

# LOVE WIRRAL

## MAGAZINE



APRIL 2021  
Issue 108

Monthly Business & Community magazine delivered across Wirral

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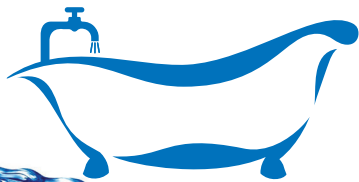


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# WHAT'S IN THIS MONTHS LOVE WIRRAL MAGAZINE



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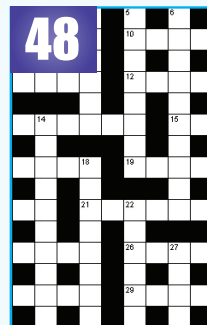
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### Dear Friends,

The lighter evenings are finally here - although I don't like losing an hour's sleep!

Hoping for a beautiful spring like last year. Our non essential shops are soon opening as our roadmap out of lockdown begins, just keep doing what we are doing and hopefully we will see the back of this pandemic.

Love Wirral magazine is all about promoting our lovely part of the country. It's important that we use our local tradespeople and shops to keep it that way, more importantly than ever if we want to keep our high streets, villages and city centre alive!

A HUGE thank you to our advertisers for continuing to advertise with us! They are quality, local and reliable tradespeople offering great services at affordable prices. Using local businesses means they can invest in our area - keeping our Wirral such a great place to live and work!

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#### Forshaw/Murray - Bebington

We are very happy with all the work and the high standard that was attained.

#### O'Mally - Meols

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# DO YOU KNOW?

1. Finland is the world's happiest country, according to the 2019 World Happiness Report.

2. Drinking more coffee may reduce the risk of developing gallstones, a study found.

3. People develop first impressions of you in a tenth of a second.

4. Florida was the first part of the continental U.S. to be visited by Europeans. Spanish conquistador Juan Ponce de Leon gave it its name, meaning "flowery land."

5. Washoe, the chimpanzee, was the first non-human to learn American Sign Language. She also passed on her knowledge to other chimpanzees.

6. One pint of donated blood can save up to 3 lives.

7. The smell of chocolate increases theta brain waves, which triggers relaxation.

8. English words "I", "we", "two" and "three" are among the most ancient, from thousands of years.

9. The longest common English word without vowels is "rhythms".

10. A group of giraffes is called a tower.



11. McDonald's first menu items were hot dogs, not hamburgers.

12. Tap water has a shelf-life of 6 months, after which chlorine dissipates and bacteria starts to grow.



13. California has been the birthplace of the film industry, the hippie counterculture, the Internet, and the personal computer.

14. At its peak, the Roman Empire comprised only 12% of the world's population.



15. When babies are born they have no bacteria in their bodies.

16. Elvis Presley didn't write any of his songs.

17. The type of music you listen to affects the way you perceive the world.

18. In 15 years of conquest, Alexander The Great never lost a battle.

19. Al Pacino was the first "face" on Facebook.

20. All of the pandas, in the world, are on loan from China.



21. Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is the fear of long words.

22. In Spanish, the word "esposas" means both "wives" and "handcuffs."



23. Ronaldinho's deal with Coca-Cola ended after he was caught sipping a Pepsi in a news conference.

24. In Greek mythology, it was believed that redheads turn into vampires when they die.

25. When Montenegro became independent from Yugoslavia, its Internet domain name went from .yu to .me.

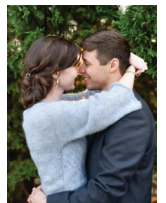
26. Shakira was rejected from the school choir because the teacher thought she sounded like a goat.

27. A group of owls is called a Parliament.

28. In the UK, all horses, ponies and donkeys must have a horse passport.

29. Flowers can grow faster by listening to music.

30. The average age in the UK for a first kiss is 15.







# Sherlocks

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## Dear Residents

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# THIS MONTH'S HISTORY

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

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL



### APRIL 1 1918

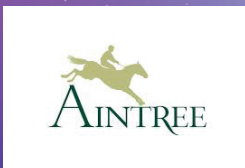
The Royal Air Force (RAF) was formed with the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). The RAF took its place beside the British navy and army as a separate military service with its own ministry.

### APRIL 2 1977

Red Rum the diminutive horse with the heart of a champion galloped into racing history by winning the Grand National for a record third time.

The steeple chaser won the race in 1973 and 1974 and came home second in the following two years.

Before the race concern was expressed that at 12 the horse was too old for an event widely regarded as the most dangerous on the jumping circuit.



## APRIL 16 1953

The Queen launches the Royal Yacht Britannia.

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On 17 January 1986 The Britannia evacuated about 350 people of 42 nationalities Friday night and early Saturday and took them to Djibouti, about 160 miles across the Gulf of Aden from South Yemen's capital.



**April 12, 1961** - Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space. He traveled aboard the Soviet spacecraft Vostok I to an altitude of 187 miles (301 kilometers) above the earth and completed a single orbit in a flight lasting 108 minutes. The spectacular Russian success intensified the already ongoing Space Race between the Russians and Americans. Twenty-three days later, Alan Shepard became the first American in space.

**APRIL 4 1949** - April 4, 1949 - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.

**APRIL 23 1564** - William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was born at Stratford-on-Avon, England. Renowned as the most influential writer in the English language, he created 36 plays and 154 sonnets, including Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet and The Merchant of Venice.

**APRIL 30 1967** - Boxer Muhammad Ali was stripped of his world heavyweight boxing championship after refusing to be inducted into the American military. He had claimed religious exemption.

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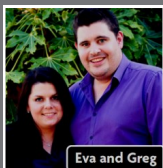
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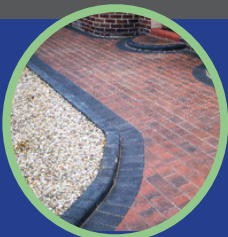
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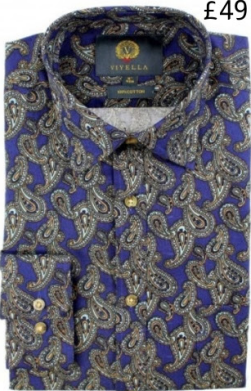


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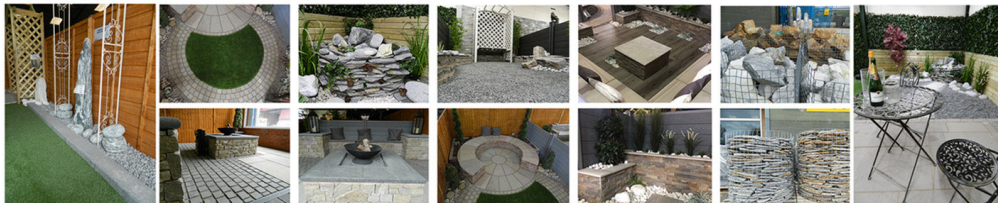


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# AutoReview by Tony Yates

Keeping you motoring

## Alfa Romeo Stelvio Veloce 2.0 Turbo 280HP



This month's review is so easy. What Alfa has done here is made another perfect car that has an engine more powerful than you can comprehend – plus it's utterly brilliant. And, I'm not just saying that either.

### On the road

The Stelvio feels very good on all road surfaces – and there are no dramas to talk about here because it's well balanced and settled even on some of our most demanding roads.

All this means you will have less to worry about if you decide to start planting the Stelvio briskly into the corners. Of course, you may want to just press the 'snooze' button and cruise along the motorway without a care in the world. I mean after all, it's an Alfa Romeo – it's a pure driver's car.

On the Alfa subject, there is something special about how an Alfa makes you feel once you get behind the wheel.

For instance - the Stelvio tells you exactly what's going on beneath you - while Alfa's onboard safety features do their job keeping everything present and correct, meaning you really can feel the Alfa DNA at its heart.

## Power and efficiency

The version I currently have on test is powered by a 1995cc turbocharged petrol engine with 280HP and 400Nm of torque which makes the Stelvio move along like a rocket.

So, big & powerful engine usually means bad fuel economy - well actually it's not - and you can easily achieve around 30.4mpg (combined) Plus, you have the addition of an eye wobbling top speed of 143mph and a 0-62 time of 5.7s. Of course, I understand that speed needs to be kept on the track, but the big Alfa loves to ruffle a few feathers - not only in its appearance - but also in how well it gets down the road. All I can say is 'bring it on'.

## Safety & technology

Trim levels on the inside of the Stelvio are lovely and everything was bathed in leather and soft touch material - but for me, the Stelvio is a long-distance mile muncher and a car that can accommodate a large family and pretty much everything you can throw at it.

Plus, it's fitted with lots of safety features to keep you and your family safe - which makes me feel all warm on the inside.

With technology now being one of the most important factors most people look for when buying a new car - the Stelvio needed to offer a lot of toys - and it does.

Some of the equipment starts with; 8 Speaker Audio System, Alfa Connect 3D Nav 8.8" Multitouch Infotainment system (radio, 3D Nav, Mp3) Wireless Charging Pad, Alfa Dynamic Suspension, Ambient LED lighting - front & rear, Autonomous Emergency Brake (AEB) Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC -ABS+ASR+Brake Assistant) with Hill Holder, Dark tinted rear windows, Leather Sports Steering Wheel and Gear Knob.

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## To sum up

What a brilliant car - and a massive 5 stars from me.

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The Neuro Therapy Centre is encouraging people from across the region to sign-up to its first Easter Walk.

The walk is aimed at people of all ages and can be carried out at a location chosen by the participants. "We know from our supporters who took part in virtual events last year that being able to choose their own distance, location and challenge date, really helps people to take part and makes an event so much more accessible," said Shannah Goodrick, Community and Corporate Fundraiser at the Neuro Therapy Centre.

"We'd love as many people to take part as possible and we have even created a fun downloadable set of bunny ears so that they can be created to wear either during the walk or as part of the celebration on completion. If lockdown has taught us anything it's how we can all benefit from taking exercise, especially outside on a spring day. Exercise is a big part of what we offer to people with neurological conditions at the Centre, and through taking part in our Easter walk people will be helping to support this work," added Shannah.

Over the last year the Neuro Therapy Centre has continued to support people with neurological conditions such as MS and Parkinsons Disease across North Wales, Cheshire and the Wirral through creating telephone and online services, as well as continuing face-to-face support when restrictions allowed. "Each week the Centre costs £10,000 to run and our events and fundraising challenges play a big part in helping the Centre to continue to offer its services. We are just asking for a small registration fee for this event, as we know that raising sponsorship can be a challenge during lockdown, but we hope that people will come together to help us raise as much as possible to help support our life-changing services," said Shannah.

People can take part in the walk between 29th March and 11th April. The price of registration is £5 for adults, £2 for children and £2 for dogs. To sign up for the walk and receive the downloads people should go to the Neuro Therapy Centre website at [www.neurotherapycentre.org/Event/easter-walk](http://www.neurotherapycentre.org/Event/easter-walk)

Neuro Therapy Centre, Units C1-C4, Brymau Estate, 1, River Lane, Saltney, Near Chester CH4 8RG.



# URSULA WILDE - Local Author

This is my biography of being brought up in a family business of motor pioneers. My grandfather built the 1st garage on the A41 in Bromborough, our family have a long history of living in the area.

I also sang in the Liverpool club scene under the name of "Sheena" at the start of the Merseybeat era, working and friends with The Beatles, Cliff Richard, Jimmy Tarbuck and Des O'Connor - to name a few.



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Growing up visiting Eastham Woods regularly, I have written a series of short stories for children based on Mr Cyril the Squirrel from the woods. There are also some colouring pages in each of the books.

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## The Village Community Garden

Wallasey Village is to have a new gardening opportunity which is being funded by a grant from The Liverpool City Region Community Environment Fund.

The Our Common Home group at Holy Apostles and Matyrs' Parish Church in St Georges Road, Wallasey, were successful in their application for the grant to develop an underused side garden of the church. The garden will be an area for reflection with seating and for growing fruit and vegetables in raised beds.

Project leader Anne Litherland, said: "Our small gardening team benefited from working together and wish to pass this experience on to others, especially those isolated in our locality and those without gardens. We are aware that many of those living alone are isolated and activities like gardening which can be therapeutic also enable friendship and a feeling of belonging."

There will be free training sessions for people to learn how to grow fruit, vegetables and herbs sustainably and opportunities to continue volunteering to maintain the garden into the future.

The training sessions will start once the COVID-19 guidelines permit, but referrals can be made now as there are limited places available. The places are open to any adult who would benefit.

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Above: 1926, Heswall Station where a Constable Mullins found three men had ripped open the station safe.



Above: Telegraph Road, Heswall showing the Church of Good Shepherd and a crosville bus entering the depot in the distance. c.1955

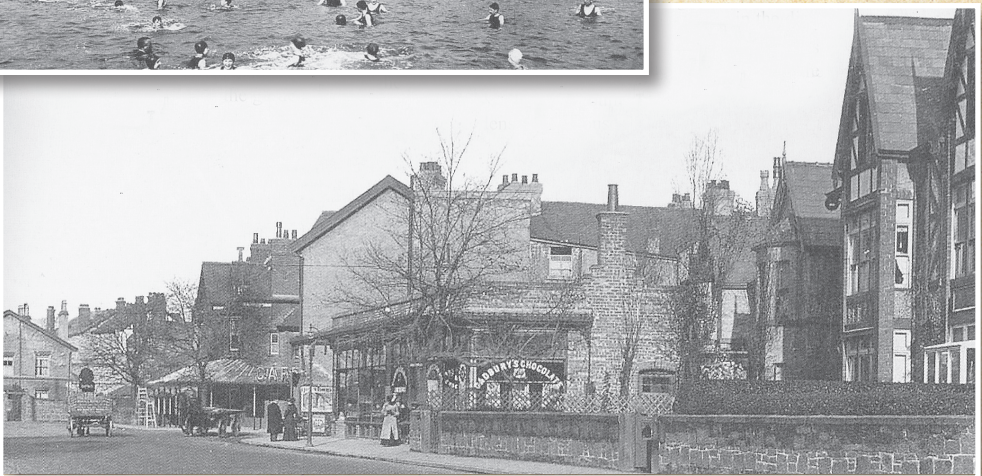




Above: The Kings Cinema in Telegraph Road, **Heswall** was taken around 1950 and was showing Alan Ladd in a film called "After Midnight". The King's Hall, built c.1912, was upgraded by John Pye in 1928 – it closed in 1958.



Left: **West Kirby Marine Lake** is pictured in 1930. In February 1931 the local council borrowed £2,450 for construction of baths in West Kirby Lake and the bathing facilities improved.



Above: Banks Road in **West Kirby** pictured in 1906 with Dee Lane in the distance and The Cresnet off to the right.



*Social support and friendship*

## £2500 donation brings 'Smylies' to local people living with dementia

Local business Smylies, exporter of British food based in Bromborough, has provided a further generous donation of £2500 to Dementia Together Wirral (DTW). The money will be used towards the core operating costs of the charity to support the services provided to people living with dementia and their carers.

Funds were raised by members of Smylies staff getting involved with various fundraising initiatives throughout the year including a 'Virtual Duathlon', local sponsored runs and bike rides and an impressive Virtual Land's End to John O'Groats cycle/run event.

Managing Director, Chris Smylie said "Smylies have been pleased to continue supporting Dementia Together for the past year especially during such difficult times for everyone. All the team at Dementia Together Wirral do such a wonderful job and we are so lucky to have this brilliant charity operating locally".



Smylies originally chose Dementia Together Wirral as their nominated charity in 2019 when they provided an initial donation of £3500. Allan Grogan DTW Chair of Trustees said "We are absolutely delighted that Smylies has chosen to support us again this year. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of this local family business. This latest donation takes the total raised to an incredible £6000. Once we are able to get back to offering our usual activities, this donation will help to cover the cost of providing monthly musical groups, day coach trips and craft sessions".

Set up in 2018, Dementia Together Wirral is a registered charity that supports people living with dementia or memory loss, and their carers. The charity is run almost entirely by volunteers and before the pandemic, was providing regular activities including a popular and highly entertaining monthly 'Musical Minds' group in New Ferry, a Memories singing group in Liscard, craft and games groups in Port Sunlight and Hoylake and a monthly walking group.

The charity also normally offers monthly drop-in reminiscence cafes at eleven locations throughout Wirral, together with day trips by coach to places of local interest. All activities are provided without charge. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the charity's small group of volunteers came up with an alternate way to support people in their own homes as it was not possible to operate the normal groups and cafes.

The new Activity Box Project was launched in December 2020 and feedback so far has been really positive. One couple from Heswall said "My wife is really enjoying the word search books - it's something she can do on her own and then together we have been able to look at the old photographs and books of the local area, conjuring up memories of places we have previously visited."

Activity boxes are delivered on a loan basis and then exchanged usually after about four weeks to offer another box with different items designed to entertain and stimulate conversation between the person living with dementia and their carer, usually their spouse. Things like colouring books word search books, jigsaws, dominoes, playing cards and other games are included, plus a range of 'reminiscence' items designed to evoke shared memories/conversation.

As well as supporting people with a formal diagnosis of dementia, Dementia Together Wirral offers support to anybody experiencing memory loss.

If you feel that having an Activity Box would help you, a family member or anybody you know, then Dementia Together would be happy to deliver you a trial box. You can contact Heather the charity's administrator at [help.dtw@gmail.com](mailto:help.dtw@gmail.com). Heather works on Monday and Tuesday and will get back to you at the earliest opportunity.



*Example of an Activity Box*

**We are currently looking for volunteers to help deliver activity boxes and help out at future events and activity sessions when these resume. If you are interested please email Heather at [help.dtw@gmail.com](mailto:help.dtw@gmail.com)**

**The charity has recently received funding from The National Lottery to enable them to purchase additional Activity Boxes for distribution.**

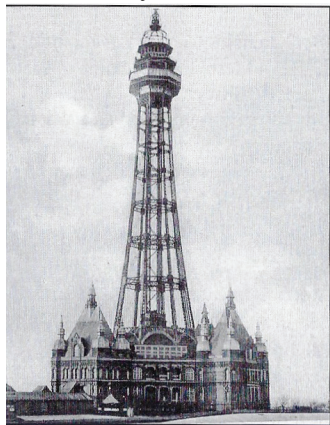


# Reader's Memories

Reader's Memories is a new segment - where you send us your old photos which bring back memories for you. This could be your old school, or a place that has significant meaning to you. Please send your photos to [jaxx@love-wirral.com](mailto:jaxx@love-wirral.com).

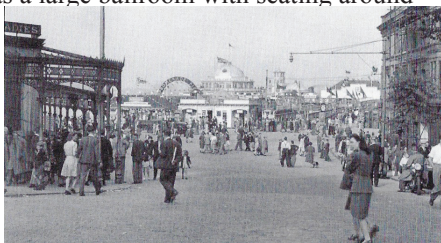
## Tower Ballroom, New Brighton by Maureen & Tommy Price

We have very fond memories of the Tower Ballroom, as we are sure many other local people will have too. The building was set in large grounds, which included a boating lake, a funfair, gardens and a sports ground.



*Tower Ballroom 1905*

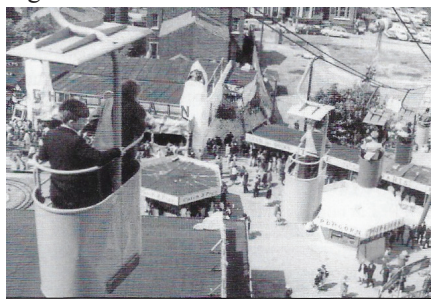
We met here on Christmas Eve in 1959 through a mutual friend. Tommy was on leave from the army and I used to go every Saturday with my friends, Pat and June. It was very grand inside, there was a large ballroom with seating around and an upstairs bar with more seating, which overlooked the dance floor and the stage where the band used to play. I believe the Beatles played there 27 times.



*View from Victoria Road*

Tommy's friend Phil, who I knew from holidaying in Talacre, introduced me to Tommy. We have been very happily married for 59 years, we are true soulmates. We have two wonderful children and 3 amazing grandchildren.

We also used to go to the Pier at New Brighton, lots of bands played here and there was a nice little bar. Just talking about this brings back so many special memories. It was devastating when the ballroom went on fire and was totally destroyed in 1969.



*View from chair lift (1960) from the top of the tower towards promenade*



*The Ferry Boat 'Egremont' by the pier - "Royal Iris" can be seen behind the landing stage. (1960)*

**New Brighton photographs courtesy of Ian Bounphrey  
Yesterday's Wallasey & New Brighton Book 1860 - 1960**

# The Rotary Club of Birkenhead

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## PICTURES OF HAPPINESS FROM PRENTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS

Pupils from Prenton Primary School have responded to Birkenhead Rotary's Photo competition with enthusiasm and the winning images from each year group are featured.

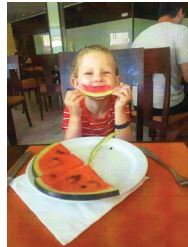
The winners were Paige, Joshua, Harry, Alexandra, Melissa, Issac and Aubree and the judge was Rotarian Charles Farnell ARPS, who commented;

"There were some excellent submissions and I am delighted that so many young pupils are showing an interest in photography and its composition."

The school chose the theme "A Picture of Happiness" so that pupils could choose what had made or kept them happy during lockdown.

Club President Cath Hayes commented;

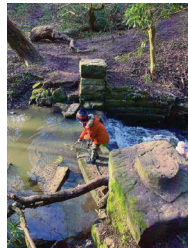
"We are so pleased to receive so many entries and thank all the staff involved in providing support for the competition during the pandemic. I also add my congratulations to all pupils who entered."



Paige



Joshua



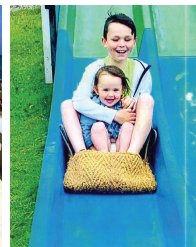
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## April is Make a Will month with Wirral Hospice St John's



### Secure your family's future and your own peace of mind

Wirral Hospice St John's annual Make a Will month, in April, will go ahead this year even though coronavirus is still significantly affecting the way we live our lives and focusing all of us on the way we think about our futures.

The hospice has been continuing, throughout the crisis, to provide its specialist care and support services, free of charge, to patients with life-limiting illnesses, alongside appropriate support for their loved ones too.

It costs more than £5 million each year to run the hospice and this is only possible through the ongoing support of our whole Wirral community, individuals, businesses and other organisations, who continue to support the hospice in so many ways.

#### Make a Will Month

Each April, a host of Wirral solicitors' partner with the hospice to offer people the chance to make a new Will, or revise their old one.

The participating legal firms offer valuable time and waive their normal fees to ask people to make a kind donation to the hospice for their Will-writing services at a significant discount to the normal cost.

For a suggested donation of £90 for a single Will or £150 for a double Will, which goes directly here to your local adult hospice, you can be safe in the knowledge that all of your assets will go exactly where you wish them to when you're no longer around.

Appointments are available throughout April but fill up really quickly, so an early booking is strongly advised and we encourage our supporters to contact the solicitors in March to make their booking and to quote Wirral Hospice St John's Make a Will Month when booking a consultation.

When you make your booking, the solicitor you choose will send out an initial form for you to fill in so that the main issues you want to be addressed in your Will are covered.

Because of potential coronavirus restrictions this year, consultations may be held via a type of video call (Zoom, Teams, FaceTime or suchlike) or over the phone.

### Why make a will?

It's natural for people to believe there's plenty of time before they have to take this important step, but experience tells us that it's never too early. If your Will is not officially drawn up then your assets may be subject to processes under the law which may have negative repercussions for loved ones for many years.

You may already have a Will in place but major changes can happen in life, including marriage, divorce, having children or even the death of a loved one, which can potentially invalidate some, or all, of a current Will.

Unmarried partners or those who have not registered a civil partnership cannot inherit from each other unless there is a Will in place. Homeowners and people with dependent children are especially encouraged to have an up-to-date Will.

### Legacies

Legacies have become a significant part of hospice income and, although amounts greatly vary according to people's circumstances, Wirral Hospice St John's is extremely grateful when people choose to leave a gift of any size.

Anything that is left to charity is not counted towards the total taxable value of your estate and if you leave at least 10% of your 'net estate' to a charity it can cut inheritance tax from 40% to 36% where that may be applicable.

There are different ways of leaving a gift in your Will;

**Residual legacy:** A gift of the remainder or share of your estate, after all other gifts are given and debts cleared

**Pecuniary legacy:** A gift of a fixed sum of money

**Specific legacy:** A gift of a particular named item such as jewellery, a painting, a car or such like.

Please do note that if you further choose to leave something to the hospice, or any other charity, in your will it is totally for your discretion and completely confidential between you and your solicitor, there is absolutely no obligation to leave a gift in your Will to the hospice.

**To find out more information please contact Julia Evans at Wirral Hospice St John's in the following ways;**

**Call: 0151 343 0778 or Email: [juliae@wirralhospice.org](mailto:juliae@wirralhospice.org)**

**Or, to see a list of the legal organisations offering the service this April, in partnership with the hospice, visit [www.wirralhospice.org/makeawillmonth](http://www.wirralhospice.org/makeawillmonth).**

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## Quick Chicken Marsala

20 minutes  
to prepare

Serves 4  
people

Marsala cooking wine is a worthy addition to your pantry; it's dry and sweet without being overpowering, and can cut through the richness of cream or stock. The alcohol will cook off as the sauce simmers. Adding butter at the end, a classic technique, gives the sauce its body and gloss.

### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 large skinless chicken breast
- 3/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Packet of pre sliced mushrooms
- 4 sprigs of thyme
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 2/3 cup unsalted chicken stock
- 2/3 cup Marsala wine
- 2 1/2 tablespoons unsalted butter

Serve over polenta, mashed potatoes or rice. If you have leftover thyme, try steeping in chicken stock before making a risotto, tossing with roasted vegetables, or adding to a frittata.

### How to Make It

#### Step 1

Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large deep nonstick frying pan. Sprinkle chicken with 1/2 teaspoon pepper and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Add chicken to pan and cook. Remove chicken from pan (do not wipe out pan).

#### Step 2

Add remaining 1 tablespoon oil to pan. Add mushrooms and thyme sprigs; cook, stirring occasionally, until mushrooms are browned, about 6 minutes. Sprinkle flour over mixture; stirring constantly, 1 minute.

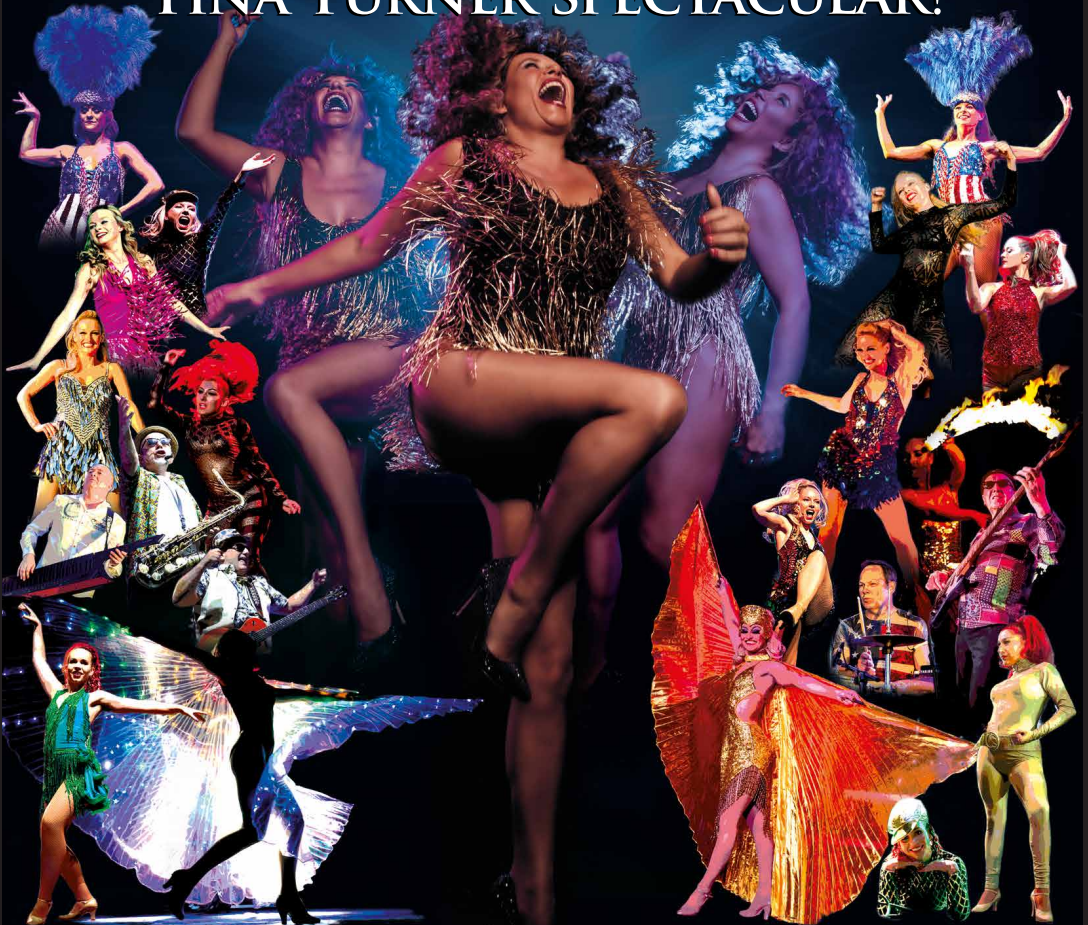
#### Step 3

Add stock and wine to pan; bring to boil. Cook until slightly thickened, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove pan from heat. Stir in butter, remaining 1/4 teaspoon pepper, and remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt. Add chicken to pan, turning to coat. Discard thyme sprigs before serving. Sprinkle with chopped thyme, if desired.



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# THE HAZELWELL BECOMES ONE OF THE FIRST CARE HOMES IN THE WIRRAL TO HAVE ALL RESIDENTS RECEIVE SECOND COVID JAB



A care home in the Wirral has ensured that every eligible resident with their consent received two doses of a Covid-19 vaccine.

Residents from The Hazelwell, a residential, residential dementia, nursing, palliative and respite care home in Heswall, had their follow-up Pfizer jab this week after having their first in January.

The vaccine was the first in the world to be approved by the UK against coronavirus last December.

A team from Heswall and Pensby Group Practice, based in Telegraph Road in Heswall, returned to The Hazelwell this week to administer the inoculations. Residents had a short rest in The Hazelwell's fabulous home cinema area for a period to ensure none of them suffered any side effects afterwards.

Staff at The Hazelwell, based in Oldfield Road, have also received the Pfizer jab with many of them travelling to Clatterbridge Hospital in Bebington while others had their vaccines at the home this week.

Despite the mass vaccinations at the home, The Hazelwell, however, will continue with strict infection control guidelines at the home including use of PPE by all staff and regular covid testing and following strict public health and infection control guidelines.

Since March 8, residents at the home have also been allowed one indoor visitor as part of a cautious easing of the UK lockdown. Visitors are required to take a lateral flow test before entry and must wear PPE. All public health guidelines are followed. The Hazelwell also still offers the covid secure visiting room for designated visitors.

The Hazelwell was one of the first care homes in the Wirral to close its doors last Spring when the coronavirus outbreak started before the first national lockdown was introduced. The home did so, in order to create a 'cocooning environment' for its residents and keep those in their care safe.

**For more information call The Hazelwell on 0151 342 9654, email [info@thehazelwell.com](mailto:info@thehazelwell.com) or visit [www.thehazelwell.com](http://www.thehazelwell.com)**



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