grades from A to G.

The 29 examination boards merged into five groups to reduce the large and complex system of assessment which previously operated, adhering to an agreed national standard to ensure that the same range of knowledge was required to attain certain grades throughout the country.

The introduction of the GCSE meant that, for the first time, grades would be allocated with reference to absolute standards of knowledge, understanding and skill.



## 26th June 2009

Michael Jackson (the King of Pop) died of acute propofol intoxication in Los Angeles, California, at the age of 50. His physician, Conrad Murray, said that he found Jackson in his room at his North Carolwood Drive home in the Holmby Hills area of the city not breathing and with a weak pulse; he administered CPR to no avail, and security called 911 at 12:21 p.m. Paramedics treated Jackson at the scene, but he was pronounced dead at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Westwood at 2:26 p.m.



At the time of his death, Jackson had been preparing for a series of comeback concerts, *This Is It*, due to begin in July 2009 in London. His death triggered reactions around the world, creating unprecedented surges of Internet traffic and a spike in sales of his music. A televised memorial service, held at the Staples Center in LA, was viewed by an estimated 2.5 billion people globally. In 2010, Sony Music Entertainment signed a US\$250 million deal with Jackson's estate to retain distribution rights to his recordings up until 2017 and to release seven posthumous albums over the following decade.

## 30th June 1937

First introduced in the London area, the UK's 999 number is the world's oldest emergency call telephone service. The system was introduced following a house fire in Wimpole Street on 10 November 1935, in which five women were killed. A neighbour had tried to telephone the fire brigade and was so outraged at being held in a queue by the Welbeck telephone exchange that he wrote a letter to the editor of *The Times*, which prompted a government inquiry.



*1940's rotary dial telephone*

The initial scheme covered a 12-mile radius around Oxford Circus and the public were advised only to use it in an ongoing emergency if "for instance, the man in the flat next to yours is murdering his wife or you have seen a heavily masked cat burglar peering round the stack pipe of the local bank building." The first arrest – for burglary – took place a week later and the scheme was extended to major cities after World War II and then to the whole of the UK in 1976.

The 9-9-9 format was chosen based on the 'button A' and 'button B' design of pre-payment coin-operated public payphones in wide use (first introduced in 1925) which could be easily modified to allow free use of the 9 digit on the rotary dial in addition to the 0 digit (then used to call the operator), without allowing free use of numbers involving other digits.

When using the rotary phone style, the choice of 999 was fortunate for accessibility, because in the dark or in dense smoke 999 could be dialled by placing a finger one hole away from the dial stop and rotating the dial to the full extent three times. This enabled all users, including the visually impaired, to easily dial the emergency number.

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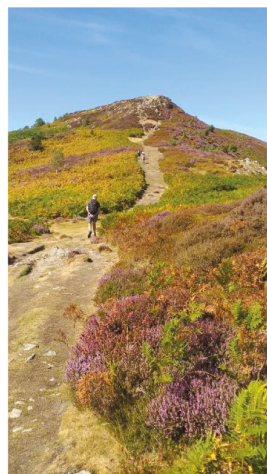


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The group enjoys regular social events e.g. meals out, visits to places of interest and short walking breaks away.

Cestrian Ramblers Footpaths Group monitors the paths in Cheshire West, clearing and reporting problems to the Public Rights of Way Team. Normally, these inspections are twice a month.

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# OUR ZOO

## What's happening at Chester Zoo.

### Conservation hope: New data reveals booming harvest mice population in Chester Zoo's Nature Corridor



**Twenty years after hundreds of harvest mice were reintroduced by conservationists from Chester Zoo, new data has revealed the UK's smallest rodent is now thriving in the zoo's Nature Corridor.**

Despite studies showing the species to be declining elsewhere in the UK, scientific surveys conducted in and around the zoo's 30 ha Nature Corridor have confirmed strong densities of harvest mice breeding-nests up to 1.5 km away from where they were reintroduced back in 2002.

Harvest mice are the only British mammal to have a prehensile tail and are one of the UK's most elusive and tiniest mammals, weighing less than a 2p coin.

Despite their size, they play a major role in the ecosystem, primarily as a food source for many native predators. They are a conservation concern in the UK as the species has continued to undergo significant declines in recent years, primarily due to habitat loss and

intensive agriculture. Consequently, they're listed as a 'priority species' under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework and are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Conservationists at Chester Zoo first setup an experimental breed and release programme to help inform potential reintroduction efforts across the country at the turn of the millennium, after surveys conducted across England between 1980 and 2000 showed drastic declines. Following strict protocols established by the IUCN, the zoo released 960 harvest mice between 2002–2004 to help save the vulnerable species from extinction. The project was hailed as a success and, 20 years later, experts have confirmed the descendants of those harvest mice are now thriving in and around the zoo's nature reserve.



The release was led by Chester Zoo's Registrar, Penny Rudd, who has championed the conservation of harvest mice during throughout her 42 years





**To save Chester Zoo head to: [www.chesterzoo.org/saveourzoo](http://www.chesterzoo.org/saveourzoo)**



working at the zoo and personally microchipped all 960 mice during the release.

**Penny,** **said:**

**"I've been at the zoo for a very long time, and I do see the harvest mouse recovery work I've been involved with as a huge legacy. I feel very proud of what we've done.**

**When the email dropped onto my desk saying we have strong harvest mouse evidence in the area all this time later — it was just the best feeling in the world!**

**As a major conservation zoo we're very focused on lots of animals that come from all over the world, but actually we're equally the guardians of our own wildlife in Chester and in the UK. Therefore, I think we should all be interested in that because there's so much happening in the UK that we can be proud of and that we can have as our heritage.**

**I think every species should have a champion, and I'd like to feel I was the champion for harvest mice back in the turn of the century.**

**What the story tells you is that, if you champion a species, you can inspire others to join you and you can actually**

**make a difference, because it *has* made a difference - we have clearly succeeded!"**

Ecologists at the zoo continue to carry out breeding-nest surveys to help provide population estimates and assess the effectiveness of habitat management across the site, in addition to implementing conservation efforts further afield.

**Helen Bradshaw, the UK Regional Field Programme Manager at Chester Zoo, said:**

**"As one of the first breeding and reintroductions programmes that Chester Zoo embarked on 20 years ago, it's hugely significant to be able to prove that it worked, and we're delighted that the harvest mice are thriving in our nature reserve and surrounding areas.**

**Our nature reserve is a flagship landscape for our efforts to recover local biodiversity, and our UK Field Programmes team will continue to manage and improve our habitats in this area for all our native species. Importantly, we'll also continue to carefully monitor the harvest mouse populations as these data contribute to efforts by the Mammal Society to build up a national picture for this iconic little mouse. With biodiversity in decline across the UK and many species here on the brink of extinction, collecting standardised data is vital to help us create effective strategies that protect and connect habitat.**

**People at home can also play their part in protecting this iconic species by helping local wildlife charities with harvest mice nest surveys, recording sightings to the Mammal Society and wildlife record centres, and leaving long-grass and bramble-patches in gardens and local parks. We can all do our bit to ensure these animals have a future on our wild isles"**



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## PLAY DOUGH RECIPE

### You will need:

2 cups plain flour  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1/2 cup salt  
2 tablespoons cream of tartar  
1 to 1.5 cups boiling water  
food colouring

### To make it:

Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar  
and oil in a large mixing bowl.  
Add about 10 drops of food  
colouring to the boiling water, then  
add it in stages into the dry ingredients.

Stir continuously until it becomes a sticky, combined dough.

Allow it to cool down then take it out of the bowl and knead it vigorously for a couple  
of minutes until all of the stickiness has gone. \* This is the most important part\*

If it remains a little sticky then add a touch more flour until just right.

Store in cling film after play and it will last for a few weeks.





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# HOROSCOPES FOR JUNE

BY JAMES GRIFFITHS

## Capricorn

Expect to see new offers and major changes at work, and you are advised to take some chances to make the most of the opportunities ahead.

## Aquarius

You can see some financial boosts from multiple sources and should consider astute investments.

## Pisces

Feelings of extrasensory powers are in full force this month, with opportunities for resolution, reconciliation, prosperity in business, and even overseas travel.

## Aries

May struggle with inner turmoil that affects their relationships, but they are advised to remain firm yet open-minded when expressing their opinions.

## Taurus

Feeling pleasantly surprised by how well you cope with unexpected situations, and should expect some memorable moments.

## Gemini

Confidence and an experience of extreme pride in your work, and will achieve your ambitions through hard work and dedication.

## Sagittarius

You will start to choose to break free from habits and attitudes that don't feel right for you.

## Scorpio

You have faced personal challenges in recent months, but now take a break from your solo voyage and enjoy the shallows for a while.

## Libra

A sense of irritation, but you are advised to look within yourself to understand the root of your emotions.

## Virgo

Virgos are encouraged to catch up with old friends, and may even meet someone special through Venus.

## Leo

You have been financially strained in recent months, but this is coming to a close, and well-deserved rewards are on the horizon.

## Cancer

Expect increased responsibility in your daily routine, but you should also be prepared for a bedroom bonus as a result.



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## Community



**John Dwyer**  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner  
for Cheshire



### Commissioner support for Cyber victims

Cheshire's Police & Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer, has funded an extra post at a national charity to work with the police and support victims of crimes like cyber-stalking in the county.

Founded five years ago, The Cyber Helpline supports victims of online crime by connecting them to volunteer IT and cyber security experts. Volunteers are fully vetted and trained, and come from a range of backgrounds including graduates from computer science or cyber security degrees, or cyber security professionals.

Funding from the Commissioner has enabled the recruitment of a dedicated Helpline Responder who will work with Cheshire Constabulary's Harm Reduction Unit (HRU). The HRU will be able to refer victims who are experiencing significant levels of cyber-related stalking, and the responder will in turn work alongside the independent support provided by the HRU's Specialist Victim's Advocates.

The responder will also be able to assist police during the evidence-gathering process, and stay in touch with victims to help ease them back into the online world.

Police and Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer, said: "I'm really pleased to be able to fund this extra post at the Cyber Helpline, which will make a difference for victims of cyber-related stalking and other crimes here in Cheshire.

"As more of our day to day lives are moving online, it's vital that the police tap into specialist knowledge that can support victims and help bring offenders to justice."

Charlotte Hooper, Helpline Manager & Director at The Cyber Helpline said: "The Cyber Helpline is delighted to be supporting Cheshire's Harm Reduction Unit to provide more holistic support to victims of cybercrime, at a time where technology is used to enable different types of crime and harm these partnerships are vital. We welcome the funding to support cases from the Harm Reduction Unit which allows us to support more victims of cybercrime."

The work of Cheshire's HRU was featured in a BBC documentary about how stalking is tackled across the country, and the Constabulary has also been praised for its use of Stalking Protection Orders to protect victims.

Detective Sergeant Dave Thomason from the Harm Reduction Unit said: "The Harm Reduction Unit rarely encounters a case of stalking where there isn't some degree of cyber-enabled abuse. Seemingly benign technology is often used by stalkers to monitor, surveil and control their victims, which can leave them terrified when out and about but also in their own homes.

"We're really excited to have this partnership with the Cyber Helpline so victims our advocates are already supporting can now get specialist support from industry leading experts. This will help secure evidence to bring stalkers to justice as well as keeping victims even safer."

John Dwyer added: "I'm aware of a recent storyline on a soap where the way a report of stalking was handled couldn't be further from the truth when it comes to what happens here in Cheshire.

"If you are a victim of stalking, be it cyber-related or otherwise, don't hesitate to let the police know. The support systems are there to protect you and help you to recover."

**Find out more about The Cyber Helpline at: [www.thecyberhelpline.com](http://www.thecyberhelpline.com)**

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## What's on

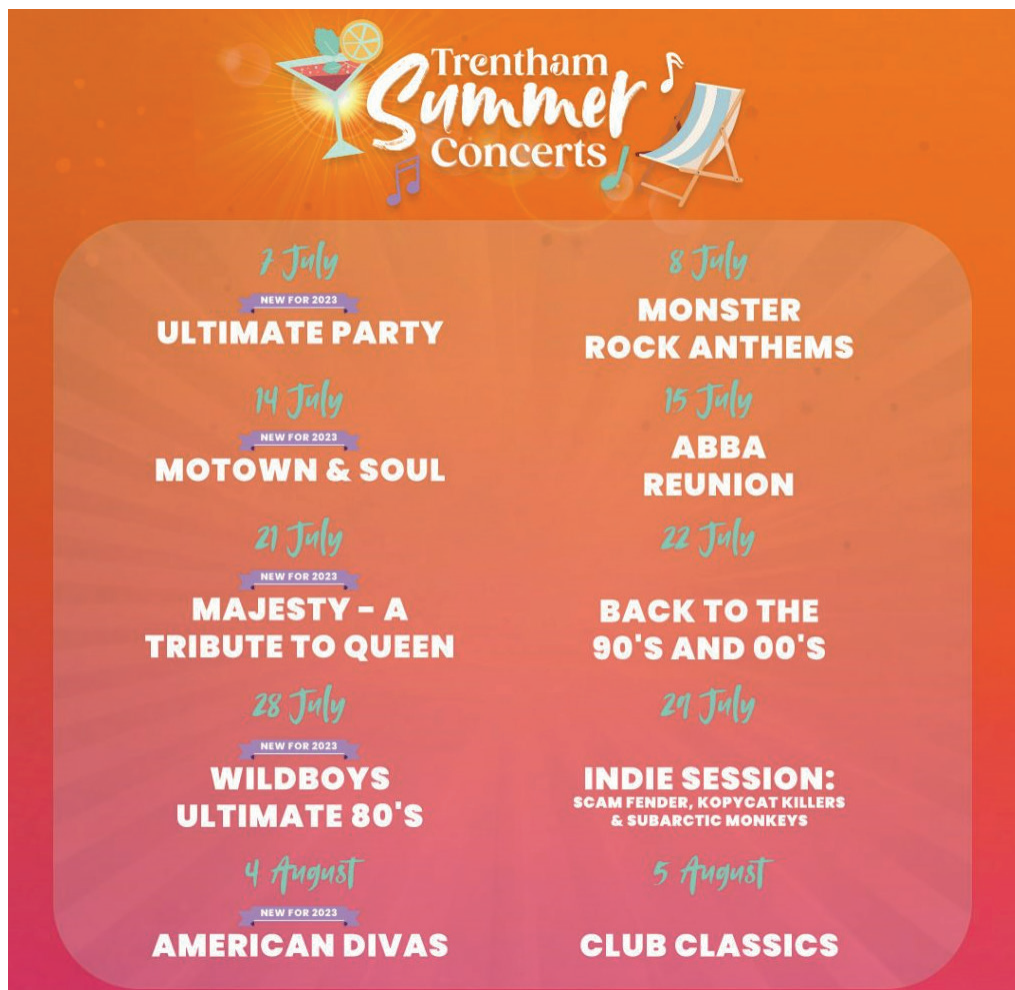
### A summer of live bands and tribute acts in stunning surroundings.

TRENTHAM SUMMER CONCERTS 2023 returns with 10 unmissable shows taking place on Fridays and Saturdays, from 7th July through to 5th August offering separate nights of live music entertainment for the family to enjoy by the stunning lakeside.

Are you ready to round up your family and friends, get your picnic plans together and dust off your deckchairs? It's time for a for a sizzling summer of live music in a unique historic Gardens setting at Trentham's Summer Concerts!

Not only do the concerts offer live outdoor music in an incredible setting, but with ticket prices frozen at 2022 levels, it's a great value way for people to get together with the whole family to make special memories with the added bonus of being able to bring a picnic too!

Set in 725 acres of historic parkland, the ornate gardens located near Stoke-on-Trent in Staffordshire are the perfect place to picnic and party this summer! While the Hall itself is now derelict, the beautiful Italianate Trentham Gardens has been extensively restored and as part of Trentham's ongoing development, it includes a Shopping Village with plenty of places to eat, shop and drink before you head into the Gardens for a night to remember!



The poster features a vibrant orange-to-red gradient background. At the top, the 'Trentham Summer Concerts' logo is displayed, featuring a cocktail glass with a lime wedge and a beach chair. Below the logo, ten concert events are listed in two columns, each with a date, a 'NEW FOR 2023' tag, and the event name. The events are: 7 July Ultimate Party, 8 July Monster Rock Anthems, 14 July Motown & Soul, 15 July ABBA Reunion, 21 July Majesty - A Tribute to Queen, 22 July Back to the 90's and 00's, 28 July Wildboys Ultimate 80's, 29 July Indie Session: Scam Fender, Kopycat Killers & Subarctic Monkeys, 4 August American Divas, and 5 August Club Classics.

Date	Event Name
7 July	ULTIMATE PARTY
8 July	MONSTER ROCK ANTHEMS
14 July	MOTOWN & SOUL
15 July	ABBA REUNION
21 July	MAJESTY - A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN
22 July	BACK TO THE 90'S AND 00'S
28 July	WILDBOYS ULTIMATE 80'S
29 July	INDIE SESSION: SCAM FENDER, KOPYCAT KILLERS & SUBARCTIC MONKEYS
4 August	AMERICAN DIVAS
5 August	CLUB CLASSICS



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18  
AUGUST

## CHASE & STATUS

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SIGMA + LUUDE



19  
AUGUST

## KAISER CHIEFS

\* SPECIAL GUESTS  
RAZORLIGHT



20  
AUGUST

## OLLY MURS

\* SPECIAL GUEST  
NATALIE IMBRUGLIA



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- HOT & COLD DRINKS**
- Any equine attending must be competing.
- HOT & COLD FOOD**
- Owners are advised to have their own liability insurance.
- SELECTION OF CAKES & SNACKS**
- Show Rules published on our Facebook event to be adhered to.
- SHOW GROUND OPEN FROM 9AM TO 5PM**
- Please remove all waste - ponies will be returning to the field following the event.

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A huge thank you to our Volunteers & Judges. The class sponsors & to all who are attending to help make this show happen. Look forward to seeing you all.

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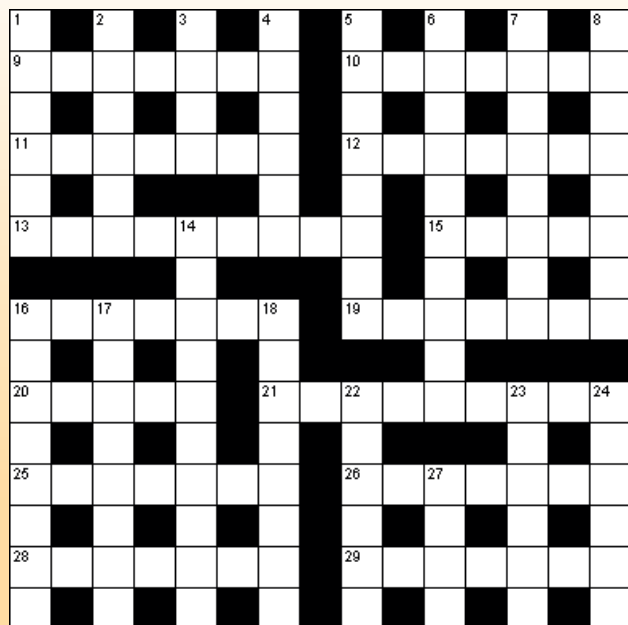
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# PUZZLE CORNER



## Down

- 1 Shun (6)
- 2 A type of internal-combustion engine (6)
- 3 Repair by sewing (4)
- 4 A Hindu festival (6)
- 5 Fort (8)
- 6 Not stereo (10)
- 7 Aversion (8)
- 8 Day after Wednesday (8)
- 14 Attestations (10)
- 16 Suffering (8)
- 17 Blast-offs (8)
- 18 Ability to read (8)
- 22 A plan of action (6)
- 23 A piece of mail (6)
- 24 Flunky (6)
- 27 Network of horizontal and vertical lines (4)

## Across

- 9 Hunting guide (7)
- 10 Do away with (7)
- 11 A cry of praise to God (7)
- 12 Male chicken (7)
- 13 Bush kangaroos (9)
- 15 Watered (5)
- 16 Mournful (7)
- 19 Convent (7)
- 20 Calamari (5)
- 21 In a normal manner (9)
- 25 Get over an illness (7)
- 26 Official emissaries (7)

- 28 Pertaining to melts of liquid crystals (7)
- 29 A fire-breathing monster of Greek mythology (7)

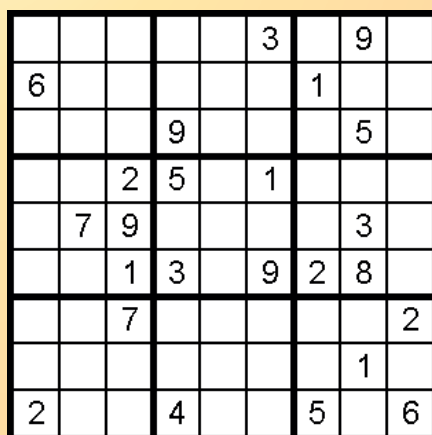
## Sudoku Puzzle

How to play:

The numbers 1 through 9 will appear once only in each row, column, and 3x3 zone. There are 9 such zones in each sudoku grid.

There is only one correct solution to each sudoku. Good luck!

Difficulty level: Medium.



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### **DAZZLED - by John Fowler**

"I have brought you a nice cup of tea, your Handsomeness, and some of your favourite chocolate digestives."

"Thank you, Chimp features, I just hope this act of kindness means you are not trying to curry favour with me."

"As if!"

"I have noticed a great improvement in your personal appearance lately. What's brought this on?"

"I thought I would go with the times, your Handsomeness, and try to look like the players, so they would respect me more."

"Yeah, I see you have shaved your hair at the sides, grown a beard, wear an ear-ring, a few tattoos, but most of all I can't get over your flashing white teeth, where there used to be tombstones."

"They are all the rage. I am starting to be attractive to women."

"I wouldn't go that far. Anyway, I have also heard you have been practising defending free-kicks with the lads."

"Yes, lining up the wall, getting the angles right, communicating with the goalie, and the new idea of getting someone to lie down behind the wall, in case the opposition hits a low shot as the wall jumps."

"I'm impressed. I'm impressed."

"Only one problem. These days it seems to take about 5 minutes for the ref to set up the free-kick, so the players are fighting over who should lie down, mainly because it would give them a good rest."

"Whilst we have been talking, Mutton Chops, I am completely dazzled by your flashing white teeth. Where did you get them from?"

"Well, your Glamorousness, a mate of mine is an Undertaker, who works in Turkey."

Pablo sighs and puts his head in his hands.

"Beam me up, Scotty"



---

### **I'M IN CHARGE - BY JOHN FOWLER**

I have got to charge my shaver, must remember to do my phone.  
And if I forget to charge the car, I never will get home.

I have to charge my Laptop, and my watch so smart  
It keeps counting all my steps, and monitoring my heart.

Got to charge the Hoover, MP3 and IPAD too.  
Without all these contraptions, I don't know what I'd do.

If a charge runs out suddenly, it drives you around the bend  
Mower, drill, and tooth brush, it never seems to end.

When we never had to charge, whatever did we do?  
Life was so much simpler then and we still got through.

Cannot do without my reading lamp, but these LEDs seem to fade.  
So I do them all at once, it's the charge of the light brigade.



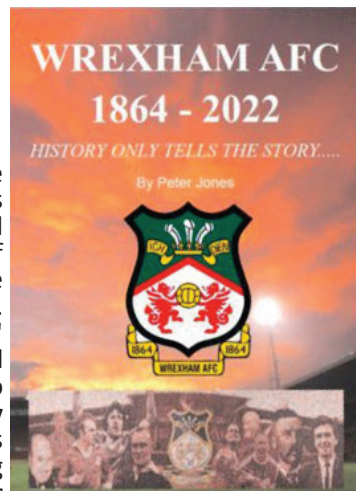


## Book review:

### Success at Wrexham FC: A managerial Lesson for All Clubs

**Author - Peter Jones**

On Saturday April 22nd 2023, Wrexham FC were promoted back to the Football League following 15 years of "exile" from the "big time". The euphoria experienced by supporters from Wrexham and surrounding areas of Wales and England was testimony to the efforts of the players and management team throughout the season. **Undoubtedly the key factor in the "thrust for promotion" has been the "progressive thinking" and enlightened leadership of Ryan Reynolds and Rod McElhenny, two "Hollywood" stars who purchased the club in February 2021.** They have galvanised a re-awakening of the club's aspirations by energising, involving and encouraging supporters to "buy into" their dream of regaining former experiences of success. In a compelling, excellently researched book, **"Wrexham AFC 1864-2022", Peter Jones** guides the reader on a memory provoking review of a range of **"highs" interfaced with emotionally distressing "unimaginable lows, disappointments and frustrations"**. The author writes as a passionate and active supporter in a style which engages readers of all ages to enhance their knowledge of past events which have impacted on the Wrexham FC journey over the past 150 years. **However, the author's statement that "history only tells the story" is both misleading and detracts from the value of his extensive research. The text is more than a mere narrative (story), it is a factual recall for readers of incidents or events that actually happened, substantiated by pictorial and written evidence and artefacts. In contrast to an historical enquiry based on events that actually happened, that is, factual evidence, a story is mere fiction. The actions of Guterman, Hamilton, Moss, Roberts and others were not fiction!!**



**In an outstanding introduction, which is a stimulant to readers, Rob McElhenny and Ryan Reynolds focus on the importance of Wrexham AFC to the City and surrounding areas, historically, currently and in the future, in terms of leisure, employment, the Welsh language and culture. They recognise and highlight the significant contribution of players, managers and supporters at the club, including those who tasted success and won silverware, alongside the aspects of losses and disappointments that still resonate today. It is significant in terms of the club's future that Rob and Ryan "picture themselves" in the role of "Stewards of the Club" as an Institution. This refreshing and relatively unique format for ownership linked to management is in direct contrast with the "dictatorial" role taken by a number of owners of other clubs within the Football League**

**Readers will be intrigued by the range of aspects of facilities and players which were linked to the early history of the club and the formation of local leagues. Clubs included Chirk, Druids, Rhosyllen, Bangor, Newtown, Chester, Bury and Macclesfield. Even in the 1890s when working class lads were physically toiling long hours for a living, the Wrexham area produced a number of outstanding players, notably Billy Meredith from Chirk. The author notes that for the 1921-22 season Wrexham were elected to membership of the Third Division (Northen Section) of the English League. Other teams included Rochdale, Tranmere Rovers, Chesterfield and Accrington Stanley. Interestingly the impact of this "new status" for Wrexham necessitated ground improvements and the need to secure players to carry Wrexham to the top of the third division. The ground improvements included a new stand**

and enclosure to transform the Racecourse. To cover the financial costs 8,000 10 shilling shares were issued. It is disappointing that the author fails to draw attention to **the correlation between the historical facts of what happened in 1920 and the current 2023 plans for developments at the Racecourse and surrounding areas.** It will be interesting to note if any ancestors of readers bought 10 shilling shares!!

**The book is full to overflowing with intriguing "pen pictures" of a range of past managers, many of whom were outstanding servants to the club.** The author's background knowledge of each manager enables the reader to consider personal judgements on the impact that each individual made during their "period of tenure". What is evident is that planning regarding the appointment of a manager lacked a consistent "coherent course". On occasions the appointment of amenable and experienced individuals highlighted the fact that they were out of their depth in terms of tactical analysis, creating patterns of play, use of sports science and motivational management of individuals. This underlines the old adage, **"someone who was a good player doesn't always have the personal or interactive skills to step up to manager"**. It is unfortunate that the author misses an opportunity to note the role that Wrexham, in particular Joey Jones, has played as a nurturing ground for young coaches, including Steve Weaver, Stuart Webber, and Steve Cooper whose skills have blossomed at other clubs.

In a similar format, Peter Jones analyses in a knowledgeable and insightful style the contribution of his personal choice of "Star Players" in alphabetical order from Chris Armstrong (Llay) to Luke Young. **I am certain that memories will be rekindled for many readers as they read the detailed stories of players who have graced the Racecourse (Cae Ras) and performed for the Reds (Cochion).** Chris Armstrong, Billy Ashcroft, Bennett, Dai Davies, Gareth Davies, Darren Ferguson, Ben Foster, David Gaskell, Barry Horne, Barry Hunter, Joey Jones, Eddie May, Gareth Owen, John Roberts, Kevin Russell, Bobby Shinton, David Smallman, Manny Smith, Mickey Thomas, Graham Whittle and others. The wide range of pen pictures highlight the contribution of the players through triumphant and difficult periods for the club, both on and off the field.

**Key features of supporters of Wrexham are loyalty, resilience and desire for Wrexham to play good football and achieve success.** The euphoria and buzz generated following the victory over Notts County, highlighted by the magnificent last minute penalty save by Ben Foster was featured on television channels across the UK and across the Globe. Success has never been far from Wrexham's grasp as the excellent section on "Memory Matches" illustrates. **Readers can re-live memories of some outstanding performances selected by the author.** For example, were you there on 22nd April 1978 when they beat Rotherham 7-1 to achieve the "dream" of playing in Division Two. **Can the current vibrant squad led by Phil Parkinson and the insightful management team push on from their achievements this season to emulate the achievement of Arfon Griffith's team?**

**From an historical perspective, the key issue which has impacted upon the football club throughout its existence has been "financial insecurity".** Peter describes in detail the development of the "Racecourse(Cae Ras)" as part of the Williams - Wynn family heritage which they had "allocated" as a "recreation ground for the people of Wrexham", whilst maintaining ownership. **The reader will gain considerably from the outstanding historical research by the author on how the ground evolved as a multi use sports ground and then evolved as the "Racecourse/Cae Ras".** Clarity for readers regarding "issues" faced by the club would have been improved within the, at times, rambling text, if the author had created headed sub sections to designate key historical issues linked to impact. **Wrexham's financial position was totally exposed in 2002 when Pryce Griffiths the Club Chairman purchased a 125 year lease for £750,000 from Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries and a "peppercorn" annual rent of £1.** This was the "financial decision" which precipitated a "roller coaster" of financial deals and appearance of "dubious personalities". **In May 2002, with Wrexham relegated to Division Three, Pryce Griffiths "sold" the Club to Mark Guterman, the former Chairman of Chester FC.** A key issue which others, including

the author have failed to clarify, was whether the Chairman of Wrexham was the victim of a financial "scam" or.....!! **This "sale" set in motion a horrendous period for the club** as they became prey to a wide range of asset strippers, on occasions carrying devious baggage and "false promises". **The "Wolves in Sheeps Clothing" scenario has been experienced by a number of football clubs including Chester, Bury and more recently at Worcester Rugby Club.** The impact of the "investors" actions has impacted on current facilities at the Club. **For example, the loss of Colliers Park training ground has left the club with no fixed training facility or sports science and medical centre for the first team squad,** in addition to lack of "professional facilities" to develop a youth academy and Womens football. **Has the building two high rise student halls of residence in "vision" of the Kop End of the ground restricted or impeded the re-building and extension of the New Kop Stand?**

**The author commends the efforts of the Supporters Trust, including individuals such as Dave Bennett and David Griffiths and many others who stood firm "in the storm" to "Save the Club".** The completion in November 2011 of the purchase of the Club by the Wrexham Supporters Trust (WST) heralded a significant moment for football clubs "facing extinction". **WST became the first ever fan's group to take over a professional football club .** They set in motion a model for survival which other clubs will follow.

**In contrast with the "carpet bagging" actions of previous investors, the current owners Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenny have given the club, supporters and the community of Wrexham a real boost.** They have installed an excellent management team who have taken the Club on an upbeat journey of global popularity and success. **The owners have generated "loyalty" and "loveability" to supporters and visitors by injecting involvement of care combined with historical awareness of key social aspects of industrialisation, culture, the Welsh language and displayed a passion for the Club.** They have masterminded media exposure with "welcome to Wrexham" and put the City of Wrexham on the map. They are doing for the Club and the City "what they said on the tin". **Wrexham AFC is in safe hands. Their honest and open efforts are an example of great leadership.** **Diolch yn fawr Rob a Ryan Croeso i Wrecsam (Thanks Rob and Ryan. Welcome to Wrexham).**

**Peter Jones has produced a book with many outstanding features.** He highlights many issues which are relevant for supporters of professional football clubs and sporting clubs at all levels. The book is an in depth and well researched historical insight into the "topsy turvy" experiences of football supporters. **The text highlights the dangers for clubs, particularly those suffering occasional financial insecurity, who become "prey" for "bogus investors", asset strippers or builders looking to make a "quick million".**

Highly recommended to all current Supporters of Wrexham AFC and football teams in the Lower Divisions. An essential buy for libraries in the community schools and colleges to stimulate reading and awareness of "history around us". Thanks /Diolch Peter.

### **About the reviewer**

**John T Morris BA(Hons), MEd, MPhil, DipPsych, CertEd.**

John taught physical education in Ladbroke Grove and was coach to the West London schools Under 15 team. His research at Abertystwyth University was on the relationship between aerobic and anaerobic power. Weight training and fitness coach in Queens Park, fitness coach to Wrexham Rugby Club and with the WRU. He has worked on promoting "the personal skills that enable aspirations" with youth players at Fulham, Chelsea, QPR and Wrexham. He is currently a performance consultant, developing growth mindsets in sport, education and business.

The author is co-ordinating online selling via [historyonlytellsastory@gmail.com](mailto:historyonlytellsastory@gmail.com)

The book can also be purchased at:

The Wrexham Museum, Waterstones (Wrexham), Siop y siswrn(Mold).





### Nature's Philosophy by Victor Timmons

Nocturnal birds in sibilant causerie  
Forest creatures in distant revelry  
While nature's blanket dims their rivalry  
And stills the air to peaceful reverie

How brief is this tranquillity  
As hostile meetings in darkened shrubbery  
Remind, if only momentarily  
That man alone enjoys in camaraderie

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## Hill of the trenches

**Chester Rambling and Hill Walking Club's summer programme is now well under way, with a wide-ranging schedule of hikes to take us through to the autumn months. Our annual camping week in North Yorkshire is almost upon us, with another weekend trip under canvas planned for September, over in Derbyshire. These events offer great opportunities for our members to venture further afield and maybe tread less familiar footpaths in distant shires.**

However, nearby old favourites are always popular. This walk in the Clwydian Hills featured in the latter part of our spring programme.

Start point was the Coed Llangwyfan Car Park, situated on a narrow lane from Nannerch between Moel Arthur and Penycloddiau. From here, a winding footpath wends its way along the Offas Dyke Path, quite steeply at times, up to the Iron Age Hill Fort on the summit of Penycloddiau. This translates to 'hill of the trenches' in English, and with its rings of dips and ridges it's not difficult to see why this particular hill got its name! When reaching the 'ramparts' of the fort, most walkers take the main track straight up to the top, but we prefer the gentle undulations of the outer perimeter. Here there's some shelter against the often biting winds that prevail on this otherwise open hilltop. For anyone interested in Iron Age Hill Forts, Penycloddiau, being the largest example in Wales, is worth the climb, whichever path you decide on. The outer footpath allows walkers to clearly see the ditches and embankments that once enclosed this ancient settlement. It's our favourite way round to the summit, which, at 440m above sea level, offers a 360° panorama of our neighbouring Clwydian Hills, Snowdonia in the distance, the Vale of Clwyd below us and the sea to the north. Down in the valley are the towns of Denbigh and Ruthin, and the small villages of Bodfari and Aberwheeler. Keen eyes will spot the slender spire of Bodelwyddan Church some 15 miles away, towards the coast. On a clear day, these views take some beating, although our last hike up there was blighted by cloud and less far-reaching vistas!



Descending from the summit, we left the Offa's Dyke Path to bear south onto the Clwydian Way. This track winds its way gently round the open hillside, offering one or two sheltered spots for a picnic lunch. Eventually, the path took us into the trees at Coed Llangwyfan down to the lane. From here, we took a bridleway which is a continuation of the Clwydian Way, and hugs the lower part of Moel Arthur. Signposting is somewhat scarce once off the named trails, but it is worth studying the OS map, alongside a GPS 'map app', to locate lesser used footpaths. We left the main bridleway along an unmarked grassy track, climbing slightly to my favourite part of the walk. From this elevated position, more outstanding sights greet the eye on a good day, with the woods, fields, valley and distant hills coming into view once more. Our route took us down a steep grassy hillside, past Fron-dyffryn Farm, to the lane. After a final stretch along a woodland track we found ourselves back at our parked cars, where we enjoyed a welcome rest before the drive home!

This 8-mile walk is graded C+ and presents a relatively good workout for those thigh muscles! It's also a joy for anyone wanting a bit of height and some of the glorious views that North Wales has to offer. The map you'll need for exploring this area is OS Explorer map 265 (Clwydian Range).

If you fancy discovering new walks in Cheshire, North Wales and beyond, then joining a hiking group with experienced leaders could be the way to go! We have a choice of 2 - 3 grades of walks, 7 – 10 miles long, most Sundays: C's can be up to around 1,000ft of ascent, B's up to 2,000ft, and A grade walks tackle the higher crags, usually in Snowdonia. We are also out every other Wednesday for a hike of 7 - 8 miles, and in summer we offer short Tuesday evening walks.

We are a very friendly group and new members are always warmly welcomed. Whatever your walking ability, if you love the outdoors and fancy meeting like-minded folk, dig out your boots and join us!

**To find out more about Chester Rambling & Hill Walking Club, head over to our website: [www.chesterwalkingclub.com](http://www.chesterwalkingclub.com) Joining details can also be obtained by emailing [chesramclub@yahoo.com](mailto:chesramclub@yahoo.com)**

*Maria Owen, Press Officer, Chester Rambling and Hill Walking Club*







## Community



### John Dwyer

Police & Crime  
Commissioner  
for Cheshire

## Commissioner hails benefit to policing as hundreds more officers are recruited in Cheshire

Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer has welcomed news that Cheshire Constabulary has hired an additional 322 officers through the police uplift programme, exceeding its recruitment target.

The Constabulary now has more officers than it has ever had, and the impact is being felt through improved incident response times and increased arrest and charge rates.

The extra officers will also bolster the Constabulary's 122 community policing model, where each of Cheshire's community areas is assigned its own dedicated police team.

Police and Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer, said:

"I promised in my Police and Crime Plan that to improve public confidence in policing I would support the Constabulary in reaching its largest ever number of officers. That promise has been delivered, and now I'm committed to working with the Chief Constable to see how we can go even further.

"People in Cheshire expect the police to be contactable, responsive, and proactive in tackling crime. That's exactly what is happening, and thanks to our new recruits we're able to double down on our efforts to make Cheshire even safer."

Recent figures from Cheshire Constabulary show that the number of arrests made from January to March 2023 was 18% higher than during the same months last year, with the overall 'action taken' rate for crime up by 11% across the same time period. And in an emergency where every second counts, figures showed that the average time taken to attend an emergency fell by 49 seconds.

**To find out more about your local policing team, go to: [www.cheshire.police.uk/area/your-area/](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/area/your-area/)**



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