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Welcome



Hello Everyone,
Don't you think there's something comfortably grounding in the way the seasons roll on from one to another? Perhaps it's because despite the fact that even though our lives are

inexorably intertwined with the most amazingly, taken for granted technology, we still have to exist in the age-old world of primitive man. Summers gave way to autumns back then, just as it's beginning to do now; the slow passage to shorter days, darker nights and getting wrapped up once more.

This could be the reason why we British are so fatalistic in our outlook; 'Rain's going to fall, get used to it, this is England'. It's this mindset that gives us our cynical sense of humour, an attitude that no matter how bad things get we can still stir our spirit to make fun of it.

In a way it's tempting the inevitable writing this; as the sun rose this morning wed just passed Midsummer Night, with all the dreamy Shakespearean connotations which that conjures up. The fact is; it's a beautifully hot and cloudlessly sunny day on the other side of this window, not exactly the right time to be thinking of falling leaves and chill, northerly winds.

As you gradually slide into the autumn of the year, take time to sit back and enjoy this edition of Grantham Now as we get to work on the winter edition and begin thinking about the spring that thankfully, can't be stopped either.

See you then

Andrea & Richard Coppin

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Grantham Then

By Malcolm G Knapp

Malcolm's now back to his 1981 guided tour book entitled; 'A Grantham Walkabout' and has wandered into Westgate. History is all around us along this busy thoroughfare, so we'd better not hang about, Malcolm's eager to get cracking.

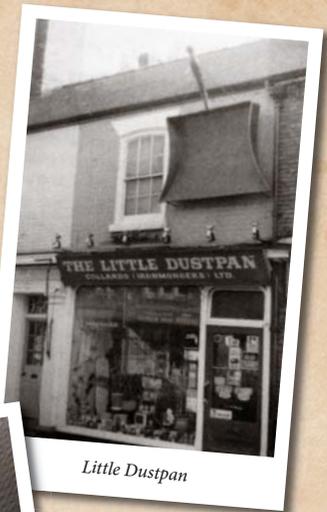
The Roman occupation brought Latin into constant use in Britain. The early Christian prayers that were made as the sun set in the evening were called vespers, which went on to create the root of the English word 'west'. Due to the Vikings and the Danelaw they brought with them, many of Grantham's streets have Norse influences. Westgate is one of them; 'gate' coming from the old Danish word 'gata', meaning 'way' or 'street'. Long before Greenhill Road and Barrowbygate was thought of, Westgate was indeed the most westward street in town.

This street has two distinct halves, divided almost equally between its narrow part and the wide section further south. On Wide Westgate there is a fine example of a half-timbered building which today's townspeople will know as the Hop Sing Chinese Restaurant. Long before its days serving Chop Suey, this was part of the Malt Shovel public house. Some readers might recall the large wooden malt shovel and fork attached to the outside wall. This is a 17th century building. If you care to look at the adjacent wall you can still see the ancient sundial dating from 1790, restored in 1968 by Mr. F. Webster. Just as in the 18th century, the dial still keeps good time in the summer months.

Now in Narrow Westgate we come to Russell Court, nicely dated for our historical convenience as 1820. In the days before the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary's was built on North Parade, this is where mass was celebrated. The antiquated cottages that now are home to a clock repair shop, are of 17th century origin. Inside you can see the construction methods of the day in the roughly hewn wooden beams and the stonework.

Further along from here is a passageway dated 1878, initialled with double upper case 'F's; standing for Frederick Fletcher, a well-known wine and spirit merchant in his day. On the other side of the road further north are the offices of Lloyd's Employment and Law, having taken over the premises from 'The Lighthouse'. Even further back in time, long ago, before this became the business home of H. H. Cox the outfitters it was the commercial base of Cammacks who

dealt with furniture and removals; the date above the main door to this building shows when it was last renovated; 1903. The clock that



Little Dustpan

saves us having to glance at our watch or mobile device has been a feature of Narrow Westgate for a hundred and thirty years or more.

The King's Arms public house used to be called 'The Blue Ram'; a name that linked it to its Liberal Party affiliations in the days when allegiance to a political party was an essential part of commercial survival.

Cock fights were routinely held here during the 1790s. It's around here where we need to crane our necks upwards to see the huge dustpan fixed to the wall of what until recently was Remedy Beauty. As a landmark it was great at indentifying the shop known as 'The Little Dustpan'; an ironmonger's shop run by Collards.

Westgate Hall, with its stone spheres set atop its Victorian edifice was built in 1852 and was the second of the town's Corn Exchanges. Since then it's acted as a dance hall, an auction room and a venue for political meetings. At the time of writing, it's going through a renovation, which hopefully will restore its fine design, especially bringing the town's coat of arms into a better state of repair.

Just out of interest, does anyone know the rude name of the pub that was on the opposite side of the HSBC bank? It got this name during the Second World War; I can't repeat it here, but I'd love to know if you know. Answers on a post card please, don't be shy.



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If it isn't one thing.....!

Isn't it strange how one problem in your life can help to sort out another? Take Harry Abernethy here; his back pain was able to bring his sinus trouble to a stop; odd that, isn't it?

Harry left school and straightaway went to work in the building trade. Building sites by their nature are places of labouring toil and Harry, being young and fit, took to it like a duck to water. Six years on he began to suffer with lower back pain that by gradual increments grew continually worse. He believed that getting his HGV licence in 1990 would give him some respite and he changed jobs to become a lorry driver. Three hours sitting behind a wheel however, followed by offloading heavy pallets at the end of his trip was a worse combination of physical activity than he'd experienced on the building sites, resulting in lumbar pain that could no longer be ignored. It got so bad that his back became very weak; often he found it impossible to stand up on his own two feet; something had to be done. Having an open mind about what kinds of treatments were available to him and an in-built dislike of tablets, he inevitably gave the Chinese Herbcare and Acupuncture Centre on the High Street a try. To his delight, the pain in his back evaporated and before too long he was fit enough to get back to work.

All was fine until a couple of years ago when Harry began to suffer badly with the allergic effects of hay fever; intense headaches, a woozy head, watery eyes, sneezing, painful sinuses and a drowsy feeling that combined to effectively bring his life to a standstill. In time it got so bad that the only way he could describe the sensation was to compare it with having his 'head



The blocked up meridians in Harry's head are freed up by these painless needles. After just one treatment his hay fever was a thing of the past.

crushed in a vice'. Having made the decision to have no truck with antihistamines, he paid another visit to the Chinese Herbcare and Acupuncture Centre to see if by chance they could offer some respite. Once more his open mind said 'Let's see what happens'. Chinese medicine believes that all illnesses come about as a result of having interrelated lines of energy blocked; the so-called 'Meridians'. An allergy, they say, is no different, and therefore the super-fine needles, placed on specific locations on the body can treat the blocked-up meridians and bring about healing. For Harry, it was a case of placing the painless needles in his head, under his eyes and even in his ears. This, along with Chinese medicine containing extracts from the magnolia flower and the Lovage Tuber, had an amazing effect on Harry's life; the pain in his head and all the other debilitating sensations

fell away. He certainly did see what happened next, he felt great again. As ever a pragmatic man, he

admitted that, "If I didn't feel it was working, I wouldn't be coming back."

Now he can drive his lorry without back pain, past as many wheat fields as he likes and he isn't affected either way; all thanks to half a dozen tiny needles and a few thousand years of Chinese medical expertise.



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Peter, Lincolnshire

Professional work

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Liz, Lincolnshire

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This firm does not make a colossal profit. It is there for the community and always goes the extra mile for its customers. Their professionalism and attention to detail outshines the glib and glitz of an Apple store, or the customer after-care of PC World.

Stephen, Lincolnshire

Magnificent!

Not only did they make a cracking good job on my laptop, but they're always so willing to offer sound tips & advice. Important to an I.T thicko like me!!

Jeffrey, Lincolnshire

Take a look at Grantham Computer Centre's entry on the 'Which Trusted Trader' site and you'll see these amazing reviews. It's testament to the personal way that the Guildhall Street business interacts with its customers; real people helping real people, in this case shed loads of computer related issues, problems and questions, all dealt with by a competent, friendly and knowledgeable team. In these days of on-line anonymity, it's good to know that in the high tech world of computers the low-tech world of courtesy, good manners and reliability comes out on top time after time, just as these customers would agree.



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A Right Royal VIP Day at the Palace

You can imagine the surprise; a letter from the Lord

Lieutenant's office in Lincoln just after Christmas explaining that we'd been invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace; giving us three dates for us to choose from in order of preference. We checked our diary and sent an e-mail reply requesting May 31st and waited to see what would happen next. The letter didn't mention the reason for the selection and we could only guess at the many contributions we'd both given Grantham over the past twenty odd years as to why.

On 7th April, an embossed invitation arrived from the Lord Chamberlain, informing us of Her Majesty's command to invite us to the palace; we'd also got the date we wanted. All that remained now was to find the right things to wear and to decide on how best to get there.

The latter question was easily solved by Paul Elliott who runs Chauffeur VIP in Grantham; a highly acclaimed company whose exemplary reputation is just as good as it sounds. We'd mentioned our invitation to him and he suggested that one of his chauffeurs would be able to take us. It seemed the perfect solution and we readily agreed to take him up on his offer; which as things turned out, was the best decision we could ever have made.

The morning of 31st May ran with military precision. Exactly at 11.30, as pre-arranged, our immaculately dressed driver from Chauffeur VIP, Desmond Willcock; a registered Close Protection Operative amongst other security-related roles rang our door bell and led us to a gleaming, polished and sleek Mercedes E class car. He was the epitome of courtesy, settling us into a vehicle that permeated with the aroma of opulence. We slid off with effortless grace onto the A1 feeling every bit like VIPs and enjoyed a sunny ride



Des Willcock getting ready to park up on Constitution Hill; an impeccably professional driver, a true ambassador for Chauffeur VIP, making sure we got right up to The Palace, bang on time and in VIP style.



After passing security to reach the parade ground we arrived in the quadrangle before passing through to Buckingham Palace's gardens

towards London.

Just a few days before, the TV weather map had shown an annoying sliver of rain just where we didn't want it, right over the capital. Now as we headed towards the motorway services for our comfort break the sun was cocking a snook at the forecast.

Apart from being a brilliant driver, Des was a fantastic raconteur too, entertaining us with the many fascinating stories about his life; hugely interesting. That said, he was a good listener too; finding our experiences just as enthralling. The conversation flowed with an easy momentum and before we knew it we were driving through Finchley and getting ever closer to central London. With palpable enthusiasm it was clear

that Des loved driving through the capital and his expert driving skills made sure we wove gracefully from lane to lane, never putting a wheel wrong. He showed us so much too as we got ever deeper into the mad-cap traffic; The hotel-like Dunlop factory where Spitfire tyres were made during the Second World War; the perfect camouflage. We'd have easily missed the incredible monument to the fallen animals of conflict had it not been for Des pointing it out; very striking, as well as the new sculptures depicting the once thriving circus life in London. Number One Hyde Park corner came into view on our right hand side, which Des informed us had been the one-time home of the Duke of Wellington of which more later.

We were soon gliding down Constitution Hill, the road that runs adjacent to the gardens of Buckingham Palace, almost up to the main gates in fact. It was here that Des' own authority came into play as he was able to gain access to the



We were so close to Her Majesty The Queen as she passed by, after which we enjoyed the spectacle of the Yeomen of the Guard and to see a family of geese wandering about close to the sweet-smelling rose garden.

Special Car Park. Having now arrived in luxurious style, all we had to do was cross the road and join the queue, safe in the knowledge that Des would be waiting for us to take us home when it was time to go. It was by now two-thirty in the afternoon as we moved along, listening to a couple of French diplomats in front of us dressed smartly in their respective uniforms. London was bathed in sunshine which made it seem like no time at all before we were presenting our passports and entering through the palace gates and on to the crunchy gravel of the parade ground. It struck us then that we were doing something we'd most likely never do again. We certainly felt the honour of being there. Passing under the historic main balcony via the central archway and on through the quadrangle we emerged from the south western wing of the palace into the sun-bathed gardens just beyond a row of steps. Hundreds of people had filled the large lawn; a testament to the incredible efficiency of the Garden Party organisers. After half an hour, we joined the queue leading to the tea tent and enjoyed our crustless sandwiches and dainty cakes as we talked to a couple who'd set up a

youth charity in Birmingham. A military band played all kinds of marches ranging from Eric Coate's 'Dambusters' to John Williams' 'Star Wars', doing their best to balance their music with the sound of happy chatter that was everywhere.

It's amazing how a drum roll can bring a multitude of conversations to a stop. At four 'o' clock precisely, to the second in fact, the National Anthem began and we could all see Her Majesty The Queen standing on the steps we'd walked down only an hour before. Two lines of people created a walk way for her as she stopped to speak to groups who'd been specially selected to meet her. The Queen is small in stature but when she smiles there is definitely a cheeky twinkle in her eyes. Having seen her in photographs, on bank notes and coins, it was a special moment to stand and actually see her in person. Eventually she too went to

her own marquee, which gave everyone the chance to wander at will in the garden; looking at the roses, the lake and a family of geese waddling around as if they owned the place. We came to a stone bench and saw the great 'Vase' which celebrated The Duke of Wellington's victory over Napoleon at Waterloo. The Royal part of the day ended with a second drum roll which again to the second indicated the playing of the National Anthem as Her Majesty ascended the steps to take our leave. All too soon it was time to go. Des was waiting to take us home. As we drove back down the Edgeware Road with its shops of Middle Eastern signage we were struck by just how much rain had fallen. It seemed to us that a special umbrella had been held over the palace as we'd enjoyed sublime summer weather.

The drive home was just as luxurious as the outward trip only this time we had so much more to talk about. Once again we took a comfort break and then continued onwards to Grantham, chatting as if we'd known Des all of our lives. May 31st 2018 will not only remain in our memories because of our visit to Buckingham Palace and seeing The Queen, but also for the way we arrived and departed. The experience of being chauffeured to such an event by such an expert and likeable driver will shine out as one of the many bright points of a very sparkling day. We were definitely treated as VIPs and are pleased to vouch that the company certainly lives up to its motto; 'Driven by Excellence'. Without doubt, we were.



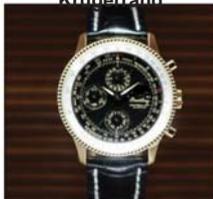
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Mr Franks recalls an instance the last time East Midlands Antiques were in the area, when a couple came along with a selection of old broken and incomplete rings, a few items of unusual jewellery and an old broken gentleman's wristwatch, expecting only a small amount and they were totally amazed to receive over £2,000.

Another astonishing story was when a crystal vessel estimated at just £100-£200 was sold for £220,000. So why not take this chance to search through your attic, drawers and cupboards, to see if you could also be sitting on a fortune. Don't be afraid or embarrassed. You will find our representatives most helpful, courteous and friendly. There is no obligation to sell, so if you just require a free evaluation, no problem. All transactions are strictly cash.

Mr Franks said the reasons for choosing the area are numerous. Many valuable articles were found in the last visit to the area. For instance on one occasion this year a Rolex, valued at £2,000-£3,000 fetched a staggering £48,000. The hotel is well known to local residents and is well placed with

plenty of car parking available. So on Tuesday 11th September you have the chance to visit the hotel and see our accredited buyers and valuers absolutely free. Mr Franks has over 20 years experience of professional valuations and now his expertise is available at no cost to you. Specialising in oil paintings, water colours and many other articles. Medals, decorations and orders are one of the most collectable items and East Midlands Antiques has a waiting list of collectors and customers willing to pay for these articles.

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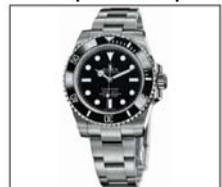
- Diamond and gem set jewellery, loose gems also purchased, bangles, bracelets, cameos, cufflinks, pendants and gentleman's watch chains.
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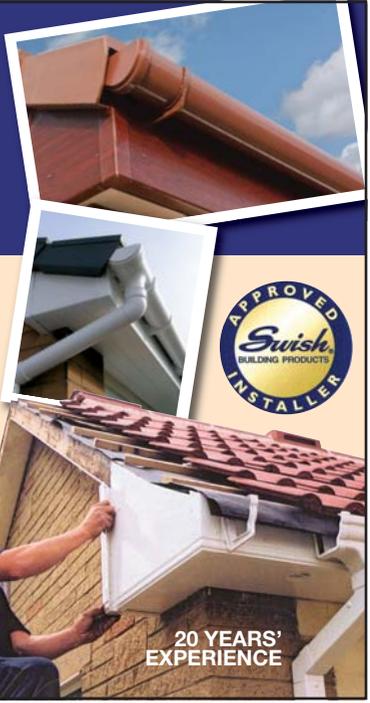
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Building on a fine reputation

Grantham Now takes a look at Grantham Builder Ashleigh Graham



Like many property buyers, there's always the question of its potential; what kind of improvements can be made to convert your initial purchase into an even more ideal home? For this Grantham family it wasn't quite so simple; their bungalow came with subsidence problems from the outset, a real nightmare, with all the inherent levelling issues which this brought. It was clear that something had to be done and it was only when Grantham builder Ashleigh Graham came on the scene some eighteen months ago that they felt they'd found the solution.

The first thing Ashleigh did was make the place habitable; like re-plastering the walls and re-levelling the floor to enable the installation of the under-floor heating system along with its manifolds system. With the house's superstructure re-set the double glazed bi-fold sliding windows could also be re-fitted, now perfectly able to glide smoothly on its re-aligned runners. This was important to the homeowners as these windows offered an expansive view of Grantham from their bungalow's hilltop vantage point. Even though the work on the building had now created a comfy home, those long-awaited improvement plans were always on the homeowners' minds. They could see that a new garage would bring

with it opportunities for a shower and utility room downstairs and an extra room in the loft as an added bonus, complete with Velux windows in the roof to shed natural light into the space created. Outside, a paved patio area would allow them and their family and friends to enjoy the fantastic view on those balmy summer evenings when barbeque weather beckoned.

Now partly completed you can see this work is already making a difference to the property and with a bit of imagination it's possible to get an idea of what it will be like when it's done, decorated and carpeted. Maybe you're looking at your home with a view to making it a better place to live in. Perhaps, like many people you're aiming to 'open up' your living space; to make a kitchen, dining and lounge area to be able to occupy one large and free-roaming environment; it's certainly something that's very 'on-trend' at present. Ashleigh's decades of experience, his depth of skill, and breadth of imagination have been employed on a vast diversity of dwellings and other buildings. He's often the first choice

when listed buildings need attention; like stone cottages and barn conversions. On these properties there's rarely a right angle to make life easy. On more contemporary buildings like most of the homes we live in, Ashleigh and his team are able to get to grips with making twenty-first century improvements; more like building for the future than preserving the past. With such a fine local reputation for a hand's on attitude, you can rest assured that Ashleigh will bring into being the kind of home that you've had nestling in your mind's eye. You can either discuss these ideas with him or sketch them out on paper. Either way, he'll give you his opinion about the practicalities of each bit of your proposal and make suggestions that enable them to be workable. With such advice to draw on, your chosen architect will have a head start in coming up with more passable plans. His attention to detail too makes certain that when the job is finished, it's done to such an exacting standard that you'll have an improved home to be truly proud of, and to enjoy for many years to come.

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Denis Frank Oliver

BSc, FRCVS, OBE, (Hon FWCF)

By Richard Huddart, MRCVS, of the Avenue Veterinary Centre in Grantham and Bottesford

Though not a tall man, Denis Oliver was a giant in the veterinary world. His sad passing on the night of 5th/6th June 2018 has deprived us of one of the last true gentlemen of the profession.

Denis was born in Lincoln, the son of a teacher, on November 11th, 1919.

He went to City School in Lincoln, then graduating in 1942 from Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh. There, he met his future wife, Nance Coutts, a farmer's daughter from the Borders. After working in Northallerton, Denis bought a practice in Avenue Road, Grantham in 1943, marrying Nance in 1946. This marked the beginning of his life as local veterinary surgeon for the town and villages. His stellar career in veterinary politics, Shire Horse



and pony worlds, farriery and education took off. In Avenue Road, the Olivers raised their children Rob and Ann. Nance sadly died in 2006 but the family has expanded to 5 grandsons and 8 great-grandchildren. Denis was a great family man, and the love of his

relatives contributed to his great age and joie de vivre. Ever one to embrace new technology, he even tried using a voice-activated Alexa device in his last few weeks!

Prior to WW2, the Grantham practice treated predominantly hunting horses. The demand for home grown food increased during and post war, so pig production increased dramatically. Denis worked with researchers from Belfast and became proficient in pig medicine. He was instrumental in many of the early pig vaccination trials instituted by the Ministry of Agriculture. As the local pig population declined, Denis expanded the equine and pet animal practice in Grantham, continuing to raise his young family above the surgery. He was senior partner in the practice until he retired in 1985, selling his partnership to me. His main partners had been Trevor Jenkins (who tragically died from a stroke while lambing a ewe in 1998) and John Yeaman, who owned the other practice in Grantham until they merged in 1982 (he retired in 2005). Following his own retirement, Denis continued as equine consultant, maintaining an active interest in the practice and calling in to catch up on events.

Denis was an important figure in



OBITUARY

many organisations. He lectured in Animal Health and was responsible for veterinary care of livestock at the Kesteven Agricultural College, Caythorpe for more than thirty years after 1950. He was a Veterinary Officer for the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) in 1953 and became Chief Veterinary Officer in 1970. He was responsible for livestock health at the annual Royal Show at Stoneleigh until his retirement in 1994. After the 1950s he advised the National Pig Breeders Association regarding introducing the Pietrain breed into the UK. He was a veterinary advisory panel member of the Meat and Livestock Commission until 1973.

He was Honorary Vet for the Grantham and District Canine Society in 1943, and President from 1965 to 1995.

Denis was Honorary Vet. Surgeon at Market Rasen racecourse from 1950 to 1991. He was involved in the RAF Equitation Association and the RAF Cranwell Saddle Club for many years. From 1961 until his retirement, he was Honorary Veterinary surgeon at the Burghley Horse Trials and even several times at the Royal International Horse Show in London.

His greatest achievements lay in the field of equine farriery. He became a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farriers in 1966, examining and teaching farriers and was elected Master of the Company in 1980. He received Honorary Fellowship (HonFWCF) in 1994. He was particularly proud to be declared "Father of the Company" at a ceremony in London at the age of 95, only the second time that this



has been awarded in the last 100 years!

Denis was Veterinary Consultant for the Shire Horse Society, inspecting Shire stallions, trying to eliminate inherited conditions. As a result of his work, he was

the first veterinary surgeon to become President of the Society for 2003/2004.

As well as advisory work for the Horserace Betting Levy Board, Wetherby's, the Joint Measurement Board and Riding for the Disabled, Denis managed a huge amount of political activity for the veterinary profession.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is the governing body of the profession. Denis served on RCVS Council from 1968, with periods as Treasurer and Junior Vice-President, and chaired the Disciplinary Committee.

The main organization acting on behalf of vets (their "Union"), is the British Veterinary Association. Denis was a BVA Council member in 1946, working tirelessly and serving as President in 1964. He negotiated with government and instituted many initiatives for the profession as a whole. He was President of the Lincolnshire and District Division BVA in 1953 and 1982. With all this activity, fellow vets may feel a sense of inadequacy. However, despite his many achievements, he remained the most approachable, kind and generous man one could possibly meet. We who knew him have a fund of marvellous stories and humorous anecdotes which will serve well to sustain his memory. Many will remember seeing him in his reserved chair at concerts as a Life Member of the Grantham Choral Society, or playing the organ in his beloved church at Carlton Scroop. We join with the many to offer our deepest sympathy to Rob, Ann and the family who were so important to Denis.

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Pam and Tony Townsend

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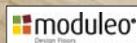


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Read All About It

By Richard Coppin

Noel Blockhead has invited Archie and Jim Pitchblack to a meeting of minds at his house. Why he feels the need to do this is a bit of a mystery to the two latter individuals, but food, wine and cigars can be a tempting lure, not to mention a chance for Archie to see the lovely Lizzy Blockhead again. The weather this night is foul; let's get inside the Boss' home and see what happens next.

Chapter Twenty-Three

In a way he couldn't have chosen a worse night to arrange such a meeting. The presses had been plagued with problems all day and Mr. Church had been incandescent in his profanity as he worked to cajole the two 'beasts' as he called the printing machines into getting the newspaper's print run out on time. Archie and Mr. Pitchblack arrived at the Boss' house in the pouring rain, shook off their wet coats and were shown into the drawing room by Lizzy where they were met by a red faced Mr. Blockhead who was getting over the strain of the day.

"Help yourselves to a brandy. I'm on my third," he said. Pitchblack served himself and Archie from the decanter and sampled the medicinal libation waiting for some kind of starting pistol to fire the evening off. Nothing of the sort happened and they sheepishly found a recumbent posture in the easy chairs, from where they sipped quietly away. The Boss, usually full of force and vigour was drained of energy. He pulled up a chair to be closer to his comrades and lit a cigar, proffering them to his puzzled guests.

"Filthy night Sir," said Archie attempting to break the ice with the safest topic of all.

"Evidently," the Boss replied and said no more.

Pitchie glanced over at Archie with a look that could only be interpreted as, "What are we doing here?"

As the fire cracked quietly in the hearth and the clock on the mantelpiece whispered a resonating beat from within its wooden body a kind of hypnosis seemed to fill the darkened room. The spell was broken by the sweet voice of Lizzy announcing that soup was now ready to be served. The Boss gifted her with a weak, yet sincere smile and drew himself to his feet with a weary grunt.

Archie watched Lizzy's saintly movements with something approaching adoration as she laid the soup bowls on the table and took her seat. She had created a cream of chicken wonder that had the miraculous ability to soothe the most tortured soul. When it had been devoured the Boss dabbed his mouth with his napkin, leaned back in his chair and beheld his two friends, whilts displaying the restoration of his

humanity.

"Ah, that's better," he said. "It's a lamb dinner next; my favourite isn't it my dear? She's a wonderful cook you know," tipping a wink in Lizzy's direction and taking comfort from the smile that was returned. "She learned it all from her mother you know, God rest her soul." Noel Blockhead had thrown all vestige of being an editor of a newspaper to one side. Archie beheld him in his home, in the company of his only daughter. He found it an odd sensation, having seen him in all kinds of situations over the past few weeks. Yet here, in his sanctuary, where there was no need to use his character to force the day, he was just like any other family man; almost soft and gentle; vulnerable even. They ate tenderly grilled lamb chops, new potatoes, fresh peas and mint sauce swimming in dark brown gravy and talked about happier times. What a convivial assembly they made save for the undertones of unease that Archie could detect from just below their polite discourse; something that possessed a sense of foreboding. Feeling this, a shiver ran down his arm; not entirely composed of fear, but a helping of excitement too.

Archie watched Lizzy clear the table and serve the apple pie and custard in a way far removed from the servility he'd thought to imagine had become the foundation of her life. She held within her tiny frame more poise, elegance and unsullied pride that he'd ever seen in a person. The way she placed the bowl near her father spoke more of love than the deepest sentiments of poetry, sending Archie into paroxysms of adoration. The smile she reserved just for him however as she placed his pudding on the table filled his heart with a sensation he was at a loss to understand. He wanted to hold her in his arms, embrace her, get to know her and in some unfathomable way that seemed to belong to fabled tales of martyrdom; even give his life for her. From that moment on Archie seemed energised and could hardly wait for the conclusion of the dining, delicious though it was, and press on with the planning and the plotting.

Love of your life Archie, or Femme Fatale?



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Keep control of your future with Lasting Powers of Attorney

By Emily Lister

Picture the scene. The crew of an aircraft is carrying out its pre-flight checks. The pilot says to the co-pilot, "Before we take off Jack I want you to know that if I feel unwell I want you to take over control of the plane. Is that ok with you?" "Sure Jim," says the co-pilot, "No problem." That is essentially what an attorney is; someone who you choose that can legally 'act as you' in the future, make decisions for you, use your money to pay your bills or make decisions about your care and welfare if you no longer have the capacity to do so.

LPA stands for 'Lasting Power of Attorney'. It is a powerful legal document that more and more people are using to safeguard their interests, dignity and assets. LPAs are a great idea as it allows you to appoint some-one you know and trust to make decisions for you in the future if you are not able to because you are confused, unconscious or unable to communicate.

For example, some-one has gone into hospital for a routine procedure. They take a while to recuperate and the medication or maybe a urinary infection is making them confused. Social Services along with the support of the hospital clinicians can intervene and decide that in their view that person cannot cope at home and needs to go into a care facility. By applying for a **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard** order (DoLS), Social Services can discharge them to a care home rather than the family home. A DoLS order can be challenged if you had previously



drawn up a **Health and Welfare LPA** appointing an attorney. In this instance, your attorney can override these interventions and have you cared for as you would wish rather than the state made decisions.

A Financial and Property LPA, gives your attorney the ability to access your bank account when you can't, pay your bills, keep your home running and control other financial arrangements in the event that you become too ill to take care of these things yourself; say in the case of an advanced state of cancer or dementia, or if you are in a coma. An LPA gives them the power to take care of your property just as if they were you; even making sure that something even as trivial as paying your window cleaner is taken care of or that the dog is safely placed in a kennel.

You can of course go on-line and apply for your own LPA through a government portal. Sadly this has

opened the doors to abuse of the system. The Office of Public Guardian reported a 44% increase on the number of investigations into the actions of attorneys and deputies in 2017/18.

The LPAs set up by trained solicitors at JMP come with a superb legal foundation, giving you a sense of peace in knowing that if the time comes to put it into motion, everyone, including you, your loved one and any other attorneys involved will be protected and safeguarded through a properly established document. This is a big deal for most people, as big as the decisions you take when making a Will; one of those important times in life when getting the help of experts really pays off. No one knows when they're going to need a co-pilot to take control, but it's good to know that those you've chosen are legally in place should your life hit turbulent times in the future.



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Park yourself at Wyndham Park Cafe

Abundantly leafy, with verdant grassy areas for play and relaxation, peaceful walkways for wandering along and a meandering river rippling gently past, Wyndham Park has everything for the people of Grantham to be proud of. Equally proud we should be of the Wyndham Park Cafe which gazes out on to a velvet swathe belonging to the outdoor Bowling Green, shielded from the breeze by a line of shady trees. Here is a place to sit, catch your breath, enjoy a cuppa and sample some delicious food.

After your relaxing amble, your cycle ride, your run, dog walk, pushing the kids on swings, having a kick about, feeding the ducks, taking in the fresh air, meeting up with friends, the Wyndham Park Cafe is just the place to round off your park experience. That said, it's often the first port of call for many, where a tasty breakfast, freshly cooked on the premises from equally fresh ingredients gets the day off to a fine start. In fact, everything that's available in the cafe is lovingly homemade; be it the walnut, Victoria sponge or cherry cakes down to the scones and the lemon, jam & Bakewell tarts (gluten free options are on hand you'll be glad to know). Come to that, even the chips are cut by hand, made from freshly dug potatoes, no wonder people crave them especially when accompanied by a tasty burger, or how about the locally sourced bangers to go with mash potatoes, vegetables and gravy,

mmmm? Maybe it's the jumbo fish fingers that whet your appetite, scampi or homemade lasagne. And all this is before we've touched on the 'Bowler's Breakfast, the traditional Full English version or if you like a challenge - wait for it - 'The Olympic'; specially designed to rip clothing at the seams (only joking).

Soon there will be traditional, Shrove Tuesday style English pancakes to enjoy along with a range of Panini that will be on the menu before too long. Also look out for the Sunday Roasts coming to their menu in October.

For lighter bites there's always an omelette with a choice of seven toppings including cheese, ham, bacon and tomatoes. Scrambled egg or beans-on-toast vie with ham and eggs and jacket potatoes topped with tuna mayo, coleslaw, cheese or beans. With a choice of salads for the ultra healthy and a full but specially created kids' menu, you can see that this is a cafe that caters for everyone, and that means you. You can even telephone a food order through as part of their take away service that is currently doing a roaring trade. Practicalities aside this is a cafe with an engaging personality; where friendliness is in abundance from this family team who see it as their primary role to make you happy; Aaron Savona and Cassie Smith see to it that the hot food is cooked to perfection, whilst Cassie's mum Ruth creates those delectable cakes



mentioned earlier. Nothing it seems is too much trouble, little wonder then that the cafe's reputation for excellence is on the rise, which along with its five star food hygiene rating only serves to prove what a fine eating place this is. Not wishing to sound like Jimmy Cricket, but there's more! The Ice Cream Emporium is next door, where you can get a proper 99 in all its traditional vanilla, lemon or chocolate glory, as well as Pick 'n' Mix, ice lollies and ice-cold drinks. It's usually the perfect answer to a boiling hot day and the ideal tranquiliser for children who've run about that bit too much. With seven outdoor tables and nine inside, Wyndham Park Cafe can cater for a whole coach trip if needs be. Alternatively, simply take a stroll down to Wyndham Park, and make yourself comfy at the cafe there; the perfect way to begin a day at this Award Winning and local place of recreation.

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WyndhamParkCafe

Seize the Carpet

Unconsciously, in everyday life, we Brits use bits of Latin all day long yet seldom stop to think about it (the word 'use' in this sentence has Latin roots). You've no doubt heard the phrase *Carpe Diem*; meaning 'Seize the Day'. Derivatives of 'Carpere', in addition to being the meaning of the word; 'seize', are linked to English words like 'take', 'harvest' or 'pluck'. Makers of floor coverings who used woollen material 'plucked' through a base fabric borrowed this Latin verb and the word 'carpet' came into being.

Carpets of the twenty-first century have gone well beyond the need for wool as the main visible fabric. Synthetic materials are even better at maintaining a good pile, ensuring that your design remains fresh-looking

over time and that the all-important job of keeping your floor insulated against the cold weather to come lasts far longer.

Man-made materials have the ability to withstand what life throws at a carpet. Out

of the reach of your vacuum cleaner, deep down in the pile where grit and soil accumulate, the motion of our feet cause these sharp micro particles to lacerate the roots of a carpet pile, eventually causing that threadbare look.

Synthetic products are designed to defy this process far better than wool for example, yet on the surface they maintain a soft and bouncy quality, and because they're specially developed they retain the impact of the dyes used in the carpet's design. Just as man-made furs look like the real thing, you'd hardly tell the difference in the feel of man-made carpets and their ability to keep you warm, often better than what can be achieved by natural products.

You'll see lots of these kinds of carpets on display at Floor Designs at Withambrook Park just off the

Londonthorpe Road, a couple of carpet rolls beyond the Belton Park Golf Club. The choice of designs is truly staggering; ranging from the utilitarian though to the opulent, the plain or the fanciful, the contemporary to the classic, styles to cope with the rough and tumble of family life on one side, to designs created to luxuriate on the other. The best person to ask about what suits you best is the most important member of the Floor Designs team; You. Only you'll know if you



With a breadth of fabulous styles to choose from and a highly skilled team of fitters on hand, you can really seize the day at Floor Designs when you next decide on a new carpet.

want the feel of a fluffy carpet to grace your toes as you get out of bed in the morning.

Likewise you'll be the best one to judge what's needed in the porch when the boys come home after Rugby practice. Initially, listening is what Floor Designs do best, and when they've listened, they are able to suggest a wide array of options. Bit by bit they'll hone in on just what will suit your needs the best. It's never hurried; they understand that this is an important decision, far beyond the financial considerations. They want you to go home happy that you've done the right thing.

Richard Malley who runs the

company has spent a long time polishing the way his business looks after customers. The date booked for the fitting of your choice of carpet is chosen to fit around you. If you have to change it, they'll happily do that. Making sure customers are more than satisfied with his service is a mind-set that's drummed into everyone who works for him, to the point where it becomes more than an act of professionalism but a natural way to behave. The fitting is carried out with great skill, always mindful of your home and a respect for you as a person. Aside from the wonderful smell and lovely feel of a newly fitted carpet you'll be left with a warm sense that you were properly looked after. Little wonder then that after experiencing that special Floor Designs treatment, you'll never want to go anywhere else for your carpet. Pay them a visit next time you decide a new carpet is on the cards and *Carpe Diem*; Seize the Day.

Richard Malley

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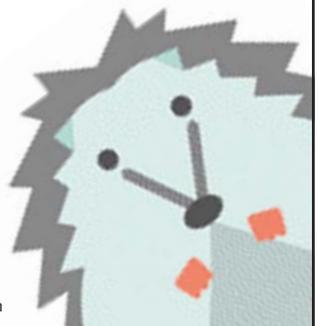


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Simon Pell runs Dairy Free Triangle, an on-line shop selling Plant-Based food. We didn't know too much about this kind of diet, so the only way to find out was to ask. We got some very interesting answers.



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A Conservatory Conservation Conversation

How a Warma Roof system can do wonders for your existing conservatory

It's incredible just how much interest has been shown in the Warma Roof system being rolled out in the town over the past couple of months by Newark & Notts Fascias since it was featured in the previous issue of Grantham Now. In a way the astonishment is a little disingenuous, since the company has roofing expertise running through its blood stream.

Joe Gray the man at the helm knows more about roofs and roofing than most of us know about Christmas. The down-to-earth, no nonsense, unpressured way he explains about what his business does is perfect when people show an interest in this fascinating conservatory roofing system. He'll enjoy giving you the facts of course, but there won't be any fancy patter or gimmicks, no mind-bending tricks, just something we don't see very much of these days; straightforward honesty, a can-do attitude and a sincere approach to business that puts you in command of your decision making.

A Warma Roof makes your conservatory look like an even more elegant part of your home. During its installation it allows for the correction of the 'fall' on your gutter. When a conservatory is built, the gutters come as part of the structure and are completely level. It seems obvious, but gutters need a slightly descending slant to allow rainwater to run downhill; so that's one of the first things which gets amended. This opportunity also gives the team chance to ensure that the trajectory of the rain leaving the roof is aimed directly at the gutter, thereby avoiding any overspill during heavy rain. There's no need to dismantle your existing roof either since the new highly durable uPVC tiles made by the renowned company Tapco fit straight on to timber slats fixed on to your



A Warma Roof Conservatory Conversion makes your conservatory work for you all year round

current transparent roof.

The result is not only aesthetically pleasing but practical too; helping to maintain cooler air in the summer and holding in the warmth in the winter months. This exceptional temperature control is achieved through a 25mm layer of special polycarbonate insulation placed over your existing roof prior to the slats and tiles being fitted. To make this work even more effectively against the ever-changing outside temperature the company can also fit

a flat uPVC ceiling, giving you another bonus when it comes to keeping your conservatory clean; one easy wipe down and it's done. Ask Joe about having a vaulted ceiling; you'd be surprised at just how many options the Warma Roof system has.

If you ever find that your conservatory causes your eyes to strain through the glare of a sunny day, that it overheats in the summer or seems as unwelcoming as Jack Frost when the days are cold, then you might well find that a Warma Roof is just the thing for you. It'll make your home look great, feel great and give you a talking point to be proud of. To find out more, call

Joe Gray at Newark & Notts Fascias. A visit from him will tell you all you need to know and you can ask as many questions as you like; after that the decision is up to you. You only have to take a look at how these homes have been transformed to

see that these new Warma Roof installations have become a real credit to the homeowners, a home improvement that will hold its value and give you years of relaxing pleasure as you enjoy the many benefits that a Warma Roof provides.



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A dog's eye view of Barking Mad



“Whoever said ‘it’s a dog’s life’ got it spot on; I mean, here I am being cosseted as if I was a superstar (which I happen to be I have to say) by a couple who have only my best interests at heart.

These two folks love me just as much as my lot do at home, talk about jammy; I wish my owners would leave home more often; I can certainly stand being pampered like this all day.

My name’s Snowy by the way, and these two lovely humans are called John and Helen. They’ve decided to be hosts with Barking Mad; a brilliant service set up in Grantham by Colin and Jacqui who make sure that dogs like me (as well as all other shapes, sizes and temperaments) enjoy all the comforts of home whilst their owners are away for a while.

The main thing I get from these two people is love, and lots of it, but I also get to eat my favourite dinner and doggy snacks, lay in my own bed and

play whenever I want with ‘snuggle’ and ‘squeaker’; my best toys in the whole world. On top of that I get to go on lots of walks just like I’m used to doing at home. I reckon Colin and Jacqui must have had a word with my owners because these two seem to know exactly how to look after me. On top of that, their garden is safe and secure with lots of areas to sniff around. For reasons that only a dog will understand, I’ve only to find a gap in a fence and I’m off like a rocket especially if there’s a scent to follow. No chance of that here though; this place is as tight as a drum, much to the peace of mind of my owners.

I know for a fact that Colin and Jacqui are always on the lookout for new hosts to take care of other dogs like me (see, I do listen) and I’m sure they’d love to talk to you if you feel you have the time and space to do just that. As you’d expect they have to ask a lot of questions and make sure that their high standards are met, if for no other reason that you’re also happy with taking on someone else’s dog for a couple of weeks or so. Every

dog that is taken care of through Barking Mad has his or her own file with all their likes and dislikes in it, as well as their preferred walking and feeding times and any behavioural issues they might possess; everything in fact to make sure that the transition from home to host is as seamless as can be. Just as I did, each dog will be picked up in the Barking Mad Mobile, a specially adapted vehicle for the journey from home to wherever our holiday family live. It must be professionally done because I have a whale of a time when I come to stay with these two; so much so that I’m almost sorry when it comes to an end. Oh well; there’s always next year isn’t there?

Next time you get wind that your owners are planning a holiday, nose open this issue of Grantham Now at page 34, then simply wait for the fun times to begin. ”

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.
Call 07384 252 920 or
01636 302636
Or email murphy@barkingmad.uk.com

Legally Blonde; guilty of success

Legally Blonde; it's one heck of a complicated story and as such requires actors and singers with some knowledge of life. It's just as well then that New Youth Theatre is producing this incredibly fast-paced show especially for more mature students through another group called Next Stage, an important off-shoot of New Youth Theatre's current groups designed for two age ranges. Next Stage has been created especially for those who are serious about making the theatre their career. As a stepping stone to the future this has all the hallmarks of being something very exciting to belong to.



The show *Legally Blonde* has wowed audiences on both sides of the pond, on Broadway and in London's West End. Winner of three *Laurence Olivier Awards* to its credit, the shows laurels are well-deserved. The role of the leading character Elle was played by Sheridan Smith who went on to perform with great acclaim the role of Cilla Black in the television mini-series *Cilla*.

At its heart *Legally Blonde* deals with acceptance and self worth. Elle Woods is a sorority member; a university girls'-only club at UCLA (University of California Los Angeles), where the main thing is to look good, be successful and find fault with anyone who falls below par. The show opens with the expected engagement between Elle and her boyfriend Warner Huntington. Little does she know that Warner is beginning to think of Elle as an air-head and has his sights set on the beautiful Vivienne Kensington. The rejection Elle experiences propels her to prove to Warner that she is not as dumb as everyone thinks and she manages to get on a law degree course at Harvard Law School where Warner is also studying. By masterstrokes of misadventures Elle manages to use her legal knowledge to get a fitness instructor off a murder charge by proving beyond doubt that someone else had committed the crime; a father killed by his own daughter no less. In the end she proves herself to be worthy, rejects Warner who has been dumped by



Vivienne and proposes to her one true friend Emmett Forrester her law teaching assistant who readily accepts.

The names of the characters have been well chosen considering the location of the action; Elle Woods (sounding like Hollywood) and Warner after the famous studio there. These clever incidentals along with some great unforgettable songs propel the show forwards; *'Omigod You Guys'*, *'Daughter Of Delta Nu'*, *'Blood In The Water'*, *'Positive'*, *'Ireland'*, *'Delta Nu Nu Nu'*, *'Take It Like A Man'* and the signature tune of the show, *'Legally Blonde'*. New Youth Theatre will be staging this show in June next year, but rehearsals are being held in September this year. If you're



between sixteen and twenty-one and would like further training in the performing arts of this calibre to add to your CV, then get involved as soon as you can. Like every other show which New Youth Theatre produces you can guarantee with Next Stage a boost in your confidence and a great deal of hard work. As a caveat to that though, it's important to point out that you'll have a lot of fun too. You don't have to be a lawyer to get the best out of this group, just a determination to prove yourself in the only court that matters; on stage.

Auditions are being held on 13th September @Walton Girls School.

**You must book in online to audition -
www.grantham.newyouththeatre.co.uk**

Rehearsals Thursdays 6.30pm - 9.30pm@Walton Girls School

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LAMDA acting classes & Exams



Let's get the photos out

Having a look at these pictures just shows what a busy year it's been and how many different jobs I've tackled along the way. As we move into autumn they are a timely reminder to us about what ought to be done before the winter weather finally arrives. Anyway, I've scattered them on the page for you to have a look at. I wonder what jobs you need doing before the end of the year?



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Widening this customer's driveway was a good job done. It gave them that extra bit of room to accommodate their second car and make life that bit easier for them. With nice neat edges and a dressing of gravel over a semi permeable membrane above compacted hardcore made this the kind of job to last.



Welcome to my Mission Control; my trusty van ready to tackle a host of jobs. In this case it's decorating a kitchen but it could just as easily be giving a lick of paint to wooden window frames or glossing architraves, banisters or skirting boards. Why not get your home spruced up for Christmas?



Whether it's done by birds, overhanging foliage or just dirt and leaves whipped up by the wind, a blocked gutter can put a real dampener on your home and make a little job into an even bigger one if not taken care of in time. All it takes is me, a ladder and a bucket to make your gutters fit for purpose again.



Fences really do bear the brunt of the winter weather. If it's not frost and ice, it's rain and wind. Making sure that it can withstand such punishment means giving it some good wood preserving protection. If repairs are needed then it's best to get that done now in readiness. Just give me a call and the job's as good as done.



Fitting decking (like this job), maintaining it or giving it a good clean and weather treatment is all part of the work I do. Many of my customers don't have time to do this, but they have a good idea of what they want. My job's to simply turn their ideas into reality.



From working on bargeboards or gutters it's fair to say that a ladder will come into the equation. I have several in fact of varying lengths for a whole range of jobs big and small. The main thing is that I get to risk my neck getting up high to sort these jobs out rather than you putting your life on the line. I know it's a hard life being a hero, but someone's got to do it (lol).



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

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Meet the Fall Guys

How many of us are too busy to contemplate the winding down of the year? The seasons resulting from the tilt of our spherical home link us to the future as well as the past, since the climate a hundred years hence will do what it once did a hundred years ago. When John Keats wrote of autumn as a 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' in September 1819, his sentiments about the season were as true then as they will be when everyone reading this will have made way for those who come after.

As the mists linger in the morning air, that fruitfulness will need to be harvested, to create apple pies and all other such bounties the summer has seen fit to provide. The food factories of the trees; their leaves, will fall and the deadwood now exposed will require pruning. In a way, as the garden temporarily sleeps, the work of the gardener becomes busier than ever.

That is unless you're an LRS customer. In their ever-expanding showroom you'll come face to face with machines that give the modern gardener an easy time. If mellow gardening is something you dream about, those dreams come true at LRS.

Many of the machines on display are battery powered making them not only feather-light but convenient too, taking away the anxiety felt by those who have an ever-vulnerable cable to worry over. These Lithium Ion batteries are interchangeable with a host of other kinds of machinery; blowers to pile up the dead leaves on the lawn, chain saws for dealing with all those branches that require lopping, autumn being traditionally the best time to do this now that the once rising sap in trees is beginning to

crawl to a winter halt. Such batteries also fit into the lightweight hedge trimmers making it easier to lean over to make a perfect job of your hedge without straining a muscle.

Dealing with the aftermath of all this pruning and lopping are the shredders which LRS has in its showroom; powerful electric models that can give you a neat bag of trimmings to use as a good groundcover, keeping weeding to a minimum thereby further simplifying the job of the gardener. For larger unwanted debris you'll also get to see the efficient log splitters that can make short work of large diameter branches.

The season also sees a slowdown in the mowing of lawns. As we move into October and the mists really do descend on the garden, it's an ideal time to get LRS to check out the lawnmower that's done you proud over the past months, to give it a service, sharpen the blades and for



those petrol-driven models make sure that the oil lubricant is at the optimum level, spark plugs are clean and carbon free, air filters are clear of debris and that the carburettor is on song; everything in fact that ensures that come springtime, you're ready to start filling the air with the smell of freshly cut grass again.

LRS is an all-year-round company, always happy to keep you happy. They have what it takes to care for your garden all year round, but as far as the coming autumn is concerned you'll find they have just what you need to help you put your garden to bed. Now that sounds like pure poetry wouldn't you agree?

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A Somerset Yarn

Our stay at the Yarn Market Hotel,
by Andrea and Richard Coppin

The final drive through the Somerset villages of Nether Stowey, Williton, Washford and Carhampton provide a picturesque feast of ageless beauty along the A39. At last a gap in the trees opens up, revealing the glory of Dunster Castle to the left; nestled within its majestic hilltop embrace of greenery. As you turn into Dunster itself you know in your soul that you've arrived at a place of peace and timeless grace; this is Merrie England as we all love her.

Very little has changed in this village down the years; the great castle still dominates the view of the High Street, the octagonal medieval Yarn Market still looks like a flying saucer from the Middle Ages and right next to it is the charming Yarn Market Hotel. If it's comfort, friendliness and fine food you're after then this is just the place to stay. To say that it's only a hotel is perhaps to be rather a little disingenuous; this is a hub of activities, helping those with their own brand of passions to enjoy them to the full during their stay; photography clubs, nature spotting, astronomy breaks (no light pollution hereabouts), cricket and bowling tours, book club or craft retreats, classic car rallies, cultural and historical tours; the list goes on, even chess and scrabble tournaments if that's your preferred enjoyment. We've come to see our son Adam and his fiancée Sarah who live and work in the nearby Dunster Castle, but we could just as well have been in a walking group enjoying the South West Coast Path or any of the other guided trails to magical destinations within the Exmoor National Park. At various times there are cyclists and

horse riders staying at the hotel, seeing West Somerset in their own way. In addition the hotel organises a fine range of musical breaks; jazz with John Shillito's Band which meanders from vaudeville, to the songs of the Southern States, even touching on toe-tapping Boogie-Woogie; Singing too, rehearsing with Ian Chesworth who worked alongside Gareth Malone in the TV series 'The Choir', ending with a concert of songs you've



worked on during your stay. There are artist's breaks too. Lynda Appleby, a superbly talented painter provides up to fifteen guests at a time with a four-day painting experience full of joy and self-discovery. The family-run Yarn Market Hotel boasts a total of twenty-eight ensuite rooms, superbly appointed; some with four-poster beds for those who are longing for a more romantic getaway. With such family credentials you'll not be surprised to learn that the hotel is child and pet friendly. Its two dining rooms cater for Full English breakfasts for the traditionalist or fresh fruit and yoghurt if you prefer. For evening dining, just a read through the menu will get your taste buds tingling. On the ground floor there's a spacious lounge complete with TV and DVD player; plenty of books to read and even an upright piano waiting for its ivories to be tickled by anyone



musical. Guest just arriving will find an easy-to-park 'dropping-off' area, which is complemented by the hotel's free parking vouchers for the nearby car park, unless you're lucky enough to find a restriction-free space on the High Street.

Using the hotel as our base, we love ambling around Dunster and its many quaint and out-of-the-ordinary shops, also taking in the interesting twin-wheeled watermill at the foot of the castle's hill where flour is ground for sale. Dunster's church dedicated to St. George was the inspiration behind that favourite childhood hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'. Wandering to your heart's content, you'll hear the distant howl of a steam engine's whistle; the West Somerset Railway, the longest standard gauge of its type in the United Kingdom, huffing its way from nearby Minehead through Tolkienesque countryside to Bishops Lydeard.

A stay in Dunster is an unforgettable experience, enhanced further by staying at this lovely hotel. Somerset has such a wealth of opportunities to offer visitors, so if you really want to get away from it all, get in touch with the Yarn Market Hotel, and say that Richard & Andrea asked you to call.



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