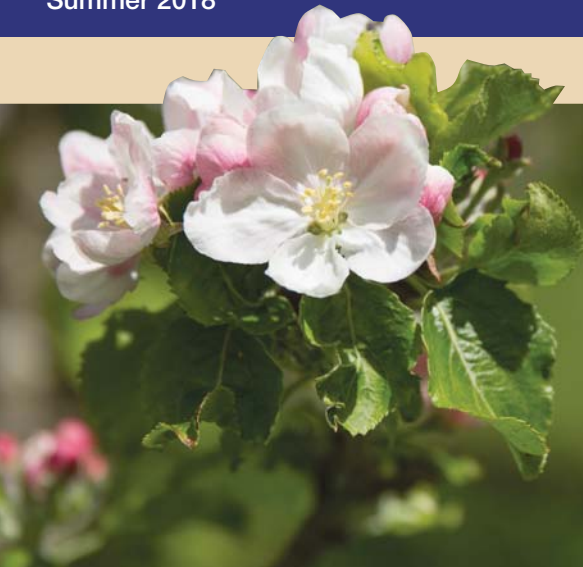




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Welcome



You've got to hand it to our distributors. They've had quite a challenge delivering our last magazine to you; two snowy 'Beasts from the East' to deal with, followed by having to wait around for the rain to stop or else getting soaked mid delivery and having to pack up and go

home. Without them though, Grantham Now wouldn't reach your door, so to them we are so thankful.

Actually, we're always on the lookout for new distributors. As the weather improves (it's very hard to type with your fingers crossed by the way), this is a great way to get lashings of fresh air, a healthy few hours of exercise, and some useful money at the end of it. If you think you'd like to do that, give us a call, or drop us an e-mail. Both contacts are at the foot of this page.

We're also pleased to have reached our sixtieth edition with this issue. When you look back at some of our earlier publications as we did recently, it's interesting to note the changes that have happened. Oddly enough, the decision to go from two columns of text to three actually enabled us to present more copy. You'd have thought that having an extra gutter (that's the space between columns) would have used up more empty space. It doesn't make mathematical sense, but then logic and creativity never have seen eye to eye, have they?

It's also gratifying to note the many customers who have stayed with us right from the very beginning back in 2007. If the magazine relies on our distributors, then it also stays vibrant thanks to these stalwart clients. In fact when you add our designer Paul Bond, and our excellent printers into the mix, we come to realise we are in fact a well-oiled team. Making Grantham Now happen is in fact an interesting topic; maybe it'll be worth writing about some day. So, here's your summer edition all set for you to enjoy. Have fun in the sunshine, and we'll see you again in the autumn.

Warmest regards

Andrea & Richard Coppin

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Rock On Grantham!



Grantham 'rock' is a group for everyone in the community to come together and spread a bit of joy and happiness through a simple painted rock. My grandson and I recently hid loads of rocks around Grantham, some of which had travelled from as far afield as Bolsover in Derbyshire. The idea is to paint a rock with a design you find pleasing or meaningful and on the back write #granthamrocks. You then post a picture of it to Facebook just before you hide it. 'Rocking' is about sharing kindness, a bit of happiness to brighten someone's day. It's not about finding the best or the most rocks before anyone else, as this isn't a game or a competition. It's simply about random acts of kindness; sharing your own piece of art with a stranger. Have a go yourself; it's very satisfying!

Anne Clarke

Grantham Then

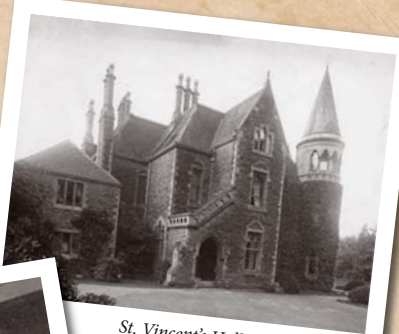
By Malcolm G Knapp

If ever you see a Lancaster Bomber flying over Grantham in the middle of May, it's usually celebrating the Dambuster's raid of May 1943. It's this which has inspired Malcolm to come up with the article in this edition. Take it away Malcolm.

If I cast my mind back I can easily remember Grantham as a thriving industrial town. Aveling & Barford was at peak production in my childhood days, as was Ruston & Hornsby's factory on London Road where B&Q stands now. In 1944 they were busy building the Matilda II Tank. Richard Hornsby; founder of the business, had a beautiful house built in 1868 not too far from his factories which became known as St. Vincent's Hall, at the end of today's St. Vincent's Road. (Saint Vincent de Paul incidentally was a French saint named after a stream called the 'Paul' in Gascony). The building itself has a gothic style and instantly recognisable by its conical tower. It was once owned by SKDC's Planning Department and was once the town's Register Office.

Ever since The Hornsby family sold the property it has had quite a chequered history. It played host to the brother of Tsar Nicholas II in 1920 as he escaped the aftermath of the Russian Revolution. In October 1937 it was chosen as the Headquarters of Bomber Command 5 Group. Down in the cellar of this Hall was the Operation Planning Room for 5 Group and where the flight plans for the famous 617 Squadron Dambuster's raid was meticulously pieced together, details of which were sent to 617 squadron's base at RAF Scampton the day before the raid for the briefing of the flight crews who were led by the legendary pilot Guy Gibson. On the night of May 17th 1943, in this underground planning room, the Morse code messages came through that the Mohne and Eder dams in the German Ruhr Valley had been breached. The inventor of the famous 'Bouncing Bombs' Barnes Wallis was there in Grantham that night along with Commander-in-Chief of Bomber Command Arthur Harris. The bombs were really mines designed to skip over the surface of the water after being dropped by Lancaster bombers at low level, hit the walls of the dam and sink down before exploding at the required depth for maximum damage.

After Reading Alan Cooper's superb book on the raid I have learned that the old house eventually came in useful when the 1955 film 'The Dambusters' was made. He says that although the Hall had been converted into



St. Vincent's Hall



Guy Gibson (second left) facing King George V examine the post-raid photographs of the breached dams

flats by 1955, the operations room was completely untouched, making this part of the movie historically accurate. Wing Commander Wally Dunn OBE was even brought in to dub the Morse code signals. He was put into a sound-proof cabinet so no one could hear

him tapping away on the Morse transmitter; cinema goers just got to hear the beeping dots and dashes of the receiver as Dunn reconstructed the famous signals of that fateful night.

With this issue of Grantham Now being in May (The anniversary month of the dams' raid), I thought I'd look at the work that went into the operation around the country. Barnes Wallis tried his idea of bouncing objects off water at his home in Effingham Surrey. Later he used the testing tanks at Teddington to prove the mathematics of the water bouncing technique. The disused dam in Nant-y-Gro, near Rhayader in Wales was successfully breached by the bomb in 1942. The bomb's prototypes were tested at Chesil Beach in Dorset and at Reculver in Kent. There were even tests carried out on Loch Striven in Scotland on a battleship once belonging to the French fleet. Most memorable is the low-level training flights by 617 Squadron's specially adapted Lancaster Bombers on the Derwent dam in Derbyshire. Some scenes of the Dambuster movie showing the dropping of the experimental bomb were filmed off the Skegness coast! Is that the reason it's such a 'bracing' film?



A once sceptical 'Bomber' Harris (far left) said after the raid that Wallis could 'sell him a pink elephant' now!

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Migraines; keep your head and get acupuncture

We all know the feeling of getting out of the wrong side of the bed in the morning. For many of us this is the effect of that rude awakening on a Monday morning, or else the symptom of a hectic weekend beforehand. For Linda Colquhoun however her bad days were as the result of migraines; debilitating, blinding headaches which would begin the moment she opened her eyes. On some days the migraines didn't materialise, but on the days they did, Linda knew she was going to be in for a day of torture. It was like the illness was playing Russian roulette with her, and it made everyday life hard, if not downright impossible to plan for.

On the bad days Linda's blood pressure would rocket; her entire head felt as it was being pressurised on an industrial scale with such force she was convinced her skull was about to explode, a terrible sensation that extended to her eyes which seemed to inflate to the point of bursting. Three days out of seven would result in her suffering this way and it was a matter of fate which three they'd be.

Initially Linda assumed this condition to be hormonally-led; 'That Time of Life' syndrome she believed. The visits to her doctor ruled that out however, so the mystery deepened. In the early days the pains were dominating at the back of Linda's head, so her doctor prescribed some tablets which dealt with the migraine by virtually knocking her out. In practical terms this made no difference at all a normal life or to enable her to run her business. "I was Ga-Ga," she said looking back on those days. Worse still was the news that eventually the tablets would lead to more migraines, making Linda think that she was on the slippery downward spiral to constant pain. As with so many pivotal points in life, Linda's took a turn for the better when she was seen by a locum doctor. The doctor herself had suffered awful labour pains during her pregnancy which were alleviated through acupuncture. Her



It's hard to believe that Linda suffered from debilitating migraines for seven years; thanks to acupuncture though she's free from the misery they caused her.

professional opinion was that she should seek out an acupuncture clinic close by, and since she'd often seen the Chinese Herbcare and Acupuncture Centre on the High Street, she decided to call in there. After all, she'd suffered with these migraines for seven years by this time and had forgotten what it was like to lead a normal life. For that reason alone she was willing to try anything. After being examined by Dr. Ma; the centre's resident practitioner in Chinese medicine, she was given her first acupuncture session. The sterile needles are hair-thin, so when they're applied to the body they give only a minute tapping sensation and

certainly don't hurt at all. Linda had them placed in the top of her head, her neck, stomach, wrists, the area below her knees and her ankles. If these sound odd places to deal with a head problem, it's important to explain that Chinese acupuncture works by unblocking an interlaced set of lines that run all over us. They've been called 'energy lines' or 'meridians'; either way, they all have to work clearly if we're to have good health. The needles, once they're in the right position relating to the problem in hand, simply restore the free flow of energy which our bodies rely on to take illnesses away. This kind of treatment has been used for over five thousand years, or to put it in perspective, four hundred years before the pyramids in Giza began being built.

Linda had received eight weekly sessions and has two remaining before she alters her treatment to fortnightly and later on to monthly. The main thing for her is that the migraines have completely gone. Nowadays it doesn't matter what side of the bed she gets out of; she feels great every day. "I simply feel free," she said, her happy, beaming smile a testament to her restored lifestyle and the incredible skill of Dr. Ma and those tiny little needles of his.



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MD Jewellers; The End?

By Richard & Andrea Coppin

Whenever I get to the end of a great book and close its final page, I'm always left with the pathos that comes with saying goodbye. Goodbyes by their nature are times for quietly reflecting on the good times gone by, the melancholy of something coming to an end, and in some cases the anticipation of what might be around the corner.

It's in this frame of mind that Andrea and I say our own goodbye, professionally speaking that is, to our good friends Melvin Dobbs and Rosina Armitage at MD Jewellers. Creating their eye-catching adverts and writing about their impressive business milestones has been a joy for us and in many cases a lot of fun. It's fitting therefore for us, for the last time, to write for them this fond farewell as they retire. MD Jewellers first opened its Welby Street doors on 17th April 2001. You'd be forgiven for thinking that the MD simply stood for Melvin Dobbs; his attempt to steal the limelight so to speak. But no; as in all their business arrangements everything was equally assigned. Rosina was born in Italy, and named Maria Rosina DeFusto granting another MD to the business name.



As Michael Caine was supposed to have said, 'Not a lot of people know that!'

Each of their backgrounds was steeped in the retail and commercial side of the Jewellery trade long before they decided to create their own highly respected shop in town. With all that knowhow to call upon they made up their minds never to settle for second best. Coming to work dressed smartly was just the tip of the iceberg. In all their dealings with their suppliers and customers, they have been fair, transparent, honest and sincere; an old fashioned approach which has shown the twenty first century that there is still room for courtesy and civility, perhaps even highlighting the fact that it's needed more now than it ever has done. It's a fact that they're going to miss each member of staff. They fondly remember all those who have worked for them over the years.

In amongst the glittering jewellery something else sparkled just as brightly; their individual wits. Part of the charm of visiting MD Jewellers was to find oneself in the firing line of their mock squabbles. Always carried out tongue in cheek, they became a double act that would have made for a good

sit com or a stage play. Alas, it all has to end, but what happy memories.

Even as I write about things ending, there is also the new beginning to consider. As Melvin and Rosina walk off into a tranquil retirement, new names are entering stage left to keep the MD flag flying. James Rudge and his wife Natalie O'Brien are coming from Birmingham to take over the business. Grantham it seems has smiled upon them and has become for them the perfect place to settle and set up shop. They loved that fact that MD Jewellers is a family-run business and found the reputation it holds in the lives of local people impossible to resist.

James' love of jewellery was kindled at the bench in the Jewellery Quarter right in the historic heart of old Birmingham. By the time he'd worked through his apprenticeship it had become a passion; honing the skills of traditional craftsmanship to the point of perfection. In that respect his attainment of the highest standards mirrors those of Melvin and Rosina. He will bring however his artistry and talent for creating bespoke jewellery design, which, along with their retail management experience bode well for the next chapter of this much-loved business.

As the baton is handed over to James and Natalie, it is befitting on all of us to wish Melvin and Rosina a happy life, free from the pressures of work, and to say a thank you for the past seventeen years of service to Grantham.



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Support through the ages

When it comes to using a computer, the analogy with driving a car is quite an apt one. Beyond the ignition key, foot pedals, gear stick and steering wheel, most of us don't want to think about the pistons, valves, braking system, suspension and suchlike. All we want to do is sit in a comfy seat and get to our destination. Likewise, we want to flick our computer on, click the keypad or mouse a few times and get our hands on the data we're after with little or no effort at all.

As the world around us demands that we interact with it on line more and more, it's easy to see why having a computer maintenance garage close by is so appealing. No matter how experienced and computer literate we are, it's important to know that before we set off on a computer journey, we have the equivalent to the AA on our speed dial, which is where Grantham Computer Centre comes into its own. Computer literacy aside, there's also an assumption, evidently wrong, that people over a certain age refuse to get in on the technological bandwagon.

We know this to be out of kilter with the facts because at Grantham Computer Centre we see a lot of people with longer life experience display deeper passions and have keener interests in a far greater number of topics coming into our store. The idea of a machine that can put them in touch with all this life-enhancing information and entertainment is something that creates a vast amount of excitement for them. Think that older people want nothing to do with all this? Think again.

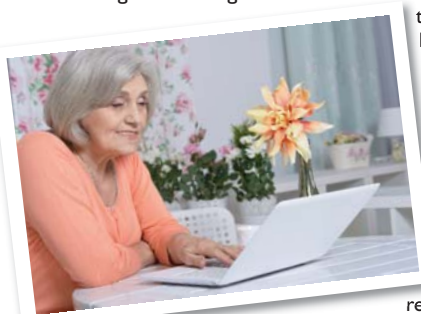
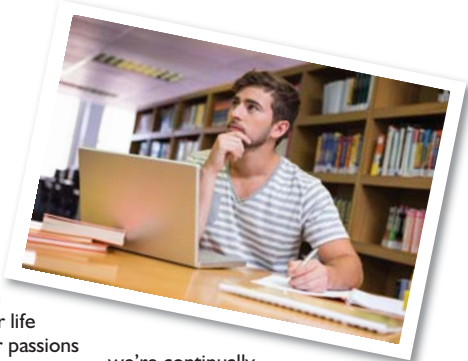
At the other end of the age spectrum there is the young; students and gamers particularly; totally switched-on to the potential of all this technology. For them this is not so much about getting going, but how they can get more from it. They're hungry for the latest things which they've heard about from their peers and they need the right kind of expertise to help them plug themselves into it.

In every case the key thing at Grantham Computer Centre; is our expertise. Whether it's the kind of jargon busting translation of

information into plain English that's needed, or else the knowledge of the latest developments in hard and software that our customers demand, we make sure that we're always on the ball, totally clued up to give you all the advice you want. Sometimes that advice needs turning into practical help when occasionally things go wrong. Our reassurance to you is that

we're continually available with the knowhow to give you an honest appraisal about any problems cropping up inside your machine and beyond that, our hands-on trouble fixing which our customers have come to rely on. We can also pep up your computer's health too with anti-virus software. Throughout its 'life', your machine will be at the mercy of a minefield of malware. So long as you have sufficient protection against such potentially damaging stuff like this you'll be fine. Have a talk with us about protecting your computer and we'll show you what will work best for you and your budget. If for some reason your machine should get sick through contact with malware, there's a good chance that we can get it back on its virtual feet again and ready to get back to perform more useful work for you.

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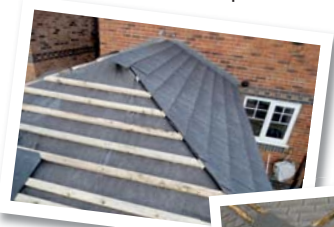
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Up on the Roof

Turning your Conservatory from Greenhouse to Welcoming Room

You've probably noticed a few things about your conservatory that given the chance you'd like to sort out. You've no doubt seen how much standing water the gutters hold or else you've felt the heat roasting you in the summer months and the biting cold spoiling your enjoyment in the winter. Even at the most basic level you've been aware of just how much dirt and grime shows up on your conservatory's pristine white roof.

It's a pity when these sorts of things sully the pleasure that such an extension of your home should bring. Even at an elementary level, there are always those hard to reach places



inside your conservatory roof which seem to harbour spiders, making the cleaning away of cobwebs a constant battle. These are problems which the renowned company Newark & Notts Facias has heard time after time whilst they've been rejuvenating clients' homes with new soffits, fascias and bargeboards. It got the owner Joe Gray thinking, and with the help of his brother Billy they've come up with an amazing solution, an incredible new roof system that fits



over your existing one; no need to dismantle anything, just a neat and very attractive roof which answers all of the issues we've just touched upon.

Since we began with gutter problems, here's why you get standing water on most conservatories. When a new conservatory



is fitted the gutters form part of the superstructure. When it's installed on to a level roof line that's what you get, a level gutter. You don't have to be an Isaac Newton to know that you need a slight angle of decent for the rain to reach the down pipe and off on its merry way. During the winter standing water turns to ice, as it thaws if caused damage to your seals. Standing water also helps moss and weeds to grow, blocking up the works completely in time. The first thing that Joe and his team

does therefore is make sure that the rainwater goes where it's meant to be giving it what's known in the trade as a 'fall' a constant downward angle to make it perfectly efficient. First problem; solved!

The temperature control is achieved with 25mm of special polycarbonate insulation, placed over your existing roof. This is then over-fitted with 11mm of plywood, covered with



'breathable' roofing felt and finally made superbly attractive with lightweight Tapco roofing tiles made of highly durable uPVC; all sealed and fitted to your existing flashing. With ridge and corner tiles to match the end result, as you can see, is a beautiful roof that has hidden properties. The insulation maintains a more constant temperature inside the conservatory, making it much more than a place you visit every once in a while, but another welcoming room to your home, where relaxing seems as effortless as you always wanted for your conservatory. To make it even

more insulated against temperature fluctuations the company will install a flat ceiling, making maintenance and cleaning just a matter of the odd wipe over every now and again. If however you like the vaulted ceiling aspect of your conservatory, the company can build you one of these too; a bespoke job, especially created to fit your conservatory. In fact this is precisely why Newark & Notts 'Warmar Roof' system is so special; everything is made on site to fit your home. This is not a case of taking measurements and coming back with a ready-made

eliminates the eye strain that comes from the glare which a transparent conservatory roof creates. Ambient light now comes naturally in through the main windows but shades the eyes from overpowering light from above. The end result of all the care and attention lavished upon your home is a structure that looks like it 'belongs'. There is the peace of mind that comes from knowing your home is being

the bargain. The fact that it turns it into a more family-friendly room whatever the outside climate is up to only gives you an added value which you didn't have before. Why not turn your conservatory into a room to be proud of with a 'Warmar Roof' from Newark & Notts Fascias and change your home for the better?



roof that is hoped will fit. This is built especially for you, making sure that it's perfectly suited for your home. This new roof is incredibly solid, secure enough in fact for the installation team to stand on. It's designed to extend one-and-a-half inches beyond the roof line below which the new soffits and gutters are installed. This means that the trajectory of the rain as it leaves the roof doesn't overshoot but is delivered straight into the gutter and away down the new downpipe. This new roof also

transformed by a local company with twenty-five years of professional experience to call on. In fact Newark & Notts Fascias has an enviable reputation for excellence in and around Grantham and this is just another string to their impressive bow that proved the point once more. Aesthetically, the 'Warmar Roof' system adds that special touch of panache to your conservatory and the rest of your home into

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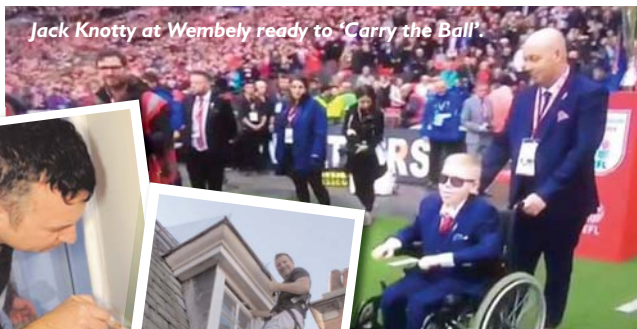
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The selfless Band of Builders

Jack Knotty is an avid Lincoln City Football Club supporter and at sixteen years old the beautiful game is the most important thing to occupy his mind. That was until he began to feel unwell. It emerged after tests had been carried out that he'd developed thyroid cancer. Understandably, a shock wave ran through his family. At such a young age this was the last thing he expected to have to deal with. As his parents tried to come to terms with this revelation, more bad news followed; his condition was inoperable.

As if that wasn't devastating enough, right on cue, the bathroom in the family home began to leak, sending water through the floor which cascaded down to the kitchen ceiling below causing extensive damage to their home and their will to go on. Somehow, a hero called Addam Smith got to hear about the plight of this family and knew that this was a job for an organisation that he founded; the Band of Builders, a collective of experienced tradespeople who give to deserving causes their time and expertise for free. In this day and age it's heart-warming to know that there are people willing to work for nothing, except to feel the simple satisfaction of knowing that they've helped their fellow man in a time of need. Eventually, the damage was repaired by a plumber and other tradespeople from the Band of Builders. All that remained was to get the kitchen re-decorated. Another of those heroes who stepped in to help was local painter and decorator Tristan Creasey. He spent a couple of days getting the place to look like home again and got to meet Jack as he went about with his paintbrush. Jack has had a tracheotomy fitted, but even so Tristan was able to joke with him during his time there.

Addam Smith knew about Jack's love of Lincoln City Football Club, so when he visited the Check-a-Trade exhibition and learned that Lincoln



Jack Knotty at Wembely ready to 'Carry the Ball'.



City might well reach the final he asked about getting Jack some surprises he'd never forget. As it happened, Lincoln did reach the Check-a-Trade final. Little did Jack know that he'd be the young lad carrying the match ball on to the turf at Wembley on Cup Final day and then go and watch the match from the best seats in the house, followed by the finest hospitality on offer. As if that was not enough Lincoln City Football Club measured both Jack and his Dad up for the prestigious lounge suits each; the kind that the players wear when they go out to official engagements. Jack looks like one of the leading players in his suit, complete with the club emblem showing proudly on the breast pocket. He was even featured in a Look North news programme, which helped to make him more famous than he'd ever dreamed. Band of Builders has now become such a massive part of Tristan's life. Beyond the charitable side of things which he and the other professionals in the band do, there is the help and security of a brotherhood of

tradespeople. Today Tristan passes on paying work to other members in the band and they in turn do the same for him; a brilliant example of networking that wouldn't have been possible without the hours of selflessness that he's hitherto given. As Tristan drove home from re-decorating Jack's parent's kitchen, he couldn't help think about his own children at home and how fit and healthy they were. It brought a lump to his throat to think about Jack back in Lincoln and how he was bravely looking towards his future. The fact that he'd given of his time and energy to such a deserving family deepened his sense of humanity to the point that it's almost become addictive. It's certainly made Tristan into a more rounded and grateful human being, in fact just the sort of painter and decorator you need when the time comes to get your own home spruced up. Maybe before too long, we'll all be asking for a tradesperson from the Band of Builders; people who wear the logo with pride and who have shown time and again that doing a job properly for its own sake is what sits at the heart of their business. When you want your home decorating by someone who cares, remember Tristan Creasey, one of the famous Band of Builders.

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Effortless Summer Days at Tudors



It's only after we've experienced such a long drawn out winter that we fully appreciate the timely arrival of blissful summer days. We can finally say goodbye to all the layers of clothing we've piled upon ourselves and breathe in warm air instead of a biting sub-zero chill. Who in their right mind then would waste such precious time labouring in the kitchen? Surely it would be better to get out there in the sunshine, stock up of vitamin D which your body's been craving during the grey days of winter and get someone else to deal with mealtimes. Better still, find somewhere that offers fine cuisine in a truly relaxing atmosphere and you have another ingredient for making happy summer memories.

Well, you need search no longer; Tudors is here for you to do just that; to make your summer days as effortless as can be. Not just that but the Tudors' experience is carefully created to give you elegance, ambiance and sumptuousness. It all starts the moment you pass through the ancient doorway into a town house that's stood on this spot since 1550. A bang-up-to-date wine bar is the first thing to greet you, as well as a happy smile from the first member of staff you meet. Perhaps you'd like to wet your whistle (and whet your

appetite too) with a specially prepared cocktail or else a glass of wine from a very select list. Sit back, take it easy and let summer's magic lull you into a state of mind for enjoying great food.

It's at this point when you hear those enchanting words, "Your table is ready, please follow me", you ascend the stairs to either of the two, oak, beamed dining rooms and relax as you meander through a tantalising choice in Tudors' extensive menu. From succulent steaks, chicken and gammon, to fish dishes and vegetarian options, you'll find something that fits in with your mood and gastronomic expectations. Add to that the flavoursome cuts of meat that go to make a Sunday roast dinner (complete with mouth-watering trimmings; roast potatoes, steamed vegetables, lashings of gravy and accompanying sauces) and you can almost taste the allure of Tudors. You've only to accompany this with that essential human touch; waiting staff to assist with your complete enjoyment as if it's their calling and you have the perfect recipe for an hour or so of sublime satisfaction. As the sun then passes just beyond its zenith and you emerge into the afternoon warmth, you might decide on a country walk, to drop in on Belton House, Belvoir Castle or a host of other attractions spread around the area. Even if you simply head home to relax with family and friends in the serenity of your garden you'll have that quiet thrill of knowing

that someone else is clearing the table and doing the washing up.

Of course, you might want to arrange your day so that you get the most out of those sunny days to come; cycling round the local country lanes or going off to the coast for the day. On these days it's great to book a table at Tudors. Whatever activity you fill your summer day with it's always good to keep in your mind that you can round it off with a superb evening meal in Tudor's ancient, cosy surroundings. With a good choice of puddings and desserts to tingle the taste buds and a choice selection of wines and spirits, your summer day can be completed in the most elegant of ways.

As you make your way home, you realise that days like these are precious; so special in fact that the urge to do it again becomes a strong one. Well, Tudors isn't going anywhere, so make another visit before the summer bids its inevitable fond farewell and let this old place welcome you home to treat you well.

Opening Hours

Sunday to Monday 9am – 3pm
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Focus on... Avenue Veterinary Centre

by Richard Huddart, MRCVS, a veterinary surgeon at the Avenue Veterinary Centre in Grantham and Bottesford.

Worrying Times

Many of our long-standing clients might remember my own very first dog, Floss. She was a lovely chocolate Labrador who, many years ago, would wander around the waiting room and sniff/greet the apprehensive patients waiting for their consultations. During her 12 year life, she was never involved in any fracas or aggressive behaviour – I could usually tell where she was when I heard a burst of laughter from the clients in the waiting room when she flopped down to lie on the floor in the middle!

When I took Floss out for walks she would remain under control on a lead, but I was more concerned about livestock attacking her than the other way round (Here she seems oblivious to watching sheep on



livestock attacks yet. While the owner of a beautiful small herd of alpacas was away one day, a dog (or dogs) got into the field and terrorised these lovely and highly sensitive animals.

The worst injuries were suffered by Caramel, a lovely young female alpaca. She had several deep wounds under her tail as well as a bad cut to her left jaw. Our vets and nurses did heroic work trying to save her. (Here you can see Tom examining Caramel with nurse Steph steadying and reassuring her. She had intravenous fluids and other medications which we don't



Kinder Scout!

Indeed, on one occasion she was charged by a flock of ewes which were guarding their lambs. Another time

see in the picture, which were owned by a veterinary surgeon friend!. Cattle present a particular concern for walkers. Especially during the calving season, cattle are prone to chasing dogs as a defensive measure. So keep your dog on a lead and steer well clear of the cattle. If it looks as though you are at risk of injury yourself, the advice is to only then drop the lead to avoid personal harm.

Over the years I have investigated several distressing dog worrying incidents, normally involving uncontrolled dogs attacking ewes and lambs (this rather grotesque picture is a post mortem of one such lamb with bite wounds into the chest).

However, this month has seen one of our most distressing



she was the victim of a stampede by the donkeys you





normally use but despite our best efforts she gave up the will to live and we had to put her to sleep. Other alpacas in the same group were also

injured, though less seriously, and some have aborted due to the stress of the attack. Thousands of lambs and other livestock die every year due to

thoughtlessness by dog owners, who have the responsibility of keeping their animals on a lead and under control at all times when animals are around. So please bear this in mind, obey the Country Code when out walking, especially if you have your dog with you.



If you have any concerns or would like further advice, please register your pets and make an appointment – see details below.

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Testimonial

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Pam and Tony Townsend

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Read All About It

By Richard Coppin

Away from Archie's involvement in the story there are other characters moving events forward. All the secret machinations of the Mayor and Thomas Geoffrey are reaching a certain pitch of excitement. So far, no one knows what these two men have in mind, except you and I who are now allowed a sneak preview into what underhand dealings are underway.

Chapter Twenty-Two

Not too far away from the offices of the Grabham Advertiser, in the Town hall in fact, someone was returning to his desk; it was Mr. Mayor. Now free from the confines of his hospital bed he nevertheless sported a jaunty bruise to his jaw line and round his eyes. It almost possessed the complete spectrum, being in turn yellow, purple, green in two places and almost black in others. Most of the discolouration of the Mayor's skin was not due to the mighty fist of Councillor Thomas Geoffrey, though that had been the agent responsible for the Mayor's jaw being dismantled and partially removed from its usual resting place, but rather the varied hues of his face had been furnished by the subsequent surgery required to re-build this most important asset to Grabham Town Council; the man's speaking apparatus. His first call was going to be to the Chief Inspector of the local police with whom he enjoyed a convivial association. He was arranging to bring charges, and would have done so had the Chief Clerk to the council stayed his hand upon the telephonic contrivance. It was then that the Mayor was brought up to date about Miss Proust and the great disturbance; especially the pilfering that had taken place in the drawers of the desk that he was presently seated at. His alarm grew more acute at hearing which particular drawer had been abused, an alarm that intensified when he learned that a certain box had been taken out. When the Mayor learned that the box in question had actually been opened his breathing ceased altogether. In a fit of panic, torrential perspiration and galloping heart rate, he yanked the drawer open, grabbed the box, feverishly took a set of keys from his waistcoat and unlocked the lid. The sigh of blessed relief when it came almost caused the windows of the Mayor's parlour to buckle outwards and shatter into the street. The Anderson Plan was still there.

He shelved the call to the Police Station and instead announced a meeting of "The Chess Club", a name of subterfuge that was really a secret Sub Committee of the Council set up to plan and if necessary execute

certain 'operations'. It was time to breathe life into this precious document, to wreak havoc on a personage whom the Mayor was certain had, as his only goal, the cessation of the building of his new factory extensions; none other than Councillor Thomas Geoffrey himself. Their enmity was legend, and went back a long way. Cordiality had always seen to it that it never spilled over, even when they were classmates together. Their hatred was kerbed and yet defined by the most primeval sense of competitiveness, exacerbated by the kind of muscular Christianity that was part of the moral framework at the Bishop's School for Boys. Sportsmanship was a thin veneer; yet in those days, to say to a losing eleven, "Jolly bad show old chap," was as effective an injury as a bunch of fives in the hooter. The only time that tempers had been lost was that infamous night at the Midland Hotel, when decades of rivalry and seething hatred had finally burst forth like a barrage from a Dreadnought following the sight of the most monstrous image that had ever been shone upon a screen.

He'd run that evening over and over in his mind, wondering how such a slide had made its way into the projector. He'd no proof, but he suspected everyone. His paranoia grew ever more intense and ugly the more he thought about it. Indeed there had been times in his convalescence when he thought he might go mad. But now there were bigger fish to fry. The culmination of dodgy dealings, backhanders and intense forward thinking was now in the breach ready to be fired. He'd send a volley at Thomas Geoffrey's cronies and sort his old rival out once and for all. It was also time to put his own particular road building project into top gear. Nothing was going to stop him now. Later that morning he arranged for the leader of the Planning Committee to come to his family home for supper and drinks afterwards. It was worth spending an evening with the little swine if it meant getting his own way.

Several miles away, barn doors were being opened and an aeroplane made ready for flight. This time it carried small sacks of various coloured flour as well as a camera. This was to be the test flight of a simple

aiming device that if successful would pave the way to a more drastic method of stalling the opposing rival's plans. Thomas Geoffrey had invented it himself and had overseen its installation. It was nothing more than a tube set into the pivot of a framework bolted to the side of the pilot's cockpit. By leaning his head to the right the pilot could peer down straight through it towards the earth below. On his knee was a basic cross check system; a set of printed sheets of numbers that combined altitude with forward speed. It was a straightforward case of looking at where these two inputs converged, at which point a number could be read; or rather the degree of an angle to which the tube was to be set at. In fact there were five of these sheets, all with varying wind speeds built into them. All the pilot had to do was to fly towards the target area, select the page with the correct wind speed that the anemometer on the roof of the barn had recorded prior to takeoff, line his flight up relative to the wind direction, check his height and speed, and read off the angle where they intersected. Then he'd set the tube to that angle and take aim through it. Once the target came into view through the tube it was flour sacks away. With luck, there would be all kinds of coloured flour marks slap bang in the middle of a large circular target below him made from bales of hay. Everything hung on this demonstration. The pilot said that it was going to be a 'piece of cake'. Thomas Geoffrey nervously hoped it was going to be.

He bid the pilot good luck as the latter jumped into his crate and got his mechanic to help start the motor. From there he watched the little fighter trundle down the meadow under the throbbing power of its propeller and turn to face into the wind. The engine revs increased to create a delicious sound of oily tappets and engorging pistons; a rhythmic mechanical song of power made even more beautiful by the harmonic whining of propeller blades lacerating the air to haul the machine towards that holy speed where its lift into the air was rendered possible.

Even in 1919 there still existed a thrill to watch a contraption made of wood and canvas climb into the glorious realm of angels. Thomas Geoffrey fetched a chair and waited in the weak sunshine as his beloved 'Amelia' became a dot in the sky. The tiny speck turned and flew over Grabham House, wagging its wings to indicate all was well as it passed by overhead. Further away it zoomed until once more it had become a mere full stop on an empty page. Again it turned, this time facing the wind. Thomas Geoffrey watched the pilot adjust his flight to line up with the hay bales down below in the adjacent meadow. He wasn't even aware that he was biting his nails as the sight of a small object

dropped from the fuselage and hurtled earthbound.

There was eventually a puff of white in the field nearby where the hay bales had been arranged. The pilot flew four more such circuits each time dropping another bag of differently coloured flour before lining up for a landing and bringing his machine gently to a feather-like touchdown. As soon as the engine spluttered to a stop the airman leaped from his craft and bounded up towards the waiting gang of spectators, threw down his goggles near the barn door and without a bye or leave carried on towards the field.

"Come on," he shouted as he sprinted away from those who had watched the aerial demonstration, "Let's go and see how I did."

Secretly he knew. He'd seen the results of his mission through his bomb aiming device with each successive pass, but no one else knew. They'd watched it all from a safe distance lest any misdirected flour sacks should come hurtling down upon them.

Thomas Geoffrey was growing breathless as neared the target area. He knew the trial of his device had been a success when he saw the pilot way ahead of them leaping up and down; his arms waving about in the air. When he finally got to the hay bales there was evidence all over the ground; multi-coloured powder had impacted everywhere within a twenty foot ellipse covering a wide area of grass, but far more importantly, all over the bales of hay. The smile, when it finally grew on Councillor Geoffrey's breathless face, was one of pure wickedness.

These independently drawn up and somewhat embryonic battle lines were not only mutually ignorant to the two opposing factions in the town but also to the wily brain that whirred and clicked in the cranium of the Grabham Advertiser's perspicacious editor. Little did Noel Blockhead know that whenever he nodded in false deference towards one of the paper's owners; those of the Frogmarch dynasty, he was actually within spitting distance of one of the main protagonists. He had spent many an evening considering the facts that he had unearthed but none of his many theories held together. He therefore thought that a meeting of minds might help, and to that end he had arranged for an evening of good food, wine, cigars and energetic contemplation with the only two people he could professionally trust; Jim Pitchblack and Archie Crimm.

Well, let's see what Jim Pitchblack, Archie Crimm and Noel Blockhead can surmise.

Turning victims into winners



I am a litigation specialist, which means I work on behalf of individuals who have been injured through no fault of their own. I've worked in the law since 2013; qualifying as a solicitor in April 2018 after training at JMP Solicitors. I've chosen to continue in the area that I love; gaining redress for those people who have life-changing injuries. Needless to say that I derive a lot of personal satisfaction on the many occasions I win compensation for my clients. That's why I'm ready to help you if you've been the victim of an accident that wasn't your fault. Here's what a lot of people ask when they come and see me.



Nikkita Nelson-Aylott
Solicitor

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Q What do I have to pay?

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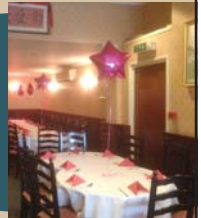
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The making of a Master

Craftsmanship doesn't happen by accident. Anyone who makes a job look easy is hiding beneath their skill years of highly polished experience. It's not until you try to do what they do that you realise just how well-versed they are in their chosen profession or trade.

The other week Richard Malley who runs Floor Designs was given a job to lay a carpet on a large landing with a stairwell right in the centre of it. Getting several square metres of unyielding and heavy carpet up there in the first place took some doing, but then he was faced with the three protruding banisters that were in the middle of this area. Richard's challenge was to do this job in one complete piece of carpet and even he had to admit to having to stop to think about where to begin. Decades of on-the-job experience came 'into their own' at this point and with a great deal of care Richard managed to lay the carpet perfectly. It would be easy for someone to look at a finished job like this and think how simple it would be to do; here though is what defines Richard Malley the craftsman and sets him apart from the rest of us; the accumulated knowhow that's resulted in a highly-polished skill. Richard's experience began at sixteen years of age after leaving the King's School. Following a spell working in retail for a while he was contacted by Malcolm Pearce to be a carpet fitter, a job he took up in 1987. He remembers this being a great company to work for and enjoyed being in a



firm with a great local reputation. It was here, up until 1989, that he learned the rudiments of carpet fitting through the friendly competitiveness of the other fitters. Bit by bit he became good at it, taking pride in every job he tackled. He then began working in the Co-Op carpet sales department; a place where he learned a lot about the business-end of the carpet industry and how to behave with customers; special people whom he knows are the backbone of any business. In time however he went to work for Chris

Ward, another well-known name in the town. By now he was expected to work by himself; to measure and pick up the right amount of carpet from the warehouse then go to the customer's house or business and fit it. If things looked like they might be going awry, Richard had to find a solution to put it back on track. From 1991 to '96 he did this, learning how to avoid things going wrong in the first place. Adaptability was the key, an ability to think beyond the mere mechanical aspects of the job. He discovered that his job was not just to drop a carpet in place but to make it give out a statement about a person's home. To some degree; he's an artist. Although he's the last to admit it, he was becoming an expert in his field. A fundamental change in his attitude had created a new mind set over these years; the desire to be the best he could be. It was a quiet revolution but one of the reasons he made the decision to set up on his own. Today, Floor Designs boasts an enviable reputation for product breadth, style and design, customer confidence, professionalism and helpfulness. Little wonder then that he's been asked to fit carpets and other kinds of flooring to stately homes and even the O2 Dome in London. That said, the place you call home is just as important to him and his team; the same exacting levels of courtesy and respect given to your lounge or bathroom as it would be for a unit in a shopping mall. It's taken Richard a long while to get to this pinnacle of perfection, but then all good things take time to grow don't they? For him there hasn't been a great 'Eureka' moment when he realised he had to be the best, it's just developed from what's usually needed to create all great craftsmen; time and hard graft.



Richard Malley

FLOOR DESIGNS

Unit 15, Partnership House, Withambrook Park,
Londonthorpe Road, Grantham, Lincs. NG31 9ST
Tel: 01476 564718 www.malleyfloors.com



Holiday time for your dog



“

Yes Marcie, they've all gone to The Seychelles, well somewhere warm and sunny anyway. Me, oh no, I never get to go but that doesn't bother me. Just before they set off, that brilliant couple Colin and Jacqui at Barking Mad came over and brought me here to this fabulous house; you know, Peter and Tracey's place in Grantham where they brought me to last year. I'm having the time of my life I can tell you; all my favourite food and treats are here, I get just the right amount of walking time with great smells to sniff along the way, I've got all my best toys with me, my old bed is here as well, plus I get loads and loads of fuss and attention. Tell you what Marcie, you can keep your white sandy beaches; this is just the place for a dog like me. Why don't you tell your folks about Barking Mad my dear, you'd be barking mad not to.

”

It's all true you know, oh yes. Colin and Jacqui who run Barking Mad in Grantham pick me up in their special vehicle, very cosy it is too. I settle down for the journey and before you can say 'Woof' I'm relaxing in my new surroundings, or at least I am by the time I've given the place my very own 'sniff test'. For the next couple of weeks I'm treated like a canine prince. Peter and Tracey were specially chosen to look after me. Their place is on the edge of town with easy access to the countryside which I adore walking round (so many smells). Their garden is as tight as a drum though security wise, so there's no chance of me getting out and worrying everyone. All this was worked out weeks ago along with loads of other things to keep me safe and happy. They're the perfect couple to look after a big feller like me. They love the company of dogs but now that they're retired they love to travel.

That means owning their own dog is not easy, but through Barking Mad, they get the company of chaps like me now and again to give them some canine joy. In return they give me a great time too. This arrangement gives my own human family peace whilst they're away, knowing that I'm in such safe hands. The pet schedule that comes with me gives Peter and Tracey all my likes and dislikes, no wonder I feel so much at home. Maybe you'd fancy being a host like Peter and Tracey; Barking Mad is always on the lookout for dog lovers like them to host someone's pet dog. Just pick up the phone like me and call Colin and Jacqui or

drop them an e-mail. For people who can't own a dog because of a variety of reasons this is a superb way to enjoy their company. Your circumstances will determine what kind of dog would suit you best. For me I need a firm hand, but if little lap dogs are your thing then you'll be matched with tiny dogs like Angelica who I'm told is just a gorgeous ball of fluff. The vetting process is quite extensive, as much for the hosts benefit as for the dog that's coming to stay; avoiding any unpleasant surprises, but making sure that the whole experience is wonderful for the dogs and humans alike.

Beyond Grantham, Colin and Jacqui cover Mansfield, Newark and Sleaford, so there's always a host ready to take your own special canine member of your family when you go away. Give them a call and find out about Barking Mad yourself. Right, I need to phone Gregory the Golden Retriever, so I'll have to go. So many friends, so little time. Bye!

Barking Mad charge a one-off registration fee of £35.00 which includes the completion of a pet schedule. There's a £35.00 transport fee and a charge of £23.00 per day to have your dog looked after in the home of a host best placed to provide individual care.



Contact **Colin Murphy & Jacqui Benzie.**
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Or email murphy@barkingmad.uk.com



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The tranquil healing of Karen Cook

The recent death of Stephen Hawking brought the power of the human mind once more into the public spotlight. Beyond his understanding of black holes and astrophysics he had another mind; one that battled with illness and not just overcame it but achieved so much more.

His is a shining example of mental and emotional fitness. It begs the question though; what do you do when you're no longer emotionally fit? After all, every part of us can get sick; so why should our mind be exempt from becoming ill? Well, it's not exempt, and in a way we deserve to be allowed to admit it when our emotional state cripples our ability to get through life. All too often we impose on ourselves the title of human 'doing' and forget that we are a human 'being'. When we get up from a chair and nip into the kitchen to put the kettle on, we take for granted the stabilising effect of our inner ear to keep us upright. In a similar way, the majority of us never acknowledge the psychological balancing trick that keeps us mentally upright; it's always there enabling us to be smugly perched on the tightrope of life. A host of influences can cause that balance to sway out of kilter and usually, in time, we regain our composure. But what happens when we're pushed too far and lose our balance completely? It could be through the death of a child, the loss of a job, a shock wave from our childhood that's taken years to erupt or even a marriage that's suffering because the communication between two people has fallen apart. Whatever it is, it's devastating to you and you know deep down that you can no longer cope. If you feel that you've come to the end of your rope and you can't go on, the time has come to see Karen Cook; a psychotherapist with the most delicate yet effective means at her

disposal, to take your fractured mind, cradle it in her experience and patiently give you the tools, in time, to heal yourself from within. As a society, we've come a long way from our crude concept of mental illness. As advocates of illuminating this once dark corner of our makeup, the younger Royals have taken away many of the final stigmas of this aspect of the human experience. Seventy years ago it was very different. Today we are allowed to ditch the stiff upper lip and take care of ourselves properly with the help of people like Karen. Funny, but we are quite prepared to admit we've got the flu, or walk around on crutches when we've broken a leg. Thankfully, we now feel safe to look mental ill-health square in the face and see it for what it is, and more importantly do something about it. Karen is a marvellous listener; not in the sense we usually think of when we have a good chat with someone; she listens, listens very intently, incredibly deeply. From the minute you meet her, you feel that you are important, that you have a worth; that you count as a person. In her quiet, tranquil room, shut away from the rushing pace of modern life, there exists a serene calmness between two people. Judgement has no place here, no preconceptions, just a wonderful link between a compassionate professional counsellor and the ball

of swirling incomprehensible emotions that are locked away inside you. Life might have put you under intolerable pressure, even to the point of wondering if life is worth living any longer. In this simple room there isn't any pressure. You might sit there with a dam across your feelings, even a sense of pride that you've kept these harmful emotions behind its wall for so long. You know that they have to burst out eventually and here in this sanctuary they can do just that. It might seem like your world is falling apart; but actually, it's the beginning of your healing process and when you're able to be honest with yourself, you know it. From this moment on, a gate has been opened onto a road beyond which you can begin to make sense of your turmoil. With Karen's sensitivity and skill, coupled with her vast experience you can be helped to move away from the darkness, giving you an ever wider glimpse of a new view of your life and a future you feel increasingly more in command of.



Karen Cook

BACP Senior Accredited Counsellor / Psychotherapist

Tel: 07729 40 40 07

E-Mail: kcook22@btinternet.com

Web Site: www.karencookcounselling.weebly.com

If you are unable to access her practice, Karen can provide counselling in your own home



For any business person hungry for success, it's well worth taking advantage of Mike Burgess' depth of experience to seek out un-tapped potential in your search for ever greater achievements.

Old Fashioned Marketing for Modern Business

By Mike Burgess
Strategic Business Planning and Coaching

As a fellow business owner over the past twenty years I have experienced the same ups and downs that you have. The wonderful and sometimes very scary rollercoaster of business. During that time I have learned how to utilise the most effective strategies in 'old fashioned marketing' combined with 'modern online marketing'. Working smart and utilising the power of today's technology to ensure I had the freedom of choice I desired. These strategies have also allowed me to operate my business from my choice of location.

That is where you should be heading right now.

As you know we have a lot going on and quite often we do not get the time to step back and look at our business from a distance. Football and cricket teams have

coaches who watch performance from a distance and can improve on strategies and games plans.

Strategic planning is the cornerstone of successful business. Failure to lean upon and learn from the experience of others is common amongst businesses which fail to live up to their full potential. When you have doubts or decisions to make you need to have someone to turn to who can bring ideas from their own experience, knowledge and a view of your business with fresh eyes.

I will see areas where your business can improve that you will not see from inside. I specialise on bringing you opportunities and problem solving. I will identify areas where new thought and innovation will make your life easier and your business more enjoyable. You can also take the knowledge gained and

Mike Burgess is an Australian and now local businessman who possesses those special national qualities of bright, shining optimism and non-stop dynamism. His incisive mind and business acumen is enhanced further through his experience in the military and his thirty-five years in business management, the last twenty years running his own consultancy.

His in-built ability to come up with exciting and creative strategic ideas is an inspirational experience. He is the drone if you like hovering above your business that can see the full picture of what you're doing and where your future opportunities exist. Often he can point to business destinations far better than you're often able to yourself from your ground-based dealings with the day to day running of your enterprise.

Mike's advice is invaluable, particularly when it comes to marketing what you do. With the world now running on electronic platforms, he uses that special cunning to bring age old ideas into the modern world, and for anyone wanting to make their business more successful it's worth reading his article below.

apply it to future business opportunities.

It is always your choice. You can have me for a day or you can keep me around for as long as you need me. My services are not hit and run. I support you for whatever time you need me, without major investment of time or funds.

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Great music begins with Melody

Melody Music Rooms is an exciting music school located in the heart of Grantham offering one-to-one music tuition along with rehearsal and workshop space, plus enviable recording studios all under one roof. Our aim is simple; to provide a centre for musicians of all ages to learn, rehearse and record.



Melody Music Room's Rehearsal Space

LEARN

We have hundreds of students weekly who enjoy private lessons in the relaxed environment of our teaching studios. We currently have seven very talented teachers who work hard to deliver lessons that are fun, practical and created to help you achieve your musical potential.

REHEARSE

Everyone at Melody is involved in various musical projects, so we appreciate the need for high quality rehearsal rooms. We have two such rooms that have been fully sound-proofed.

We have also kitted out each room with top-of-the-range musical equipment to make your rehearsal time as productive as possible. All you need to do is plug in and play.

RECORD

Recording your music properly is very important to us. We know from experience how valuable a well-recorded song can be. We also know how much fun is involved in the recording process. Whether you're a full band or a solo singer/songwriter, we can help you to produce radio quality tracks that will help you take your music on to the next level.



Recording Studio Suite at Melody Music Rooms



FOR ALL ENQUIRIES, CONTACT PETER ON: 07738 338 301

Meet the Teachers

Peter Coppin Drum Teacher

Pete began drumming aged eleven playing with local bands before qualifying on the Access to Music course. Great success followed with the band *That Sunday Feeling*, playing on twenty UK tours including Wembley Arena shows with *McFly* to 20,000 fans. Now endorsed by *Dream Cymbals*, *Drumcraft* and sponsored by *Gretsch drums*, he loves teaching and organising the Build-a-Band workshops. He's also involved with local schools and other musical events on the area.



Dave Stephens Guitar and Bass Teacher

David began playing bass aged thirteen. Between 2010 - 2013 he played guitar with pop rock groups; *That Sunday Feeling* and *Paighton* releasing multiple charting singles and touring with *McFly*, *Lawson*, *Cover Drive*, and *Tyler Hilton*. David now enjoys teaching lessons in Guitar and Bass to an ever-growing roster of students each week at local Schools and here at Melody Music Rooms.



Keith Banfield, Piano, Keyboard and Organ Teacher

Keith was twelve years old when he got hooked on playing the Hammond organ. For the past forty-five years he's been playing semi-professionally and teaching for the past thirty years after moving to Grantham. He firmly believes that you're never too old to enjoy making music. He covers exams from A.B.R.S.M Trinity and Royal London Colleges for all those who want to take exams.



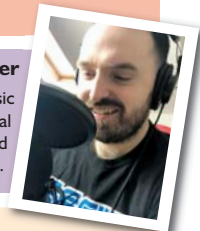
Colin Reed Singing Teacher

Colin has sung in professional and amateur companies alike, most recently as part of the Secret Opera's Ring Cycle. His passion for musical education is highly stimulating. Students who want to reach their singing potential are able to achieve so much from his experience and patience. He also enjoys composing music which is a great foundation for helping fledgling songwriters to develop.



Paul Emmett, Singing, Brass and Piano Teacher

Piano, Vocal, Brass, Woodwind teacher and Musical Director; Paul Emmett has so much to offer music students. Paul also specialises in Choral singing, working with groups from Schools, Youth Choirs, to Choral Societies. Apart from being a professional trombonist he is a multi talented musician and as your teacher you'll be in very experienced hands.



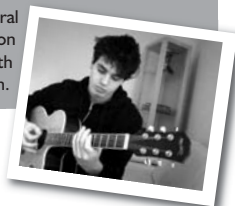
Paul Kenward, Woodwind Teacher

An R.A.F. musician between 1980 and 2005, Paul Kenward brings just the right amount of musical discipline to his woodwind lessons. He's a natural teacher, something he's loved doing since he left the Royal Air Force. He encourages students from beginners, upwards to concert level. Undoubtedly, you'll learn a great deal from the wealth of experience of this well-respected musician.



Joe Atkinson Guitar Teacher

Joe is a singer/songwriter with a great record of creating memorable musical tracks. He's a natural musician and his guitar lessons are made all the more enjoyable by his ability to help you build on success after success. Never rushed; a student will feel that they are really getting to grips with learning the guitar from this talented musician.



Melody Music Rooms is privileged to have some of the finest music teachers in the area, who are brilliant at creating music lessons of outstanding value.

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES, CONTACT PETER ON: 07738 338 301

Making Note of it!



Now that better weather here to stay (we hope), I'm finding that many of my customers are making themselves notes for up-coming jobs. It's a good idea, as it makes sure that they get done. Often though there's a sticking point that gets in the way, and that's where I come in, helping to make summer ideas a reality without landing you with loads of hassle.

Michael Ellison

Fence panel in back garden finally blown over. What do I know about fixing fences? Got to be done though.

You're right; it's got to be done, especially if you want your children or pets to stay safe. Just to keep your garden secure from intruders is important too. Not everyone is DIY minded so the easiest thing is to leave jobs like this to me. I can get new posts set in place and new panels fitted before you can say 'screwdriver'. If you like I can give the whole fence a coat or two of wood preserver and help to give a fresh face to your garden perimeter.



Must replace the two rotting decking boards. Might be a good opportunity to extend the decking. Who can I ask to do it?

It's a shame when one section of decking spoils the look of the whole feature. As to who you can ask to do it, well, you've just found him. I'll replace any rotting pieces and set it up for the warmer days ahead. If you've been thinking about making your decking area bigger, then with a bit of effort on my part I can make that happen too. If your family or circle of friends is growing, then this is the perfect answer to good times this summer.



I remember fixing that shed roof twenty odd years ago. How I'm supposed to get up there now that I'm in my eighties I'll never know?

The simple answer is; you're not supposed to, that's my job. I guess there'll come a day when I won't like risking my neck clambering up a ladder, but while I can, then I'll do it for you. At least you're mindful of keeping it in good condition. I can also give it a lick of wood preserver if you want and keep the whole shed protecting the important stuff you keep inside it.



Finally got the paint and the paper for the living room. The lighter days have been showing up all the scuff marks. Finding time to get it done though is proving quite a problem.

Modern life! It makes many of us time poor; what with work commitments and the responsibilities of family life. Still, you want a nice place to live in and why not? Many of my customers give me the keys to their home and, depending on the size of the room they want me to decorate, find it finished and looking like a new room when they come home from work. As you said, you've got the colours and patterns you'd like; all I do is make your interior design vision come true.



For all those jobs you can't get round to, get Michael round to get them done.

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Summertime, and the gardening is easy

There are so many reasons for having a garden of your own this summer. For some it will be the opportunity to dabble in a bit of horticulture; planting a few choice specimens to display or else raising some home-grown vegetables to make mealtimes truly organic. For others a garden represents a place of peace and quiet, somewhere to unwind away from the cares of the day. The thing is your garden can be anything you want it to be; a playground for the children, an entertainment space for friends and family, a landscaped wonderland perhaps, or just a patch of green.

Whatever it is, it needs to be maintained, and that's where an interesting choice arises as far as effort is concerned; the easy way or the hard way. In our parent's generation the prospect was to reach for a handful of tools in the shed and

get busy digging, cutting, weeding and mowing using the time-honoured power of human muscle. It didn't seem as if you'd



done the job properly unless your back ached or your arms were about to drop off. Well, not anymore. At LRS we want you to enjoy your garden and your gardening the easy way, without tears and sweat. And if you think that's just a pipe dream, take a lingering look around our showroom and you'll see a fine array of machinery that's designed to save you time and energy.

At centre stage are the lawnmowers; petrol-driven, electric and for sheer simplicity the battery-powered machines. If you have a huge enough lawn you'd do well to take a seat on one of our sit-on mowers, full of interesting features that make lawn mowing the kind of activity that makes people smile as they ride along in the sunshine. The battery powered types have power packs that can be interchanged with other pieces of equipment, which not only makes them comparatively light and easy to use, but also eliminates the problem that many electrical machines have; accidentally slicing through the cable, particularly hedge trimmers that seem prone to biting a cable in half. The battery powered trimmers are also lighter to handle, making even this gardening job far easier.

Before the summer gets really underway, and before you get into the weekly routine of cutting your lawn, now is the perfect time to get your existing lawnmower serviced. There are two good reasons for this; the obvious

need to make sure that all the working parts are in tip-top shape, especially when it comes to the petrol machines. Oil levels and spark plugs will require a bit of attention after a year of working as will the air filters that might have become clogged up. The other thing that we seldom think about is the sharpness of the lawnmower blades. There's a good reason why they need servicing on a yearly basis and it's to do with the health of your lawn. When a stem of grass is hit by the outer edge of a blunt lawnmower blade travelling even at the idling speed of 124 miles per hour* it tears at the grass fibre, damaging its tissue which leads to part of it dying off and leaving a light outer edge to your grass. This can harm these tiny plants over time. A blade sharpened by an LRS service neatly scapels the grass stem so that it continues to grow healthily. As the most basic level, a good service from LRS means that you have a much greater chance of a more beautifully-looking lawn when you give it its haircut.

Whatever your garden means to you, it's nice to know that it doesn't necessarily mean hard work for you. Pay us a visit soon and let us show you just how easy those gardening jobs can be. You never know, you might just find yourself enjoying getting out into your garden again. If you do, then our work is done.

*Idle speeds for all Briggs & Stratton engines are factory set at 1750 RPM unless otherwise specified.

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Final Words

When someone close to us dies, our own life gets turned on its head. Above all other effects their death has on our lives, it's the emotional side that dominates most of all. Sometimes feelings from decades in the past tumble out, sadness gets confused by anger in some cases, our hearts feel broken and the future now bears no relation to how we thought life would be. Happy memories of that special person we realise are now just that, and that no more memories will ever be made with them again. The individual who was an integral part of everyday life has left a gaping hole and to some of us we feel as though part of us has been amputated. It's an awful, bitter sweet time.

One thing more than anything else which you need at times like this is real, sincere comfort, and in the case of a funeral director, lots of practical professionalism too. One man who exemplifies all the finest attributes of a funeral director is Robert Holland. When it comes to arranging the funeral of someone you've loved in your life, you'll find his approach and that of his company infused with integrity, honesty, compassion, poise and grace.

Robert is a Grantham man, born,

bred and proud of it, with the essence of what a fine funeral director should be literally running through his veins. His father, David Holland was, for many years, the best known and most highly respected funeral director in the

FLOWERS
from
HOLLAND

town; a man who had kindness and empathy woven into his DNA. It's this special touch which sets Robert apart and is the cornerstone which has underpinned the running of his St. Catherine's Road Company for decades; namely that it has, at the centre of its being, respect for the aching hearts of every customer. He understands from personal experience about these feelings all too acutely. His own mother Sheila Holland passed away last year. He always said with conviction that he would approach everyone's funeral as if it was for his own mother, and he always did. Knowing now what that's been like to do has only served to burnish that attitude more brightly. A funeral that's been arranged by Robert Holland is therefore a very special thing indeed,

enriched with true humanity and illuminated with the highest sense of honour.

With important family roots such as he possesses, it becomes fitting that his sister Sue, who runs the florist shop next door is able to integrate perfectly with the planning of a funeral. Her skill and artistry and those of her team can express the thoughts in our hearts far better than we could ever say with words using the silent beauty of Mother Nature. All funerals are different of course; as idiosyncratic as the person's life that's being honoured in fact. Amazingly the spark of the human spirit sometimes shines through even more brightly than usual and inspires families to warmly celebrate the person they've lost with as much, if not more of a desire to simply mourn them. For others there is a yearning for a quiet, reflective and sombre tone at the funeral of their loved one. With the gentle help of Robert and his staff, a way to let family and friends channel their feelings will be found. As funeral directors of distinction they have this innate ability to listen to words we try to say between the lines, to coax out our beautiful and meaningful thoughts that translate into a service full of life, oddly enough and to give to a funeral its own unique character, full of depth to help us in the sad days to come, and to provide us with the means to come to terms with the loss of someone that was special to us, keeping their memory preserved in our souls, so that they live on in our hearts forevermore.

RH

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