

Welcome to your Almshouse News

Spotlight on
Mortlake & East Sheen

Mortlake &
East Sheen

Jubilee Party

New Trustee

The
Autobiography
Group

Page Turners

Fun & Games



Contents

News & Events

Welcome & Farewell	2
Chapel Schedule	2
Letter from Lorraine	3
Mortlake Almshouses	4
Famous folk of Mortlake & East Sheen	8-9
History of Mortlake & East Sheen	10-11
Upcoming Events	16
Jubilee Party: Review & photos	17-18
Past Events and Local News	17-23
The Autobiography Group	25
Quiz	26
Poetry Corner	28

Competition Winner

Thank you to everyone who submitted competition entries for June's 1950s quiz.

Picked at random, the winner is:

Mary Bronks

Congratulations!

Answers from last month's competitions are on page 27.

Contribute to our Next Issue

If you would like to contribute an article for the next issue, the deadline is:

Friday 19th August 2022

Give the article to your Scheme Manager, or email to c.richards@richmondcharities.org.uk
As a guide on word count, a one page article is ideally 340 words.

 This magazine is recyclable.

Welcome to our New Resident:

We offer a warm welcome to our new resident who has recently joined our community: **Angus Douglas**.

Farewell To:

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to: **Leslie Cook RIP**

Diana Grimley who has moved into a care home.

Chapel Schedule: July/August 2022

Sunday, 3rd July <i>Third Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.30am Eucharist 4pm Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Richmond Charities with choir and refreshments
Sunday, 10th July <i>Fourth Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.30am Eucharist with hymns
Sunday, 17th July <i>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.30am Eucharist 5pm Hymn singing
Sunday, 24th July <i>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.30am Eucharist with hymns
Sunday, 31st July <i>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.30am Eucharist
Sunday, 7th August <i>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.30am Eucharist
Sunday, 14th August <i>The Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	10.30am Eucharist with hymns
Sunday, 21st August <i>Tenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.30am Eucharist 5pm Hymn singing
Sunday, 28th August <i>Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.30am Eucharist

Credits:

Editorial Committee: Juliet Ames-Lewis, Lorraine Bradley, Debbie Flaherty, Chantal Richards & Mike Townsin.

Design & Photography: Chantal Richards & Nigel Barker.

Letter from Lorraine Bradley



I would like to start by saying a big thank you to all the residents who have asked me how Croatia was and our (delayed) honeymoon. Croatia is an amazing place with lots of hidden islands and the old town of Dubrovnik has lovely buildings built in the Venetian style. The actual wall was built to keep the Venetians out! Beautiful country, lovely people and so relaxing.

The almshouses have a certain charm of their own and the gardens are being worked on throughout the year to keep the estates tip top. Indeed, all the gardens are looking great and full of colour. This is thanks to our gardeners and to you the residents who pass on your thoughts and ideas to Scheme Managers so we can feed this back to the head office.

The recent work at Church Estate Almshouses at the back of almshouses 1-10 has involved taking out an unsightly ramp stop which kept cars and vans from driving up the driveway and replacing it with a more sympathetic yellow and black ramp. We have also installed a dedicated pathway so that residents can walk safely to

and from the back of the almshouses and to the Secret Garden.

At the front of Hickey's, bollards and uplighters are being fitted which will illuminate the pathways and trees, making it safer especially in the evenings and darker days of winter. The bollards will also have power outlets to allow us to use the electricity supply at Christmas and during the summer parties we have on the lawn without having to trail electric cables around the area.

Enjoy the sunny weather and the gardens over the summer and for all the tennis fans enjoy Wimbledon!

Best wishes

Lorraine



'Sunset over Michel's Almshouses'. Photography by Jonathan Cooke.

History of the Mortlake Almshouses



by **Juliet Ames-Lewis**

As you know, The Richmond Charities merged with Mortlake Almshouse & Relief Charity

in 2021 and the 6 Mortlake almshouses are now part of The Richmond Charities. For this Mortlake and East Sheen edition of the Almshouse News, the article below details the history of the almshouses.

The almshouses in Mortlake comprise Juxon's Almshouses, Milton Road, London SW14 8JS (a row of three cottages) and Christchurch Road Almshouses, Christchurch Road, SW14 7AA (a row of three cottages). Both sets of Almshouses are the result of generous historic bequests. The original almshouse buildings have been relocated on several occasions but the present Almshouse buildings owe their existence to the generosity of past residents of Mortlake. All are single storey cottages intended for the occupation of people who have been long term residents of the Ancient Parish of Mortlake, and who are of limited means.

All six properties in these two separate locations are of historic origin even if they no longer occupy their original position. Below is an extract from the Residents' Handbook which explains how the present charity has come to have ownership and care of them – it is a

long story since the original bequests that have resulted in the present buildings have their origins in the 17th and 18th centuries with further generous gifts in later centuries.

The location of both Juxon's Almshouses and Christchurch Road Almshouses and their rebuilding on new sites over a number of centuries was necessitated by the need for more modern accommodation, the work to update all six cottages continues. The present location of Juxon's Almshouses has not changed since 1911, nor Christchurch Road Almshouses since 1927.

Juxon's Almshouses



Juxon's Almshouses

In 1626 John Juxon, a relative of William Juxon, Archbishop of Canterbury, left in his will the means by which four poor widows were to be maintained and placed in accommodation in the Parish of Mortlake. There were certain other gifts that included clothing and a weekly pension of 6d, which would be given after they had attended Sunday service. Later benefactors added further sums of money to this charity, among them John Juxon, grandson of Archbishop Juxon, in 1769 and Elizabeth Heneage in 1775.

Christchurch Road Almshouses

In 1707 the Parish of Mortlake purchased two cottages from the Duke of Leeds, Lord of the Manor of Wimbledon. They were rebuilt by Edward Colston, a Mortlake resident, as six tenements for the poor of the Parish, but he did not provide for

their upkeep. For many years they were repaired by the church rate and later by subscriptions and their maintenance was administered by the Vestry. In 1849 Mr Joshua Bates of Sheen House gave £100 towards their endowment in return for permission to close two footpaths across his land in Stonehill Fields, and six years later the Vestry laid down certain regulations concerning the conduct of the almspeople.

In 1893 the Charity Commissioners approved a scheme by which all the ancient bequests and almshouses were merged into the Mortlake Parochial Charities and the care of both Juxon's and Christchurch Road Almshouses passed from the Vestry to the Trustees of the Charity.

By 1911 the old Juxon's almshouses had become unfit for further use. They were rebuilt by the generosity of Mr John Whitcombe JP and the old name retained.

By 1916 the site of Christchurch Road almshouses at the corner of Sheen Lane and the Upper Richmond Road was required for road improvements and the cottages were sold to the Barnes Urban District Council for £880. This sum was insufficient to defray the cost of rebuilding and was invested by the Charity Commissioners until in 1926 sufficient interest had accumulated to begin work on the Christchurch Road site. These three residences were opened in 1927 by Brigadier-General the Rt.Hon. Lord Roundway, a descendent of Edward Colston's sister.

Favourite places of our Mortlake & Sheen Trustees

Cllr Richard Pyne

My favourite place in Sheen is Sheen Woods. Accessible either from Upper Richmond Road or Richmond Park itself, these woods have a great variety of native trees providing shelter for a variety of birds and other wildlife. You can follow either the established paths or find your own route. Provided the planes aren't flying overhead, it's peaceful and quiet. Great for a stroll anytime of the year – with or without a dog.

Jeremy Williams

It is very difficult to choose a favourite place in East Sheen because of the enormous variety



Barnes railway Bridge

of places to go and see, but if pushed it has to be the river. It's lovely at any time of year but there is nothing better than a wander along the towpath on a warm summer's evening, maybe calling in to the Ship next to Chiswick Bridge or the White Hart at the bottom of White Hart Lane and gazing back to the wonderful Grade II listed Barnes railway bridge.

Peter Marr

Having lived in Sheen for 30 years, it's almost impossible to pick out one favourite spot; however there is a regular evening walk that is always relished at this time of year. Towards the end of the day, as things become quieter, my wife

and I (with a very happy golden retriever) enter Richmond Park at Sheen Gate, head west towards Bog Gate and then wander through Sheen Wood and Sheen Common. A very welcome detour to the Plough pub is a pre-requisite and is enjoyed by all, including the dog, as her good behaviour is often rewarded with an old fashioned pig's ear, presented to her by one of the staff! Now that we have three Mortlake almshouse residents looking on, I'll also make sure I'm on best behaviour too!

Merger with Mortlake Almshouse Charity



by **Jon Blythe**

Hello, I'm Jon Blythe, former Trustee of Mortlake Almshouses & Relief Charity.

The charity was established with acts of philanthropy as far back as 1626 (Juxon's) and 1707 (Christchurch Road). The current properties were built in 1911 and 1926 (two sets of three bungalows)



The Plough



Hare and Hounds

in East Sheen. Why were we called Mortlake Almshouses when the properties are all in East Sheen?

That's one for the History Society! But it is fair to say

that both sets of homes are properly rooted in East Sheen right next to the two flagship pubs! Those pubs have played their part over the years. For many years the Plough kept spare keys for our resident at no 40 to help when he often locked himself out! And a long-standing partially disabled resident in Juxon's would frequently be wheeled into the Hare & Hounds where he kept the locals entertained!

It was Father Stuart Lee who suggested I make myself known to Juliet. I did this back in 2016. We stayed in touch and in Feb 2018 we resolved to merge. Around this time Deirdre (our Clerk) asked to retire but she agreed to hold on until we merged. Little did she know that it would take over three years - in November 2021 our merger was completed!

Bearing in mind those years above, my 30 years as a trustee look brief! In that time, amongst our Trustees, three former Mayors, the Rector of the Parish, then there was the polarising debate over showers or baths (I'm a shower man myself), the conversion of two bedsits into one-bedroom dwellings and many residents coming and going.

It was a fulfilling time but I am confident of better things to come. We are delighted to be part of The Richmond Charities and I am pleased to be a Trustee.

Many thanks to all the Mortlake Trustees, the Clerks, the residents and Rowena our property adviser, to Juliet and James at Richmond and George at Moore Barlow for their patience and professionalism.

Random facts about Mortlake & Sheen you may not know



by Mike Townsin

- On 10th of October 1940 Winston Churchill made a surprise visit to the anti-aircraft battery near Sheen Gate, Richmond Park.
- The classic car showroom next to Mortlake Station contains Queen Victoria's waiting room which was built for her and Prince Albert to use for their frequent visits to White Lodge in Richmond Park, home of family members.
- There is a WWII underground air-raid shelter in the grounds of St. Leonard's Court in East Sheen.
- Rudolf Nureyev bought Old Farm in Fife Road, on Sheen Common, for £45,000 in 1967, and lived there for many years.



WWII underground air-raid shelter

- Across the road from Rudolf's mansion, Roger Waters, founder member of Pink Floyd, built The Billiard Room Studios in the grounds of his house, where Pink Floyd recorded their albums (among other locations).
- East Sheen has the largest share of Richmond Park out of the Park's five surrounding wards.
- Following her funeral service at St. Paul's Cathedral, Baroness Thatcher was cremated at Mortlake crematorium.
- Between October 1940 and June 1941, eighty four high explosive bombs were dropped on East Sheen. In 2021, a bomb was found on Sheen Common and removed by bomb disposal experts.
- Model Cottages behind Waitrose were built in the mid 19th century from "a desire to improve the physical and moral health of the labouring classes on the part of their betters." The builder observed that "wet clothes are the hereditary curse of the labourer." So he gave the ingoing tenants "a generous weight of coals wherewith to thoroughly dry out the place with a full grate".
- Mortlake and East Sheen lie mostly on the sides of hills. The highest point of Mortlake is 165 feet, much higher than Richmond Hill.

The Famous Folk of Mortlake and Sheen



by Mike Townsin

It is common knowledge that Richmond is awash with celebrities – past and present; perhaps less well-

known is that Mortlake and Sheen have their own share of personalities (though Richmond would probably claim them!). Here are just a few – from then and now – their stories and where they lived.

Historical figures

Thomas Cromwell: Chief Minister to Henry VIII, and recently subject of Hilary Mantell's acclaimed trilogy, lived at Mortlake Manor in Ship Lane; all that remains is the front gate in Williams Lane. Cromwell's flame burned brightly as Henry's confidant, marriage broker and hatchet man until he fell foul of trumped up charges of treason and Henry's capricious nature. He was executed in 1540 – though Henry later expressed regret.



Mortlake Manor

Princess Alexandra: 1891 – 1959, granddaughter of Queen Victoria, brother of King George V. Born at East



East Sheen Lodge

Sheen Lodge, a large 18th century house previously located on the west side of Sheen Lane. It was here that Prince George (future George V) proposed to Princess May (future Queen Mary).

Edward Colston: MP, merchant, philanthropist, slave trader also lived in Ship Lane, at Cromwell House, (previously Mortlake Manor), and died there in 1721. More recently his name was splashed across the national media when supporters of Black Lives Matter tipped his statue into Bristol Harbour.

Sir Richard Burton: explorer, geographer, linguist, soldier, spy, poet, diplomat – famous for, among other things, his English translations of the Kama Sutra and Arabian Nights, his visit to Mecca in disguise (where Europeans were forbidden on pain of death) and his exploration of East Africa in search of the source of the Nile. He died in 1890. He and his wife Isabel lived in Mortlake and are buried in a mausoleum in St Mary's Churchyard, Worplesdon Way.



Sir Richard Burton's mausoleum



Marc Bolan

Marc Bolan: rock star, lead singer of T-Rex, lived at 142 Upper Richmond Road, died in a car crash on Queens Drive Barnes in 1977. Site still marked by Bolan's Rock Shrine

on a tree next to the road.

Living people: a quick list of some you might know...

Sir Tim Berners-Lee: computer scientist, best known as inventor of World Wide Web (the internet). Born East Sheen 1955, attended East Sheen Mount primary school.



Tom Hardy

Tom Hardy

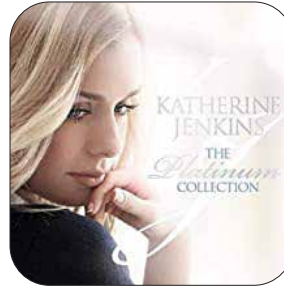
CBE: actor, lives in East Sheen. Film: *Star Trek*, *Tinker Taylor Soldier Spy*, *Mad Max*, *Dunkirk*, *Peaky Blinders*.

Andrew Marr: journalist, presenter, author. TV: *The Andrew Marr Show*, Non-fiction: *The Making of Modern Britain*, Radio 4: *Start the Week*. Lived in East Sheen until 2013.



Carrie Johnson: political activist, Conservative Party press officer, wife of Boris Johnson. Born and brought up in East Sheen.

Sir Trevor McDonald OBE: newsreader, journalist, prolific broadcaster. *News at Ten*, *Inside Death Row*. Lives in East Sheen.



Katherine Jenkins

Katherine Jenkins OBE: singer, mezzo-soprano, operatic arias, pop songs, hymns. Lives in East Sheen.

People of Mortlake and Sheen: you share your home turf with some illustrious company!

On this Day:
20th July 1969
American astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped out of the moon capsule to declare "This is one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind"

On this Day:
31st August 1888
The body of Mary Nichols was found in Bucks Row in London's Whitechapel: a well known prostitute, she was the first confirmed victim of Jack the Ripper

On this Day:
25th July 1978
Louise Brown, the world's first "test tube" baby was born in England

On this Day:
10th August 1793
The Louvre opened – it has evolved into the world's most visited museum with nearly ten million visitors tramping its miles of galleries every year

A Brief History of Mortlake & Sheen



by Mike Townsin

Tucked away in the north-east corner of Surrey are two medieval villages, though few of us living in

or passing through present day Mortlake and Sheen would realise their roots lie many hundreds of years ago, even thousands: flint axes and a pottery bowl dated to more than 3,500 BC were found near the Ship Inn on the riverbank.

The earliest mention of Mortlake is in the *Domesday Book* of 1086 where it appears as Mortlelaga and Mortelage meaning, respectively, salmon stream and Morta's meadow.

At some time before 1066 the manor and parish of Mortlake was acquired by Archbishop Lanfranc of Canterbury and was held by the Archbishops until the reign of Henry VIII, when it passed to the crown.



Archbishop Lanfranc of Canterbury

Henry VII (1485 to 1509) and his bride Elizabeth of York stopped at Mortlake manor house on their wedding day en route to Richmond Palace. He had

recently defeated King Richard III, at the battle of Bosworth Field.

Until after the end of the English civil war, Mortlake was famous for the manufacture of tapestry, located at the Mortlake Tapestry Works, the former house of the village's most famous



Mortlake Tapestry Works

resident John Dee (1527 to 1608), advisor, alchemist and astrologer to Queen Elizabeth. His house was in Vineyard Path, off Mortlake High Street.



Thomas Cromwell

Elsewhere in this issue, we note that Thomas Cromwell, advisor to Henry VIII, owned a

palatial manor house on the site of Mortlake brewery; it was subsequently renamed Colston House after its eponymous merchant/slave trader owner Edward Colston who lived there until his death in 1621.

Since the 15th century Mortlake's other notable



industry was brewing on the site of the Mortlake Brewery, recently closed but nevertheless immortalised in the media since 1845 as the last stage of The Boat Race.

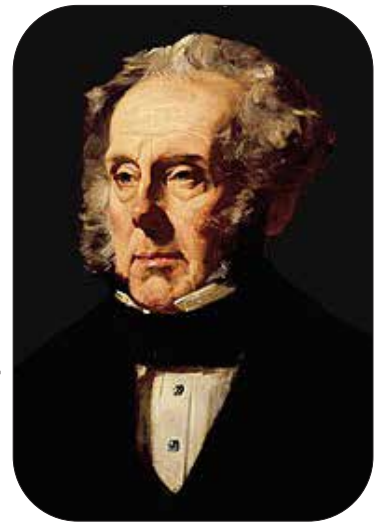
Mortlake is, of course, inextricably linked to Sheen, the first record of which was in the year 950 in the form of *sceon*, meaning shelter.

In the 13th century Richmond was called Shene or Sheen, and east Sheen was an area to the east of the village. Later when Henry VII built Richmond Palace, the village took the name Richmond, separating it from east of Sheen; thus Sheen became a hamlet within the Manor of Mortlake, and eventually the commercial hub that it is today, accelerated by the arrival of the railway and Mortlake Station in 1846.

But somewhat confusingly the land east of Sheen was originally known as Westhall*; the manor of East Sheen and Westhall was bought in 1619 by one John Juxon, a baker and liveryman of the Merchant Taylors' Company. The family's link to Juxon's almshouses is covered elsewhere in the magazine.

During the 17th and 18th centuries East Sheen was characterised by fifteen or so large mansions set in extensive grounds.

These estates began to be broken up from the mid 19th century, including Temple Grove originally the estate of Sheen's most famous land owner Henry Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston, Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister; hence the neighbourhood now called Temple Sheen.



Henry Temple

Secretary and Prime Minister; hence the neighbourhood now called Temple Sheen.

To end our Brief History of Mortlake & Sheen, here's a statistic attesting the prosperous area it is today: in the three decades between 1871 and 1901, the population doubled from around 6000 to over 10,000, and then doubled again to reach c. 23,000 in 2011, with an even split of residents.

* Westhall is memorialised in the name of West Hall Road, on the border of Mortlake in Kew.

More help with the cost of energy bills



by **Juliet Ames-Lewis**

In the April edition of the Almshouse News, I gave information about financial help from the government

for energy bills. As you will no doubt have seen in the news, the government has announced further help as follows:

1. People who are in receipt of Pension Credit or Universal Credit will receive £650 – this will be split into 2 payments of £325 and the first should arrive from July and the second later in the year.
2. If you receive a disability benefit such as DLA or Attendance Allowance, you will receive an additional £150 by September.
3. The £200 discount on energy bills announced earlier in the year has been doubled to £400 for every household and, crucially, it is now a grant and not a loan and will not have to be paid back. Energy suppliers will send the money to households with a domestic electricity meter over six months, starting from October. Direct debit and credit customers will have the money credited to their account, while customers with pre-payment meters will have the money applied to their meter or paid via a voucher.
4. Everyone who currently receives the Winter Fuel Payment will be sent an additional one-off £300 to help

cover the cost of rising energy bills. Everyone who was born on or before 26 September 1955 is eligible. This extra payment will be sent to everyone in November/December.

Everyone in Council Tax Bands A-D should have already received a £150 rebate to help with energy bills.

New Trustee



by **Juliet Ames-Lewis**

I am delighted to let you know that we have recently appointed a new Trustee to the Board of The Richmond

Charities, Paul Phillips. From 2004 to 2018, Paul was the Group Finance Director of Notting Hill Housing. Following its merger in 2018 with Genesis Housing to form Notting Hill Genesis, he was the Chief Financial Officer of the new group until his retirement in July 2021. Prior to that he held similar roles with Servite Houses, Knightstone Housing Association and others.



Paul is interim chair of Salvation Army Housing Association. He is chair of Audit and Risk at Wandle Housing Association and a Board member at Swan Housing Association.

Paul has lived in the Borough for over 25 years. He is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and holds an MBA from the University of Bath.

My Walk in Mortlake and East Sheen



Serge Lourie is a Trustee of The Richmond Charities and organises monthly walks of around three hours

for the Avenue Club in Kew. He is a former Leader of Richmond Council.

Pages 13–16 are designed as a pull-out so that you can take the map, directions and photos with you on your walk.

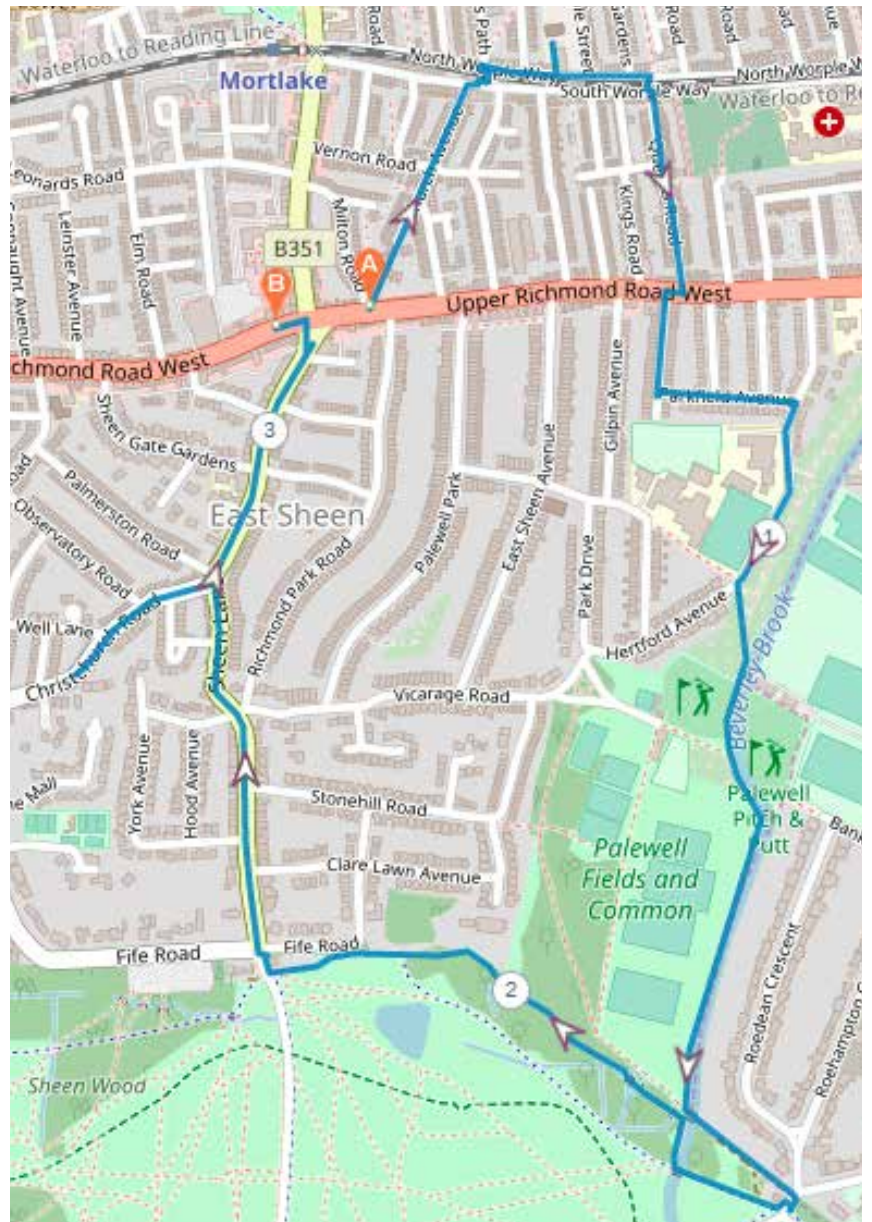


Serge on a walk in the Isabella Plantation taken by David Thomas

As you may know, The Richmond Charities has just merged with Mortlake Almshouse & Relief Charities and has added six properties to the

almshouses available for beneficiaries. This walk includes the new almshouses. We also visit the grave of the explorer, Sir Richard Burton and his wife, in historic Mortlake, and walk along Beverley Brook and along the edge of Richmond Park.

Henry David Thoreau, the author of “Walking” and inventor of SAUNTERING, said that the protection of his “health and spirits” required “sauntering through the woods and over the hills and fields”. This



walk takes you along wooded paths and beside a grass field.

It is just over three miles and can take an hour or, preferably up to two hours if you saunter or stop for a coffee at the café by the Roehampton Gate of Richmond Park, which I strongly recommend...and there are also loos. Beware: the walk needs a bit of care as the paths can be muddy.

ALMSHOUSE NEWS - Mortlake & East Sheen **Pullout**

I will be leading this walk, which will take place on Thursday 14th July at 11:00. You can see the route here:

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/1917944>

There are many buses from Richmond including the 33 and 337 to the start of the walk. We will meet at Juxon's Almshouses, Milton Road, SW14 8JS which is just off the South Circular. Juxon's consists of 3 one-bedroom level access almshouses and were built in 1911 to fulfil the bequest of 1626 by John Juxon. The almshouses have occupied a number of different sites over the years.



Juxon's Almshouses

We set off along Church Path and walk up to the railway and over the bridge turning right along North Worples Way. After a few metres we turn left towards St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Church following the signs to Sir Richard Burton's Grave. You

go through a small door to the left of the church, into the graveyard, turn right and the magnificent grave, in the form of a Bedouin tent, is by the far wall.

Richard Burton was an explorer, soldier, diplomat, writer and translator. He travelled widely; in Africa searching for the source of the Nile; in Asia where he visited Mecca in disguise; and

in America. He was a gifted linguist speaking, it is said, 25–40 languages, depending on what is a language and what is a dialect. He also was the first translator of the Arabian Nights.

Although an avowed atheist who died in Trieste, where he was Consul, he is buried with his wife, Isabel, in the catholic graveyard in Mortlake. There is also a stained-glass memorial to him in the church.

Retrace your steps to North Worples Way, turn left and shortly go back over the railway and along Queen's Road to the South Circular, where there is a crossing. Continue south along Wallorton Gardens and turn left into Parkfield Avenue where you walk to the end and turn right into Hertford Avenue.



Grave of Sir Richard Burton and his wife, Isabel



Beverley Brook

You follow this past Richmond Park Academy and branch left along a path between allotments. You will then pick up Beverley Brook on your left.

Pullout Mortlake & East Sheen - ALMSHOUSE NEWS

The path is often a little muddy but you follow the stream on your left and an open field to your right until you reach the wall of Richmond Park. Turn left over a bridge and follow the path with the wall on your right until you reach Roehampton Gate.

Near the gate, around one hundred metres to the south, is the excellent café, which also has loos.

You then take the main path (the Tamsin Trail) back over the Tamsin Trail Brook towards the bridge over Beverley Brook and follow it all the way to the Sheen Gate passing several ancient oaks and the delightful Adam's Pond on your left.



Tamsin Trail

Sheen Gate



One of many ancient oaks

At Sheen Gate, have a look at the memorial to John Lewis, a local brewer, who ensured the park was open to the masses when he won a court case against Princess Amelia, the Park Ranger, in 1758.

Walk north along Sheen Lane and take the fourth road on the left, Wayside, which then takes a right turn. At the top turn left into Christchurch Road. Christchurch Road Almshouses are then a further 100 metres on the left at the corner of Mill Lane.



John Lewis Plaque

Christchurch Road Almshouses were built in 1927 to fulfil the bequests of 1707 and 1849. The almshouses have occupied a number of different sites over the centuries. They consist of 3 one-bedroom level access bungalows.

The walk is now almost over. Return to Sheen Lane and turn left. It is now around five minutes to the South Circular where the walk ends at the war memorial.

There are regular buses back to Richmond and then on to Twickenham.

If you would like to do this SAUNTER with me on Thursday 14th July at 11:00 please send me an email to serge_lourie@yahoo.co.uk or leave a message on my voicemail at 020 8876 3545.



Sheen war memorial

I hope to see many Almshouse residents, staff and trustees who are all welcome to join this walk.

INDIGO TIE DYE WORKSHOP

Indigo dye, which comes from a plant, is one of the oldest dyes used for colouring fabrics and the one still used today to colour blue jeans. This natural dye process has long been used in many cultures around the world. The unique characteristics of indigo dyeing make it easy to create wonderful patterns on fabric.

Due to previous popularity, Irene Donovan, has very kindly agreed to host two workshops, open to all residents, on the following dates:

Monday 12th September at 10:30am

and

Monday 26th September at 10:30am

Spaces are limited, please book via your Scheme Manager.

Fabric will be provided, but you can bring your own:

T-shirt / old piece of clothing to recycle / tea-towel / pillow case / old sheet.

Here are a few shots of what was created during a previous workshop:



The Richmond Charities *Almshouses In Bloom* Prize Giving Event



by **Linda Prendergast**

On Wednesday 3rd August in the Garden Room between 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Come and join us to thank all the green fingered garden competition entrants and to present the trophies to the winners of both categories of our very first *Almshouses in Bloom* gardening competition. *Next year it might be you!* Refreshments and nibbles will be served.

New! Games Afternoon



Following on from our previous article, we are delighted to confirm that there will be a fortnightly games afternoon, for a trial period, in the Secret Garden Room from 2:30pm.

We have: Draughts, Chess, Playing cards, Jenga, Dominoes, Jaques. We invite you to come along and join in. Come alone, bring a neighbour, bring two, three, or four, the choice is yours...

Trial dates as follow: Thursday 14th July, Thursday 28th July, Thursday 11th August & Thursday 25th August.

The Secret Garden room is a lovely, open and well-ventilated communal space. It has a toilet and small kitchenette area. Refreshments and biscuits are always provided.

Richmond Hill Open Gardens



by **Juliet Ames-Lewis**

It was a glorious sunny day on Sunday 22nd May when 13 gardens were open to the public on Richmond

Hill, including Michel's Almshouses. Richmond Hill was buzzing with hundreds of visitors, all enjoying the sun and the gardens. We had far, far more visitors to Michel's than anticipated and my thanks to the residents for their patience and forbearance. Visitors were delighted to be able to come into the grounds of Michel's and learn more about the charity and the history of the almshouses.

At the end of the day, after packing up, some of us gathered in the gardens for a well-earned drink!



Jubilee Party



by **Gill Doling**

Having moved into Michel's Almshouses last September, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Lunch was the first such event I've been able to attend.

As we waited for transport to Hickey's we sheltered under umbrellas as the rain fell. I did wonder what I had let myself in for. However, I needn't have worried. As we left the cars and mini-bus the rain had stopped and the sun was trying to shine. The quiz was great, although we were so busy talking we were half way through lunch before we realised there were two pages of questions, and needless to say we didn't do very well (we got the answers later in the week and realised we really didn't do well!) but it was fun, and we had the consolation of having the raffle winner on our table. The drink flowed and the music played. The trio were wonderful and encouraged many to take to the dance floor.

For me it was a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow residents, some of whom I had previously only nodded to or had a brief chat with as we passed each other at the recycling bins!

Congratulations and thanks to the organisers and I look forward to the next similar event.

Jubilee Party – ALMSHOUSE NEWS



Memories of the 1950s



by **David Thomas**

On the day of the Queen's Coronation I can remember us travelling by Underground to friends who lived in

Romford to watch the ceremony on their television, as we didn't have one. It was a wet and cloudy day as I remember, but we did not let the weather dampen our spirits. I would have been 4 years old at the time and my sister was just 1. The TV had only a small screen, but we huddled around it.

Our mum was a keen cinemagoer in the fifties, and she would take us from a very young age. Mum would take us to musicals such as *Carousel* and *South Pacific* and *The King and I*, and Walt Disney favourites such as *Snow White* and the *Seven Dwarves*, *Pinocchio* and *The Lady is a Tramp*. Then came the Rock and Roll music revolution, and mum took me to see *Rock around the Clock* in 1956. I remember at the end of the film there were Teddy boys and girls dancing at the front with some tearing out cinema seats. Mum and I went out rather quickly at that point, and as we did so, the police came in.

One of my favourite musicians of the fifties was Eddie Cochran. He gave us such songs as, *C'mon Everybody*, *Summertime Blues* and *Three Steps to Heaven*, with his distinctive guitar riffs. I can remember being shocked and saddened when he died in a car crash in Wiltshire, following a concert in Bristol, at the age of only 21. Then of course there were The Everly Brothers, with songs such as *Wake up*

little Susie, *Bye Bye Love* and *All I have to do is dream*, to name but a few. They introduced the sound of the steel string acoustic guitar together with close harmony to make an appealing sound. You can catch their reunion concert of 1983 on iPlayer. It's a musical treat.

Afternoon tea with Sarah Olney MP



by **Juliet Ames-Lewis**

On Monday 30th May Sarah Olney MP came to take afternoon tea with a

group of residents in our Garden Room at Church Estate Almshouses. Sarah is very supportive of our almshouse community and of what we do, and she likes to get out and about to meet her constituents. Sarah wanted to find out more about what it is like living in an almshouse community and what benefits residents feel they gain from being part of the community.

10 residents attended and there was lots of animated discussion about the charity, the almshouses, the importance of living in a strong community and how the almshouse model should be the basis for all social housing and the importance of the almshouse gardens, activities and events to the community and the residents. Other issues which residents raised with Sarah included transport, Hammersmith Bridge closure, policing and the lack of a police station in Richmond and the reduction of police walking the beat, and accessibility of public places for those with reduced mobility.

Council wins over £3m in funding to tackle climate emergency

Richmond Council is set to receive further funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme that will assist in achieving its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. For more info: www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/richmond_council_wins_over_3_million_in_funding_to_tackle_climate_emergency



Healthy living in Richmond

Healthy living in Richmond: share your thoughts. Have you ever tried to improve your lifestyle? What were the biggest barriers? What helped you? For more info: www.richmond.gov.uk/news/june_2022/healthy_living_in_richmond



Kew's Avenue Club...

...is a daytime social club based at Kew Community Centre for people in their 50s and beyond – it has a lunchtime food offering. www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/kew_club_relaunches_weekday_lunches



Watercolour Painting Course

In the beautiful setting of JMW Turner's country retreat in Twickenham, join award winning artist Tim Wright for a five-session summer watercolour painting course. For more info: www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/turners_house_painting_course



Summer programme of art history events announced for Richmond



The Old Town Hall will host a programme of art history talks and events throughout the summer months.

For more info: www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/turners_house_painting_course

This month's Landmark Arts Centre Lunchtime Book Club book announced

Hosted by staff from Waterstones, these friendly lunchtime sessions are the perfect way to meet like-minded readers



and discover new and exciting reads. For more info: www.richmond.gov.uk/news/june_2022/landmark_arts_centre_july_book_club

Volunteer for VisitRichmond

Would you like to help promote the delights of our borough to visitors who arrive at Richmond Station? For more



info: www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/volunteer_for_visitrichmond

Marble Hill House



Marble Hill House has reopened following a remarkable restoration. The former house of

Henrietta Howard has reopened in St Margarets' Marble Hill park, following extensive work to the interiors and gardens. For more info: www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/marble-hill/

Pride and Prejudice in Twickenham Fountain Gardens

Romance, avarice, villainy, comedy and drama are being played out in and around Twickenham's York



House Fountain Gardens as the Richmond Shakespeare Society rehearse their forthcoming production of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. For more info: www.richmond.gov.uk/news/june_2022/pride_and_prejudice_in_twickenham_fountain_gardens

Barnes Fair

After a two year absence Barnes Fair will take place on Barnes Green on Saturday 9th July 2022 from 9.30am – 5.30pm



For more info: www.barnes-ca.org/bca-events/barnesfair

Ham Open Gardens

Ham Open Gardens returns once every two years, residents have a unique opportunity to go behind the garden wall of a selection of the most beautiful



private gardens in Ham. For more info: www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2022/ham_open_gardens_returns

Friends & Neighbours Barge Trip



by Lena Warboys

The first trip we had was on a large barge that I felt had been used over the years to move large amounts

of materials to huge warehouses that at that time were alongside the Thames in London. We had many happy outings on board this old friend, but we now have a modern one. The Captain and helpers are all are volunteers.

The most recent outing was from the boat houses in Teddington and headed up river to Hampton. There is much to see as you go along. It was so lovely to spot the ducks with their families of chicks and also the swans. We passed quite a few groups of rowers. I also spotted many branches of trees which came right down into the river. There is a lock that we go into just after Hampton Court bridge and it is interesting to see how the barge is handled to bring it up to the river level. Coming out of the lock we passed some lovely houseboats. We then journeyed on, passing a temple in a garden which is only visible from the river. Once we got to St Mary's Church it was time to turn back.

During the trip we were given tea and coffee by the crew who were also able to answer our many questions.

Once back to Teddington we had our lunch with further cups of tea and coffee then headed home after a most enjoyable morning.

July/August Awareness Days

National Picnic Month

July is National Picnic Month!

Plastic Free July 2022

1st July - 30th July, Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution.

www.plasticfreejuly.org/

Samaritans Awareness Day

24th July is 24/7 Samaritans Awareness Day.

www.samaritans.org/for-business/partnerships/sponsorship

Festival of Archaeology

16th–31st July 2022 This is organised by the Council for British Archaeology and held in the last two weeks of July.

For more information or enquiries email: festival@archaeologyuk.org

Thank You Day 2022

Sunday 4th July is the day before the NHS's birthday.

<https://thankyouday.org.uk/>

World Friendship Day/International Day of Friendship 2022

World Friendship Day takes place on 30th July.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friendship_Day

National Allotments Week 2022

9th August - 14th August

National Allotment Week celebrates how important allotments are to us.

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/news-events-campaigns/national-allotments-week/>

International Cat Day 2022

August the 8th is International Cat Day.

<https://www.rspca.org.uk>

Afternoon Tea Week 2022

9th August - 14th August

This celebrates the great British tradition of Afternoon Tea. #AfternoonTeaWeek

Film Review

by Michael Hobbs

A Hot Summer Evening Aboard the Karnak Luxury Yacht

Perhaps the hottest day of the year was not the most opportune time to screen *Death on the Nile*. However in many ways it was an inspired choice. The evening heat encouraged everyone to arrive in their most colourful hats and clothes and in a strange way it all added to the magic of the evening. We couldn't match the luxury of the Karnak but we did have cheese and wine for everyone who came aboard for our cruise down or is it up the Nile? All that was missing was a refreshing river breeze.

Death on the Nile

Earlier in the week someone reminded us that *Death*



on the Nile had just been on television. Luckily for us it was the 1978 version with Peter Ustinov. Ours was the 2022 film with Kenneth Branagh. Everyone loved the movie and a few might even have figured out who the murderer(s) were. For those who hadn't, needless to say, Poirot successfully solved the case.

Cheese and Wine Night Thursday 14th July 2022 Open 6.00pm Starts 6.30pm

And so on to *The Duke*. Believe it or not we actually have the DVD. By all accounts it's a very enjoyable film with

not a dead body in sight. Why not come and join us? It's free of charge and a good night out with good company.



My Favourite Film: *Vertigo*



By Heather Keeler

Released in 1958 in colour, directed by Alfred Hitchcock. A masterpiece with an ingenious plot this film has it all - obsession, betrayal and tragedy. Kim Novak plays the seemingly unhinged femme fatale. James Stewart is the vulnerable cop with a fear of heights, hence the title, and Barbara Bel Geddes is his long suffering girlfriend.

Hitchcock frustrates, teases and plays with the minds of his audience as only he knows how, but it is the love scene that makes it all worthwhile. Miss Novak walks into the arms of Mr Stewart shrouded in mist, her hair styled just the way he wants it, and then comes the embrace followed by the kiss that lingers on and on with the camera cleverly circling them, an outside neon light blinks on and off and Bernard Herrmann's beautiful musical score plays in the background. It just leaves you spellbound.



Page Turners



by Mike Townsin

The Mirror and the Light

By Hilary Mantel

In the spring of 2017, Hilary Mantel visited Mortlake to meet Helen Deaton of the Barnes &

Mortlake History Society, and see for herself the site of Thomas Cromwell's manor house which he used regularly until he was beheaded in 1540. It is this period of Cromwell's life that is covered by Mantel's *The Mirror and the Light*, the final book in her thoroughly absorbing trilogy.

The story begins in May 1536, following the execution of Anne Boleyn. Cromwell is all powerful in the Court of Henry VIII, and sees renewal for England in his mirror of the future – in contrast to rebellion at home, traitors plotting abroad and the threat of invasion.

But Cromwell's success as Henry's advisor and political fixer begins to wane as his enemies gather in the shadows.

This meticulously researched volume vividly evokes the Tudor era and Henry's cruel and capricious nature, the context of Mantel's portrayal of Cromwell's complex character, pursuit of power and final downfall.

Wit and Wisdom



Curated by Mike Townsin

"The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time."

M, at the close of the Bond film No Time to Die

"Lipstick is power."

Babara Follett, Labour politician

"The great question that has never been answered, and which I have not yet been able to answer, despite my thirty years of research into the feminine soul, is 'What does a woman want?'"

Sigmund Freud

"Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back."

Oscar Wilde

"A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it."

Bob Hope

"There are only so many opinions to go round, and almost all of them are either obvious or wrong."

Giles Coren, Times columnist

"A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul."

George Bernard Shaw

"Facebook just sounds like a drag. In my day seeing pictures of people's vacations was considered a punishment."

Betty White, American actress.

The Autobiography Group: Writing for your Life



by **Stuart Lee**

Beginning on Tuesday,
20th September at
10.30am in the Green

Room, Stuart will be leading a Guided Autobiography Group which will last for up to 12 weeks.

Using a tried and tested method, developed over 25 years of experiment, Stuart will guide us through a series of exercises (and set homework!) that can help anyone organise and write their own experiences and share them in a group with others on the same journey.

The method is particularly helpful for those who like the idea of writing their own story for family or friends (or simply for yourself) but don't know where to begin. By the end you will have a 'collage' of your life experiences which, if you wanted to, you could further work on to turn into a more polished autobiography. However, experience shows that going through this process together is almost more important than worrying about any finished product.

Numbers will be limited for this course (and there will need to be a minimum of 5 people for the course to run), so please book with your Scheme Manager if you would like to attend.

Jean Newport, a resident who attended a group earlier this year writes:

"The years in retrospect can be seen to contain two strong threads, one from the past and one leading into the future. Our early years of growing up and the end of childhood and our many years of finding our path in life and the choices we made make us see how we have progressed to become the people we are today.

Writing one's story is a contribution that I can make, creating a narrative for my family by setting down memories and thoughts that can help one make sense of life.

I urge anyone to attend to Stuart's challenge to write one's autobiography as going down memory lane will really benefit you."

Contact Stuart if you would like further details.

The Quiz by Norman Bramfitt

Answers in next month's issue

Question	Answer
1. Queen Elizabeth II is the longest serving UK monarch followed by Queen Victoria. Who is the 3rd longest?	
2. In <i>The Wind and the Willows</i> who are the three companions of Mr Toad?	
3. The year 2022 is the Chinese year of the what?	
4. Which actor plays Dr Raymond Stantz in <i>Ghostbusters</i> and Ellwood Blues in <i>The Blues Brothers</i> ?	
5. On TV, the duo Dave Myers and Si King are better known as who?	
6. In the Lerner and Loewe musical, which Scottish town appeared for only one day every 100 years?	
7. "Think Legion" is an anagram of which musical/film?	
8. How many tennis grand slam titles has Andy Murray won?	
9. If someone has the initials M.R.C.V.S. after their name, what is their profession?	
10. Who was the first Prime Minister to serve under Queen Elizabeth II?	
11. Which actor played the PM Jim Hacker in the sitcom <i>Yes Prime Minister</i> ?	
12. From which musical do the songs <i>Big Spender</i> and <i>If my friends could see me now</i> come?	
13. How many times did Timothy Dalton play the part of James Bond in movies?	
14. Mount Vesuvius overlooks which present day Italian city?	
15. Winston Smith is the central character in which famous novel?	

Your chance to win a £10 M&S Voucher! Give this whole page to your Scheme Manager, or place in the suggestion box before 19th August 2022. Name: _____

Synonym Puzzle – Please tick ✓

Do you know which one is a synonym for part?

portion twist function

Do you know which one is synonym for environment?

habitude conservation ambiance

Do you know which one is a synonym for after?

behind over amid

Do you know which one is synonym for take?

receive bring detect

Do you know which one is synonym for old?

benign aged halcyon

Do you know which one is a synonym for observe?

actuate heave witness

Do you know which one is a synonym for eerie?

flighty balmy uncanny

Answers in the September issue

Natural Remedies



By **Debbie Flaherty**

If you have dark circles under the eyes

Then Drink

Unsweetened Cranberry juice

Then Eat

Quinoa, Barley, Kidney Beans, Salmon, Trout, Walnuts, Beetroot, Blueberries, Celery or Ginger.

Synonym Puzzle

Your chance to win a £10 M&S Voucher!

Give this whole page to your Scheme Manager, or place in the suggestion box before 19th August 2022.

Name: _____

June Quiz Answers

1. Sir Geoffrey Fisher
2. *Heartbreak Hotel*
3. Kidney
4. *Ben Hur*
5. Christian Dior
6. The Munich Air Crash involving Manchester United players
7. *Some like it hot*
8. Diners Club
9. Michael Wilding
10. Alaska (49th) Hawaii (50th)
11. Lonnie Donegan
12. Australia
13. Hula Hoop
14. *Rock around the clock*
15. Jack Warner

Poetry Corner by Nigel Davis



Sylvia Plath, the American poet, was a complex and highly sensitive person. She suffered from manic depression all her life, at a time when it was not properly understood, and perhaps in consequence her intensely imagined poetry can sometimes make for rather uncomfortable reading. She sadly took her own life at a young age, following the break-up of her marriage to the sombre British poet Ted Hughes.

But she did write some upbeat poems, thankfully, and this is one of them. At first reading, it seems bizarre and, even, incomprehensible. But it gets its sense (sort of) once you realise two things. First, the title word “You’re” attaches

itself to the beginning of each complete sentence in the poem.

Second, it was written when she was expecting her first child. So we realise that it is actually a poem for her unborn baby (“ little loaf ”, “ jumping bean ” : the time between 4th July – American Independence Day – and All Fools Day is approximately 9 months' – and as it turned out the child, her daughter Frieda Hughes, was indeed born on 1st April).

A humorous and tender little poem, absolutely crammed to the brim, via the use of similes and metaphors, with extraordinary imagery. Lovely stuff!

“You’re” By Sylvia Plath

Clownlike, happiest on your hands,
Feet to the stars, and moon-skulled,
Gilled like a fish. A common-sense
Thumbs-down on the dodo's mode.
Wrapped up in yourself like a spool,
Trawling your dark as owls do.
Mute as a turnip from the Fourth
Of July to All Fools' Day,
O high-riser, my little loaf.

Vague as fog and looked for like mail.
Farther off than Australia.
Bent-backed Atlas, our travelled prawn.
Snug as a bud and at home
Like a sprat in a pickle jug.
A creel of eels, all ripples.
Jumpy as a Mexican bean.
Right, like a well-done sum.
A clean slate, with your own face on.