

# THE BRIGHT TIMES

Making the most of life in Worcestershire...

[www.thebrighttimes.co.uk](http://www.thebrighttimes.co.uk)

Issue 3 May/June 2008

**"When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be." – Lao Tzu**



New i-Play equipment - p15



Roots of Survival - p22



Take me to the Water - p28 - 29



Art Attack COMPETITION - p37



Droitwich Amateur Boxing Club - p40

## BLOSSOMING THIS MAY?

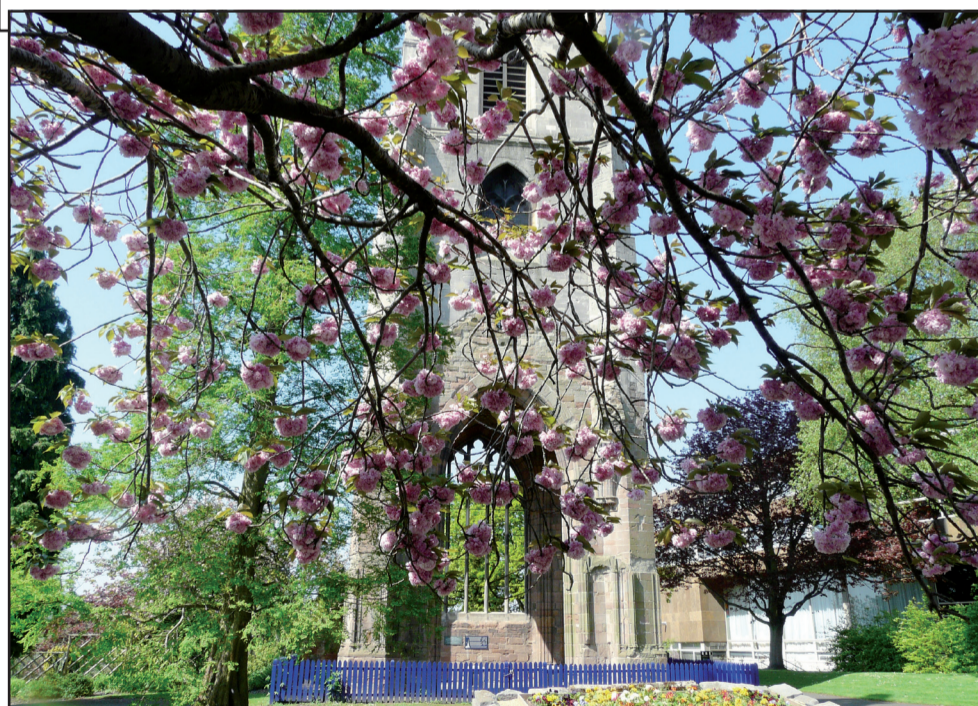
It is hard to believe that we are nearly halfway through the year already! With summer in sight, all of us in the office have been giving ourselves a push to make sure we have clearly set out what we want to have achieved by the end of 2008! New year's resolutions by this stage in the game have been forced to the back of our minds with the routine of daily life taking over and those long held habits that were so hard to shake off in January have once again crept back into our lives! All is not lost though! Every day at The Bright Times we hear about people who have decided to do the impossible, to step outside their comfort zones to take on a new personal challenge. Jim Vale featured on page 3, did not see his advancing years as a barrier to the journey he has set out on. There is always an opportunity to try something new and to make the very best of life whatever your circumstances.

There are often reports in the national press of heinous crimes which have been committed, most recently the reports of the inconceivable acts perpetrated by a father on his daughter and family in Austria. Such news invokes different emotions in all of us, anger, sadness, disbelief, maybe even fear. However, behind many of these tragedies there lies a tale of the victims' remarkable courage and resilience. Memories can never be taken away, but life can provide people with an opportunity to heal and grow and it is only hoped that such victims receive the support and love they so badly deserve.

At The Bright Times we are all making a conscious effort this month to think about what we are buying and using. In comparison to our predecessors we are an exceptionally wasteful generation when it comes to the amount of packaging, items and indeed food that we literally waste! We all have a responsibility to try and use our resources in the best way possible, by doing whatever we can to recycle, reuse and respect our natural resources. On page 7 we talk to Nikki Goodfellow, project worker at Worcester Resource Exchange, a local recycling project. They hold events around the year, helping to involve the younger generation in recycling as well as offering many other services. Almost everything we do today leaves behind a trail of waste and carbon dioxide in its wake, trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere. On page 22 we consider the importance of the tree in reducing carbon dioxide and cleaning the air we breathe.

We hope you enjoy the third issue of The Bright Times and if you have any news, views, ideas or anything you would like to contribute then please get in touch.

*The Bright Times Team*



St Andrews Gardens, Worcester, in full bloom

# FREE

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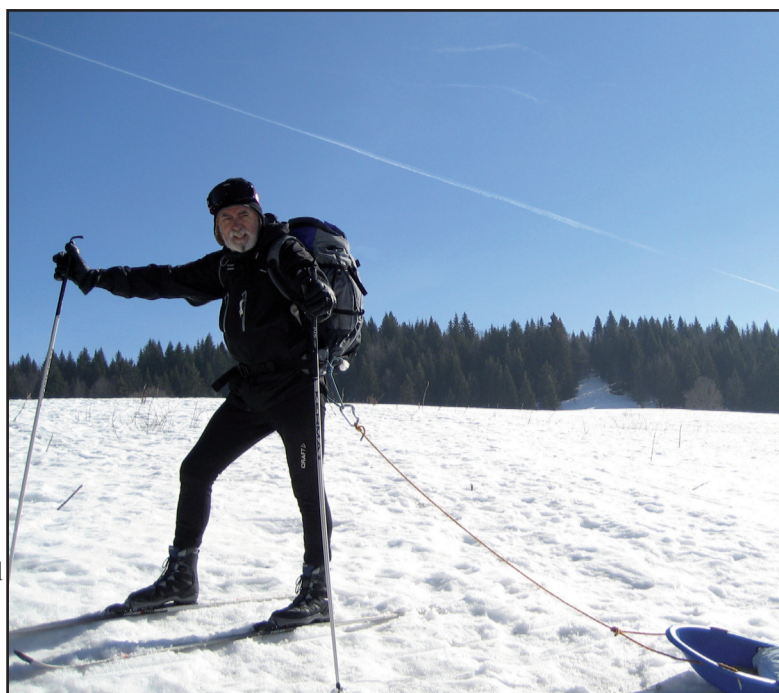
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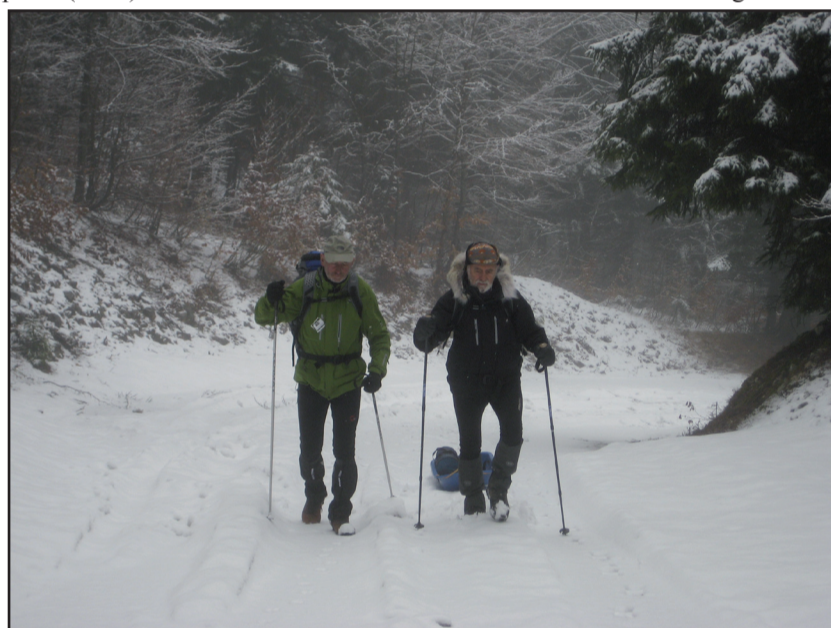
# Pensioner Heads to North Pole

It is not everyone's dream, on reaching 65, to walk to the North Pole, however, Worcester born Jim Vale, after an active career which took him to many 'hot spots' in the world, is not yet ready for enforced retirement. He wants to show that becoming a pensioner is by no means the end of active life. He contacted Polar Challenge - a UK-based organization (see [www.polar-challenge.com](http://www.polar-challenge.com)) and has teamed up with another 'mature' man of 60, Graham Walters of Leicester, who has already made his point by rowing single-handed in the 'Puffin' across the Atlantic, twice. They are called 'The Silver Foxes' and will face some of the toughest challenges known to man: extreme cold (temperatures can descend as low as -50 degrees C), 12-hour days on foot or skis pulling their equipment: food, cooking utensils, tent and clothing on their individual pulks (sleds) to cover the 360 mile/570 km.

journey. Hard to imagine setting up camp, possibly in a blizzard, erecting the tent, lighting the stove to make hot drinks, energy-giving food and drying wet clothing ready for the next day? For direction they will depend on their GPS and their charts, constantly aware of the possibility of meeting a polar bear, not known for their passive nature. They will be given a shotgun as a last resort! How long will this journey take?



The Silver Foxes in training for the North Pole



Jim takes a short breather!

## Chessgrove Swim goes to great lengths

Chessgrove Swim in Hanbury was launched less than 12 months ago, and has already been shortlisted in the final three businesses at the Chamber of Commerce Business Start Up Awards for Hereford and Worcester.

Chessgrove Swim teaches swimming to all ages, from babies to adults, following national standards and guidelines in swimming tuition. All lessons take place in their own luxurious pool in Hanbury, which was specifically designed for teaching. The

pool is warm, the staff are sensitive and classes are kept small.

The swimming school was built as part of a diversification project on a dairy farm which also incorporates a children's day nursery and a day spa. Chessgrove Swim employs 6 members of staff and runs lessons 6 days per week, teaching over 160 pupils.

There will be celebrations at Chessgrove Swim on May 17<sup>th</sup> as it is their first anniversary.

In support of St Richards Hospice in Worcester, they have organised a children's party in the afternoon with bouncy castles inside a marquee, then a relaxed evening for the adults in the swimming pool. A team of swim school staff are also raising funds for St Richards that day, by completing a sponsored run dressed in wetsuits and swimming gear!

For more information, contact Chessgrove Swim on 01527 821978, [info@chessgroveswim.co.uk](mailto:info@chessgroveswim.co.uk) or see the website [www.chessgroveswim.co.uk](http://www.chessgroveswim.co.uk)



## Certificates awarded at Worcestershire Shooting Club open day

A project aimed at stopping young people using BB pellet guns on the streets has ended with certificates awarded to participants at a local gun club.

The idea behind the project, funded by the Warndon and Gorse Hill Quality of Life Group, and delivered by the Safer Worcester Community Safety Partnership, is to divert young people from anti-social behaviour and show them how to use and respect guns in a safer, more controlled setting.

As part of the course, attendees were introduced to 'Air soft skirmishing' (a game played by teams using guns with soft pellets in a controlled environment), as well as to the sport of shooting by the Worcestershire Norton Shooting Club.

Jude Langton, Community Safety Partnership co-ordinator, said: "The course has opened the eyes of the young people who took part, to other more positive gun-related activities. They have really enjoyed themselves, and we

are hopeful that they will change their behaviour in the future."

This is the first activity to be run by the new Sporting Chance Project jointly funded by Sports England and Community Safety Partners in Worcester City.

Rauf Mirza, Chair of the Regional Sports Board, said: "Sport is such a great diversionary vehicle; this project should make a real difference in the communities that are currently suffering the effects of anti-social behaviour from a small minority of young people. The activities the young people will become involved in will give them self respect and hopefully motivate them to achieve in their lives. I look forward to hearing from the project."

## Young Music Lovers

The Rotary Club of Droitwich Spa held a number of fundraising events and raised over £500. The money was presented to Chawson First School who will use it to buy music equipment for children to enjoy and learn.

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velopments with leukaemia suffers in many other parts of the world' to benefit all cancer patients.

Cure Leukaemia is a charity founded in 2003 to support this innovative centre providing funding to further develop the areas of research to train more nurses to provide care and support for those living with the disease. If you know someone, perhaps someone you really care about, who has leukaemia or cancer, your donation could make a difference. You can donate to Jim's chosen charity, whether living in the UK or elsewhere, by visiting his online fundraising page on [www.justgiving.com/valejim](http://www.justgiving.com/valejim) (or [help@justgiving.net](mailto:help@justgiving.net) if you have a problem). Your donation should be in GB Pounds Sterling and you can pay by credit or debit card. The money will go directly to Cure Leukaemia. Where supporters are UK taxpayers, the charity will automatically receive 28% extra in Gift Aid, which makes Justgiving the most efficient way of sponsoring Jim. **Thank you for your generous support and The Silver Foxes will be giving it their very best shot. You can follow their progress through the [www.Polar-Challenge.com](http://www.Polar-Challenge.com) website.**

# Christian completes Alaskan Epic

Remember Christian Cullinane from Issue 1 of The Bright Times? Christian took part in the Iditarod Trail Invitation



Christian on the trail

race advertised as the world's “Longest Human Powered Winter Race”. The invitation only event is limited to a maximum of 50 experienced winter athletes.

Christian has completed the epic, 350 mile, mountain bike race across Alaska in spite of minus 30 degree C conditions, howling gales, equipment failure and knee deep snow. He had to cross mountain passes, frozen waterfalls and open water while dealing with sleep deprivation and the frigid conditions in order to finish the race.

Christian Said: “It's fair to say that not everything went to plan! Then again, if it does where is

the adventure in that? Half way through the race I lost a pedal and it being incapable of repair, I had to push the bike for the final 175 miles of the course.

It certainly added to the challenge! I met some great people, saw some fantastic views, woke up to a dawn in the mountains at Rainy Pass, got frost nip in some fingers, but above all I finished. Which is what I went to do. To finish.”

Christian kept friends and family informed of his progress during the race through satellite telephone calls to home which his wife Rebecca the added to his website [www.Cool-Biker.com](http://www.Cool-Biker.com).

Conditions during the race were such that one racer, on the verge of hypothermia and had to be evacuated back to Anchorage by the US Air Force.

Christian was taking part in the Race to raise money for Winston's Wish, a Cheltenham based national child bereavement charity. Winston's Wish offers support to bereaved children and young people as well as offering guidance and information to their families and

to anyone concerned about a child after bereavement throughout the UK. Christian is still collecting donations via his website at [www.Cool-Biker.com](http://www.Cool-Biker.com).

Of the nearly 50 racers entered in this year's competition, 29 completed the 350 mile journey from Knik Lake to McGrath. Christian would like to thank his generous sponsors 2x2 International, Keela and Terra Nova Equipment.



Christian's shadow while entering Dalzell Gorge in the Alaskan Range

## Quashing of Boughton Conservation Area designation raises doubts about future of historic pavilion

The City Council is extremely disappointed at the decision of the High Court to quash the designation of the Boughton area as a conservation area, according to the planning manager Paul O'Connor. He said: “A direct consequence of this is that the area is no longer protected from demolition. This will mean that demolition can take place thereby affecting the character of the area. Whilst the City Council regards the whole area as important, it is clear that the future of Boughton Sports ground and the pavilion in particular is a great cause for concern.”

The City Council believes the old pavilion to be not only of local and national importance but also international importance given its close ties to the Australian tourists

of the 1880's and the international reporting of its threatened demolition in 2007.

However the decision not to grant it Listed Building status by English Heritage in 2007 left the building vulnerable to demolition and the de-designation of the conservation area has brought that threat closer.

“When it was last threatened the pavilion was saved by nesting birds,” Paul O'Connor added.” We are now in the nesting season and if there are nesting birds present no demolition can take place yet. This gives a brief opportunity for anybody who wishes to save the building to come forward now and make arrangements with SJS Properties to ensure that this asset is not lost for ever.”

## New stamps highlight plight of UK's endangered insects

The Wildlife Trusts are working to ensure ten endangered insects, featured on new stamps issued by The Royal Mail, have a future in the wild - not a sticky end.

The Royal Mail issued the latest of its ‘Action for Species’ nature stamps on April 15th, featuring images of ten of the UK's most endangered species of insect - including the noble chafer beetle, southern damselfly, red barbed ant, hazel pot beetle and field cricket. Thanks to projects undertaken by The Wildlife Trusts across the UK, many of these species are on the way to recovery.

The larvae of the noble chafer beetle require a stable dead wood

micro-habitat where they live and grow for two years until they reach maturity.

Open woodland and orchards - once common across the UK - are now harder to find. After rare noble chafer beetles were discovered in the remaining trees of an old plum orchard on **Tiddesley Wood nature reserve, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust** staff and volunteers replenished this orchard by planting a further 100 fruit trees.

Sadly, numbers and habitats of some of these insects have declined so dramatically that only one or two strongholds remain in the whole of the UK, leaving rescue attempts the only option left to conservation groups.

## Successful 11<sup>th</sup> Specialist Plant Fair at Spetchley Park Gardens



proved popular and lasted nearly two hours.

Amongst the plants available from suppliers from around England and Wales were rare and new varieties seldom offered by Garden Centres. These included a wide range of Japanese Maples, Trilliums, Arisaemas, Ornamental

Grasses, Waterplants, Ferns, Tender Perennials etc.

Henry Berkeley said “*A lot of effort goes into the event to make it enjoyable for plant lovers and ordinary visitors alike. It was a very happy day and we received a large number of compliments about the Gardens too, especially now when so many spring flowers are out*”

The event will be back next year, so if you missed it in 2008 look out for it next year in 2009 by looking at [www.spetchleygardens.co.uk](http://www.spetchleygardens.co.uk)

The historic Gardens are open 11am–5 pm from Wednesday to Sunday (including Bank Holiday Mondays) until Oct, when they will be open on weekends only.

Spetchley Park Gardens' annual Specialist Plant Fair was held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April and attracted over 1,200 people despite gloomy weather predictions. Those that attended were a mixture of pre booked tickets, 3 pre booked coach groups and visitors turning up on the day.

Organised by Chris Pattison, the stalls on the lawn in front of Spetchley Park had many different plants and garden accessories to view from more than 30 specialist nurseries and suppliers and the addition of RHS talks and free guided tours of the Gardens were very popular. The tours were very well attended, so much so that extra guides were drafted in. The afternoon talk by Chris Beardshaw in the RHS marquee

## Mum launches local parents' guide to events and activities for the under 11's

Finding out what's on and where to go with children in the local area isn't easy; in fact quite often parents give up out of sheer frustration and instead rely on recommendation or luck. However, local Mum Sally Walters has just launched a new eye-catching guide called **Raring2go!** which aims to solve this problem by packing its colourful pages with information about local events and services for children (aged 0-11). This will allow mums and dads the time to plan in advance and make sure that the time they spend with their children isn't wasted.

The next issue will be out just before the school summer holidays in July. 11,000 copies will be delivered free to parents or carers through primary school book bags, and distributed through meeting points such as libraries, nurseries, play groups, leisure centres, play centres and doctors surgeries. It aims to be the definitive source of information about what to do and where to go with children in the Kidderminster area, specifically; Kidderminster, Stourbridge, Hagley, Bewdley, Stourport – and other surrounding villages.

## Le-Monn Ground Cleaner

The fatigue reducing Le-Monn Ground clearer is produced in Redditch, Worcestershire.

It is a machine like a strimmer on wheels that will cut down almost anything be it grass, brambles, gorse, reeds, bracken, nettles etc and at the same time chop them into small bits which go back into the ground so no bonfires or clearing up is required.

The machine looks old fashioned but it is built this way for a purpose. In the first instance it was built to clear woodland and the idea was that it was possible for one person to load the machine into the back of 4x4 or estate car

and take it to the woods without requiring a trailer. The large wheels go easily over rough ground and the machine is built with a solid frame for long life.

So far well over 1000 Ground clearers have been sold all over the UK and into Europe. Customers include County Councils, Golf Clubs, Forestry, Water Boards, Farmers and home owners with grounds to attend too.

The machine is safe going up trees and will not damage the bark. Approximately 1.5 acres of long tufty grass, bracken, nettles, heather, brambles up to 6' high and gorse can be cut in a day.

## Tree that could save the planet

*“Trees, by virtue of their universal presence, majestic yet human scale, bridging the gap between earth and air, are the rightful symbols of all which humankind aspires to in its relationship with the planet.”*

Oscar Beck

A magnificent tree from Japan, the Kiri Tree, also referred to as the Japanese Empress Tree or the Paulownia, is being pioneered in Texas. Chris Sanders and Brittany Turner have started a ‘Kiri Tree Revolution’. Their goal is to plant one million of these trees across the United States as a means of purifying the soil and making it ‘green’ again.



Chris Sanders stands under a 6 month old Kiri tree



A Kiri tree in flower

Not only does the Kiri Tree absorb ten times more carbon dioxide than any other tree in the world, it also expels a massive amount of oxygen. Texas suffers from extremely contaminated soil, air and water, the harmful effects

of which are a constant threat to the health of its residents. However, The Kiri Tree actually flourishes in toxic soil and water, purifying the land as it matures. It is also the fastest growing tree on Earth. When planted from seed, after eight years, it will be the same size as a 40-year-old oak

tree and in one year alone it can grow up to 15 feet!

The name Kiri came from the Japanese word to cut, as it was believed that the tree would grow better and quicker if it was cut down frequently.

Left to grow it can reach over 30 feet in height, bearing fragrant blossoms in April or May, turning the air sweet with perfume.

The leaves make great tea – high in protein and nitrogen – and the flowers are a tasty addition to any salad. Bees love the blossom too: the honey is sweet and light and there is, apparently, no other honey quite like it.

The Kiri Tree is the tree of the future. With its speed of growth and many uses, these ‘lungs of the world’ are set to play an invaluable part in the survival of the human race and the rejuvenation of the planet.

Contact: Chris Saunders and Brittany Turner to follow the Kiri Revolution Web: [www.myspace.com/kiritree](http://www.myspace.com/kiritree) or [sustainableangels.com/kiri.htm](http://sustainableangels.com/kiri.htm)

## The Ancient Tree Hunt

Ancient trees are living relics of incredible age that inspire in us feelings of awe and mystery. They have helped shape our history, and will help shape our future if we let them. Can you help us to reveal their secrets, discover the wildlife they sustain and unlock their stories gathered over centuries?

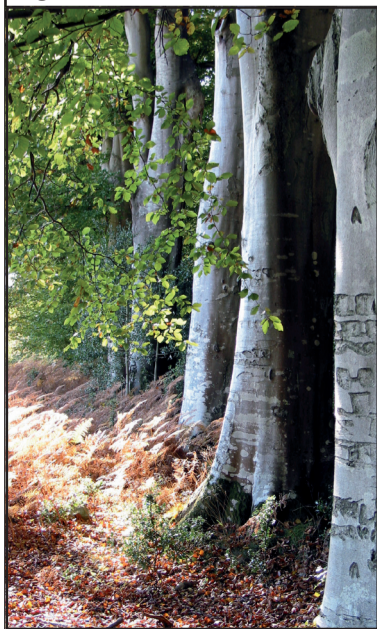
The Ancient Tree Hunt (ATH) involves thousands of people in finding and mapping all the fat, old trees across the UK and is right at the heart of the Woodland Trust's ancient tree conservation work. It will create a comprehensive living database of ancient trees and it's the first step towards cherishing and caring for them.

The ATH began as a joint venture with the Tree Register of the British Isles and the Ancient Tree Forum, and has already collected more than 6,000 records. Now, thanks to additional funding from The Heritage Lottery Fund and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, it is stepping up a gear and, with your help and the assistance of many partner organisations; they aim to record at least 100,000 ancient trees throughout the UK by 2011.

This will give them a much better understanding of the number and size of ancient trees across the UK and help the public find details of ancient trees near where they live or places that they visit frequently. The database will make it clear which of these trees can be easily visited. For sites that are accessible, people may still need to enquire whether there are special opening times or entry charges.

Ancient trees are found anywhere and everywhere – so this is a treasure hunt that everyone can take part in.

For more information, please contact: [www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk](http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk)



Rusland Beeches

## News in brief

### Local santas raise £19,000 for leukaemia care

Runners taking part in last December's Christmas Fun Run in Worcester, including The Bright Times team who reached their target of £1000, have helped to raise more than £19,000 for locally-based charity Leukaemia CARE, and money is still coming in.

The event saw 400 people, all dressed in Santa suits (apart from a couple of reindeer, a few dogs, and the charity's mascot Bertie Bloodcell) take to the city streets, starting and finishing at Worcester Football Club on St George's Lane. Simultaneous races took place in Evesham, Gloucester, Dagenham and Stevenage.

### The Search is on

Worcester's Swan Theatre is offering six local girls aged 8 to 16 the opportunity to land a part in a professional stage production. An open audition will be held for the parts of ‘The Babes’ in this year's Swan Theatre Christmas Pantomime ‘Robin Hood and The Babes In The Wood’. Three pairs of girls are needed to fill the roles and auditions will take place on the 10th and 11th of May. For the auditions the girls will be required to present a small spoken piece from memory, be prepared to sing something either unaccompanied or with a backing tape and take part in a dance session. If you are interested in auditioning you will need to contact either the Worcester Live Box Office on 01905 611427 to request an audition pack, or call into Huntingdon Hall or The Swan Theatre to collect a pack in person.

### Swimming Fundraiser

Two Evesham women will attempt to swim over 800 lengths of a swimming pool in one day in order to raise money for national children's charity, The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty Against Children. Rachael Price decided to get fit after giving up smoking, when she told her friend Rachael Blakeman about the challenge she agreed to do it with her. They have already raised £300.

Evesham Leisure Centre agreed to give them the use of a lane in the pool for the day. Both women are training hard for the event. They are also looking to get eight children under the age of 16 involved to do their own challenge and swim 50 lengths.

The challenge will take place on Monday, May 26. If you would like to sponsor the duo or are interested in taking part in the children's challenge, contact Rachael Price on 07866137589.

## Third Worcester Flower Show - fun for everyone!

Are your blooms potential prize-winners? Are you a brilliant cake baker? Or does your talent lie in capturing striking

images with your camera? If so, you could be in with a chance of winning a prize on Saturday 9th August, when Cripplegate Park will host the City of Worcester Flower Show 2008.

Following the success of last year's event, organisers are making an early call for potential entrants to plan their contributions. As well as hosting wonderful displays of flowers, fruit and vegetables, the show aims to encourage and inspire individuals to become involved in making and growing and creating a whole host of things which show off the best of Worcester – in one of the best settings in Worcester.

Event co-ordinator Linda Ohlson said that the show is designed to cater for everyone regardless of age or experience:

“The competition part of the show has six categories; Floral; Fruit and Vegetables; Cakes and Preserves; Handicraft;



Photography and a Children's Section and enthusiasm is likely to be more important than talent.”

The show, organised by Worcester City Council and the Friends of

Cripplegate Park, will also feature live music alongside the displays of flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Visitors will also have an opportunity to learn more about composting and recycling or just shop at the arts and craft stalls and the organic herb, plant and vegetable farmer's market stalls.

“The Flower Show has become a tradition in the city, and I am really looking forward to our third event,” said Linda. “I hope we attract a record crowd this year!”

More information can be found on the council's website [www.worcester.gov.uk](http://www.worcester.gov.uk) or by calling the Customer Services Centre on 01905 722 233.

## Law School Careers Evening

Worcester law school will be holding their annual careers evening on Monday June 23rd. The evening offers practical advice on many aspects of the legal profession. The event will take place from 6.30pm in the study centre at Worcester College of Technology. John Duddington, Head of the law school said, “Anyone is welcome to come along and have a look, we have representatives from a selection of local law firms. The careers evening presents a great opportunity for anyone who is considering a career in law. Law school staff will also be available on the night to discuss studying law at Worcester College of Technology.” For more information contact the College on 01905 725555.

## Athletics festival was a runaway success



Youngsters celebrate at the Athletics festival held at Nunnery Wood Sports Complex

Over 100 children attended an athletics festival organised by Worcester City Council in partnership with Droitwich and Worcester City Schools Sports Partnership and Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcester.

The day was held at the high-spec athletics track and field at Nunnery Wood Sports Complex. It involved year 5 children (ages 9-10) from Cherry Orchard Primary, Red Hill Primary, Perry Wood Primary, Whittington Primary and Nunnery Wood Primary schools. Prior to the festival, the children received a programme of coaching delivered by Worcester City Council, which was aimed at increasing skills and game play.

On the day, the children took part in six events: long jump, javelin, ball throw, 75 metre and 600 metre individual track runs and four 100 metre relay races. All events

were split by gender to ensure fair play and realistic results.

Peter MacKenzie-Shaw, Sports Development Officer for Worcester City Council said: “This is a prime example of partnership working. The programme of sessions in the schools before the festival meant the children had the right skills and techniques, which enabled them to get the most out of the day.

“Irrespective of who won, all the children enjoyed the festival and appeared to be enthused by sport. So far four of them have joined Worcester Athletics Club and a number of others - and their parents - have expressed an interest in joining.”

Below is the list of results by school.

Placing	School	Total Points
1	Perry Wood	374
2	Cherry Orchard	360
3	Whittington	358
4	Red Hill	346
5	Nunnery Wood	314

To become a member of Worcester Athletics Club please contact Gill Repton on 01905 350707.

For more information on how to become involved in sport, please contact Peter MacKenzie-Shaw, Sports Development Officer for Worcester City Council on 10905 722317

## Wyre Forest Hash House Harriers - a running club with a difference ...

If you enjoy socialising and like meeting interesting people combined with some gentle exercise in the beautiful countryside around the Wyre Forest, then come and join us. Anyone can come along - the run costs £1 per person, we love meeting new people.

What is hashing? Hashing is a form of non-competitive running, a bit like hounds and hares. A trail is laid by the hare, and at the appointed time the hashers try to find it by working as a team. Some of the trails will be false so the faster runners will have to run further than the slower ones as they will be checking all the possible routes. You will soon work out the rules. Hashing is suitable for all abilities and some walkers. Children must be accompanied by an adult/parent/carer/guardian. It is an ideal way to gently start or restart running, keep in shape or improve your fitness.

We meet at a different pub every time and runs are generally less than four miles. There will be several planned regrouping stops so nobody can get left behind. We meet up back at the pub afterwards for a beer, some socialising and something to eat.

The first club hash will be from The Royal Foresters, Callow Hill (A456) on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May starting at 7pm meeting in the car park. Initially the Wyre Forest Hash Harriers will meet once a month from various pubs in the area and as popularity grows this will become a weekly event.

For more information contact Pete Wall on 01299 405477 or 07956 172825 or [www.wyre-foresthhh.org.uk](http://www.wyre-foresthhh.org.uk).

## Resource Awards 2008

Do you know of a community recycling project that deserves recognition? Think the scheme where you work is the most innovative of its kind? Are you putting real value back into the community and diverting an impressive tonnage of material from landfill?

If the answer to any of these questions is ‘YES!’ then you should nominate your local community recycling project for the Resource Awards 2008 and give yourselves the chance to win £2,500!

Jennie Chapman of the Vine Project, winner of the Community Recycling Project of the Year 2006, said: “I would encourage people to nominate an organisation that they know, even if you think that the organisation is too small or new for such awards as we thought that, and it is only thanks to the belief that our nominator had in the Vine Project that we were entered. Winning the award has given the charity a real credibility with potential funders, and has given a huge boost to all our volunteers and staff”

2008 categories:

non-financial award. The winner receives a year’s subscription to Resource magazine and recycled glass award.

To download nomination forms, visit: [www.resourcepublishing.co.uk/resource-awards.php](http://www.resourcepublishing.co.uk/resource-awards.php) for more information

## The Gallery at Bevere

*‘The Gallery at Bevere shows the best of modern/British studio ceramics, along with paintings and other crafts in an intimate setting. A regional gallery, showing national artists’ David Whiting, Ceramics Critic*



Kim Taylor

The Gallery at Bevere is a major centre for the visual Arts, offering high quality exhibitions and sale of works by top nationally known artists, glassmakers, wood-turners and ceramicists

In one of two galleries, they hold 8 exhibitions a year with featured makers and artists; the second gallery shows examples of wok by exhibitors past and future. They have a wide range of outdoor ceramics and sculptures in the courtyard and the grounds surrounding the gallery. They also stock etchings, prints, woodcuts and a wide range of art and craft books, cards and magazines for sale.

There is plenty of free parking outside the gallery and picture framing workshop. Admission is free and refreshments are available from the ‘Cafe Upstairs’ which serves freshly prepared hand produced gourmet light bites made with many local ingredients and accompanied by hot and cold drinks.

*‘The Gallery at Bevere has found itself a winning niche – this is now one of the best places in the region to see contemporary studio pottery’ Terry Grimley, Birmingham Post*

*The gallery is run by husband and wife team, Kim and Alistair Taylor with a team of staff specialising in disciplines such as framing, jewellery, textiles, ceramics, paintings and web management. They have been running the gallery together for seven years and it is in its current guise following rebuild and refurbishment from May 2006.*

*Alastair’s background is in retail management and having spent many years in London he returned to Worcester and started the framing business eighteen years ago. Kim worked in international event management and after a stint in London moved to Worcester to join Alistair.*

### Five minutes with Kim Taylor... Four words to describe you?

I asked my four year old this question and he said: My Mummy, good dancer, tall (well to him!) and cuddly.

### When and where are you happiest?

Walking the dogs in a big open space and playing with the children on a beach because they are so creative – give them a bucket, a spade, some water and some sand and you can do just about anything!

### Are people natural artists or can it be taught?

Undoubtedly there are many natural artists but it can be taught to a certain degree as well. Natural artists often show more individual creativity and push the boundaries to

a greater extent I guess due to confidence, perhaps?

### Is there a particular piece of artwork that inspires you?

I personally haven’t painted for many years, but paintings that I love are those by Libby Edmondson because they are very easy on the eye, the colours always work well together and they have robustness about them too. Of the masters, Caravaggio is my all time favourite because of his use of light and shade and his ability to create such moods and presence.

### What drives you fear or desire?

Desire probably in most things and fear, I guess, in some things!

### Do you believe in fate?

Definitely

### What was your plan B?

I’m not sure I was that organised! I’m possibly on plan B now though ... getting married and having children in my 30’s meant that I was afforded a plan A too, a very exciting

and rewarding career in international event management.

### What are you most proud of?

My two little boys.

### What is your ultimate ambition?

Hmm tricky, my ambitions are to give the boys a great start in life and to run a successful business with Alistair but as to my ultimate ambition ... to live a long and happy life with my friends and family I think, oh and this summer’s is to have a successful vegetable patch for the first time!

### Are you a conformist or a rebel?

I guess I used to like to think of myself as a rebel but in reality, I think probably a conformist.

### Do you believe in soul mates?

Definitely!

**The Gallery is open Tuesday - Sunday and Bank Holidays 10.30am - 5.00pm or by appointment**  
**The Gallery at Bevere, Bevere Lane, Worcester WR3 7RQ**



Libby Edmondson, The Kitchen Garden

## Bottle top bonanza!

The Duckworth Worcestershire Trust, a registered charity, was established in 1998, to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural and built environment for the public benefit in the county of Worcestershire. This is done through a small team but also with the help of volunteers and those seeking training in ‘green’ skills.

The trusts work is split into three main areas: education and awareness raising activity; active conservation and recycling and finally reacting to the negative impacts that people can have on the environment, such as littering and graffiti.

The Trust has a team of three environmental wardens that help to make Worcester and surrounding areas clean and tidy. They also help a 100-strong team of volunteer litter pickers. In addition the team takes on a number of volunteers and students and teaches them conservation skills, such as coppicing and hedge laying. Some of these people may go on to further employment in this area of work.



Nikki Goodfellow - project worker

The trust also runs the Pump House Environment Centre, set up to demonstrate renewable technologies, such as solar panels, wind turbines and ground source heating. This old Victorian waterworks has many interpretive displays and is open to the public from Wednesday to Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. It is also available for school

visits and a meeting room can be hired by community groups and businesses.

Finally, there is the Worcestershire Resource Exchange, which offers a really fun way to make a difference to the world’s carbon footprint. Here you can find all kinds of ‘scrap’ materials for use in creative projects and best yet; it has all been diverted from landfill!

For further information, visit [www.dwt.org.uk](http://www.dwt.org.uk)

The Bottle Top Bonanza was held at the Worcester Resource Exchange on 17<sup>th</sup> April, an event where children and young people created mobiles from bottle tops. We spoke to project worker Nikki Goodfellow;

### What is the Worcester Resource Exchange (WRE)?

WRE is a community based arts reuse project. It is the place to go for all your materials for pretty much any creative project, and is a veritable Aladdin’s cave of goodies. We collect non-hazardous scrap from local businesses and pass it onto our members, so reducing landfill.

### Why and when was it started?

It all started in the mid 90’s as part of an initiative in the county to reuse and recycle. The Duckworth Worcestershire Trust helped raise the money to fund the project and it all went on from there.

### How has it grown?

Not only has the range and volume of materials we collect grown over the years but likewise so has our membership. Our original database of members consisted mainly of schools working in early years but now we have all sorts of people who’ve joined up: Individuals, families, allotment holders, theatres, secondary schools, art students, and the list goes on. Our premises have grown too... well not actually grown, but we have moved to bigger premises in the last year.

### How did you become involved with WRE?

I had spent too long working in a commercial environment that sent tonnes of reusable waste to landfill. I was really starting to feel a greater responsibility towards the environment and wanted to do something positive and fun that would make a difference. The post of project worker at WRE came up and fitted the bill perfectly.



Ana Anastasia Partidge, Anda Phillips (Volunteer co-ordinator), Nikki Goodfellow (Project worker), Charlotte Cartairs (Volunteer), Jacob Edwards & Josh Rose

### Is the WRE busy?

Some days we are overwhelmed with people trolley dashing round the scrap store. If it ever is quiet we just make the most of the opportunity to restock the shelves with more goodies. If you’re after some quiet time at the WRE we do have a fantastic Resource Library where you can seek further inspiration from a very wide range of books to help you with your creative projects.

### Why do you think it is a valuable resource?

I am 100% confident that there is no other art shop in the county with such an exciting wide range of unusual materials. You will find things here that you just won’t be able to get anywhere else. Of course if you’re after pre packed card making kits with ready cut shapes to stick as per instructions then you’re in for a big surprise as we’re more about out of the box thinking. We’re also incredibly good value. We charge by volume and it’s only £12 for a trolley load. We don’t package our materials so you won’t get charged for that either.

### How do you think more people could be encouraged to use the exchange?

Once people are through the doors they really need no encouragement. So really it’s just a case of raising awareness about us and getting the word around.

### How beneficial is the WRE to the environment?

The WRE not only helps to reduce landfill it also encourages out of the box thinking about creativity. The more people there are using our resources equates to less people perpetuating the manufacturing of plastic nonsense that is flown into the UK from all over the world.

**The Worcestershire Resource Exchange is open Thurs 12-7, Fri 10-5, Sat 10-1 or by appointment tel: 01905 726796 or visit [www.wre.uk.com](http://www.wre.uk.com)**

### Events @ WRE

#### Bike Doctor

Give your bike a health check and visit our Dr Bike surgery for free basic repairs and safety checks. Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 10am-3pm (last orders 2.30pm)

#### Curious Creatures

Grinning grasshoppers, frantic frogs, dodgy dragonflies and tetchy toads, an after school workshop in the scrap store. Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 5-6.30pm £1 per person (no unaccompanied children)

**For more information call WRE on 01905 726796**

## “Carers – Don’t be invisible” says the Worcestershire Association of Carers

Did you know there are over 6 million carers in the UK? That means one in every four of us at any one time could be looking after a parent or child, a spouse, a friend or neighbour to make it possible for them to manage at home. So do you help someone get dressed; help them through the day; help them go out? If so, YOU ARE A CARER.

You might not even see yourself as a carer, thinking more that you are, for example, a partner or a parent. But when your caring role stops you going out to see friends; or it becomes difficult to make appointments at the doctor’s or hairdresser, then you have become a carer as well. Realising this is the first step to getting help – and asking for help is not saying you can’t cope or don’t care!

The Worcestershire Association of Carers is there to support you. We understand what it means to be a carer. We have a telephone Information Helpline; a Carer’s Handbook (which is just about be reprinted); a

regular free newsletter and carer groups meeting regularly across the county.

Now we are supporting National Carers’ Week, which is taking place between 9-13 June. This year’s theme is “Carers can’t afford to be ill”. Dr Chris Steele, resident GP on ITV’s ‘This morning’ says: “Caring can put tremendous strain on the body, both physically and emotionally. Seeing, first hand, the effects of caring on some of the patients I have met over the years, highlights the need for better support. More needs to be done to support carers and to ensure that every carer knows they are not alone”.

So the Association is concentrating on getting out information about services and support for carers. This will be available at libraries and surgeries or direct from the As-



Emma Cook, Jackie Smith and Diane Thomas

sociation. Some libraries will have an Association member of staff to answer enquiries (details from the office).

For those carers who would like a time to relax, there will, for the first time, be a free

course held in Worcester on Creative Writing. So if you have wanted to try your hand at writing, this is your chance in an informal, friendly group of beginners. Give it a go!

Often carers feel that there is no one there to help them or to tell them where to find the right information. There is often no-one who will ask them how they are coping or to offer support. Whilst caring can often be richly rewarding, there are many times of stress and difficulty. Acknowledge this and ask for help.

Now you know the Worcestershire Association of Carers is there for you. Ring us on 01905 26500. The helpline is open Tuesday to Thursday 10.00am – 3.00pm, with an ansaphone as well.

We look forward to hearing from you!