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MAGAZINE



OCTOBER 2022
Issue 126

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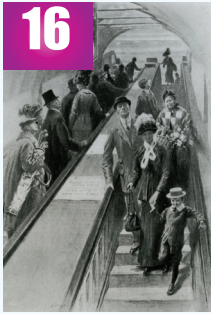
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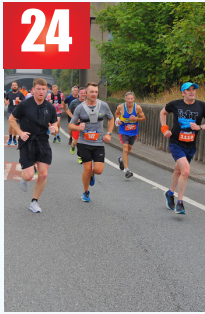


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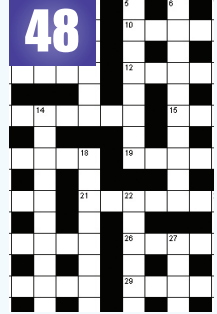
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Cover Photo: Fishing Boats on the Beach at Sunset, Hoylake



Dear Friends,

September turned out to be such a sad month, losing our Queen. The tributes and state funeral held in her honour were absolutely lovely, it made us very proud to be British!

It must have been so difficult for the Royal family grieving under such limelight, our sympathy goes out to them all. King Charles has waited a long time but has been well trained by his 'mama', we wish the King good health, happiness and success.

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Maxine

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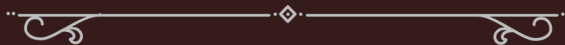
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DO YOU KNOW?

1. Humans have caused 322 animal extinctions over the past 500 years.

2. The World's Most Popular Fruit is the TOMATO.



3. Louis XIX was King of France for just 20 minutes.

4. The wars between Romans and Persians lasted about 721 years, the longest conflict in human history.

5. There's a nude beach under the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

6. At the Wife Carrying World Championships in Finland, first prize is the wife's weight in beer.



7. There's a Golf Club on the border of Sweden and Finland: half the holes are in one country and half in the other.

8. The doctor who claimed a link between vaccines and autism, Andrew Wakefield, created fraudulent data for his paper and lost his medical license as a result.

9. Dinosaurs are not, technically, extinct, since birds are considered by science as a type of dinosaur.

10. Africa is larger than China, USA, India, Mexico and a big part of Europe combined.

11. Right-handed people tend to chew food on the right side while left-handed tend to chew on the left side.

12. Coffee is the world's second most valuable traded commodity, only behind petroleum.



13. As late as 1985, doctors believed babies didn't feel pain and conducted surgeries with no anesthesia.

14. There's only one STOP sign in the entire city of Paris.

15. Millionaire Harris Rosen adopted an urban neighborhood in Florida, giving all families daycare, boosting the graduation rate by 75%, and cutting the crime rate in half.

16. In 1994, a 75-pound bag of cocaine fell out of a plane and landed in the middle of a Florida crime watch meeting.

17. Chimpanzees can identify each other from pictures of their butts.



18. People with unfortunate initials, such as P.I.G. or A.S.S. have significant lower life expectancy, due to psychological stress related to childhood bullying.

19. Although myths and speculation about a "Southern Land" date back to antiquity, Antarctica was only first sighted in 1820 by a Russian expedition.

20. Cenossilicaphobia is the fear of an empty beer glass.

21. Your brain keeps developing until your late 40s.

22. In Japan, Ronald McDonald is called Donald McDonald due to a lack of a clear "r" sound in Japanese.



23. Every year, Walt Disney World's "Lost and Found" collects more than 6,000 cell phones, 3,500 digital cameras, and 18,000 hats.

24. Disney owns 80% of ESPN - American international basic cable sports channel.

25. "Happy hours" are banned in Ireland.

26. The Irish surname prefix "Mac" means "son of," while "O" means "descendant of."

27. Every day, your heart creates enough energy to drive a truck for 20 miles (32 km).

28. Listening to music while working out measurably improves physical performance.

29. You don't like the original version of a song because it's better. You like it because it's the one you heard first.



30. Koala bears aren't bears: They're marsupials.



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THIS MONTH'S HISTORY

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

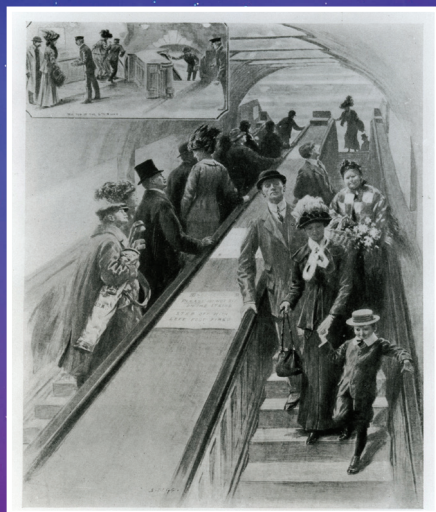
THIS DAY IN HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

4th October 1911

The first moving staircase was demonstrated on the London Underground, at Earl's Court station.

There were in fact two escalators — both supplied by the Otis Elevator Company — and linked the Piccadilly Line platforms with the subway that runs under the subsurface lines (District/Circle). One escalator could only carry passengers upstairs, while the second model which normally took passengers down, could be reversed to upwards if the other unit was out of action.

Famously, the railway company hired a one-legged man, Bumper Harris, to ride up and down the escalators on their first day to show how safe these mechanical terrors could be. Mr Harris was a tunneling engineer working on the installation of the escalators.



5th October 1930

Airship R101 crashed on its maiden flight in France killing the 54 people onboard, including Lord Thomson the Air Minister who had initiated the programme, senior government officials and almost all of the designers from the Royal Airship Works.

R101 was one of a pair of British rigid airships completed in 1929 as part of a British government programme to develop civil airships capable of service on long-distance routes within the British Empire. It was designed and built by an Air Ministry-appointed team and was effectively in competition with the government-funded but privately designed and built R100. When built, it was the world's largest flying craft[2] at 731 ft (223 m) in length, and it was not surpassed by another hydrogen-filled rigid airship until the LZ 129 Hindenburg was launched seven years later.

The crash of R101 effectively ended British airship development, and was one of the worst airship accidents of the 1930s.



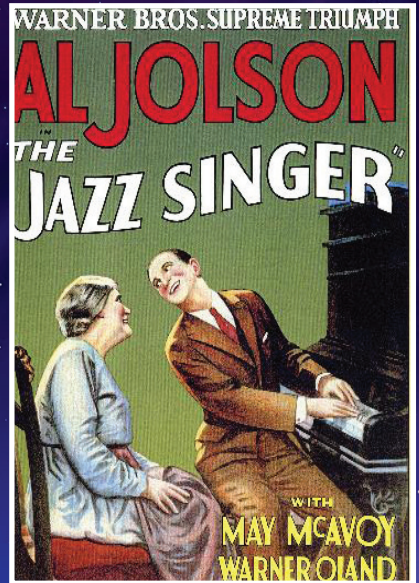
6th October 1927

The first “talkie” opened in New York. “The Jazz Singer” starring Al Jolson was the first full-length feature film using spoken dialogue.

The Jazz Singer, is an American musical film and the first feature-length motion picture with synchronized dialogue sequences.

Its release heralded the commercial ascendance of the “talkies” and the decline of the silent film era.

It was directed by Alan Crosland and produced by Warner Bros. with its Vitaphone sound-on-disc system, the movie starred Al Jolson who performed six songs. The film is based on The Day of Atonement, a play by Samson Raphaelson.



14th October 1964

Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. He donated the \$54,000 in prize money to the Civil Rights movement.

Martin Luther King Jr., was born in Atlanta in 1929, the son of a Baptist minister. He received a doctorate degree in theology and in 1955 organised the first major protest of the civil rights movement: the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott. Influenced by Mohandas Gandhi, he advocated nonviolent civil disobedience to racial segregation. The peaceful protests he led throughout the American South were often met with violence, but King and his followers persisted, and their nonviolent movement gained momentum.



A powerful orator, he appealed to Christian and American ideals and won growing support from the federal government and northern whites. In 1963, he led his massive March on Washington, in which he delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” address. In 1964, the civil rights movement achieved two of its greatest successes: the ratification of the 24th Amendment, which abolished the poll tax, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited racial discrimination in employment and education and outlawed racial segregation in public facilities. In October of that year, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He donated the prize money, valued at \$54,600, to the civil rights movement.



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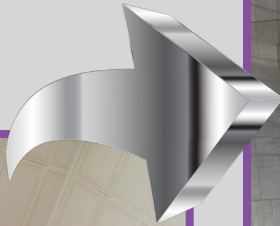
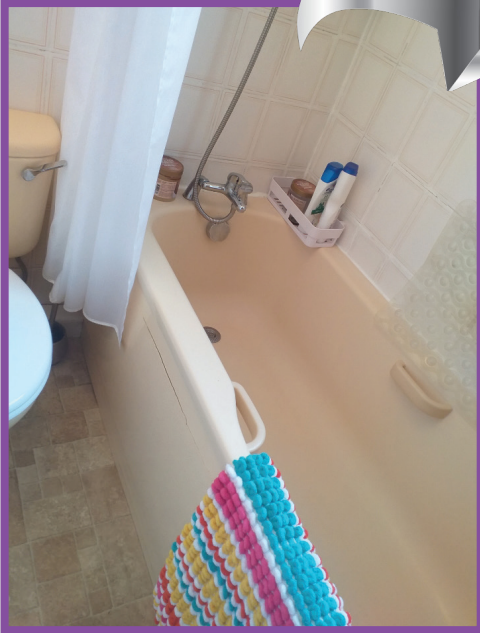
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BTR RUNNERS PAY TRIBUTE TO THE QUEEN AHEAD OF MERSEY TUNNEL RACE

Almost 1,000 runners stood side by side ahead of the BTR Mersey Tunnel 10K on Sunday (12 September) in silent tribute to Her Majesty The Queen who passed away last week. Participants were invited by organisers BTR Liverpool to observe two minutes silence before the race.



This was the 16th staging of the BTR Mersey Tunnel 10K. The event is the only time throughout the year when people can make their way through the Kingsway Tunnel on foot and run under the River Mersey – making it one of the most unique running events in the country.

The Mersey Tunnel 10K returned to the North West running calendar in 2006 at the request of the Mersey Tunnels, with BTR Liverpool taking on the mantle to organise and deliver the event.

BTR Liverpool is the leading independent organisation for creating, managing and delivering headline race events across Liverpool City Region.

The race has been staged each since 2006, with the exception of 2020 during the pandemic when there was a break of almost two-and-a-half-years between races.

Fondly known locally as the ‘new tunnel’, the Kingsway Tunnel was opened by Her Majesty The Queen on 24 June 1971 – making last year its milestone 50th anniversary.

Organisers were given the go-ahead to stage the race so felt it appropriate to honour The Queen as part of event proceedings – as a mark of respect and to reflect on her incredible duty of more than 70 years.

The race event was somewhat subdued as runners and race officials kept The Queen in their thoughts.

A tribute was read by race day host Graeme White, who also led the two minutes silence. This was followed by The Beatles’ classic song In My Life.

The winner of the BTR Mersey Tunnel 10K 2022 was Dejene Gezimu from Liverpool Harriers AC in 33 minutes 39 seconds. He last won the race in 2018. Dejene set the current course record at 30 minutes 52 seconds in 2016.

Jamie Mackie finished second in 34 minutes 36 seconds, followed by Joshua Makin in third place in 34 minutes 59 seconds.

First place female was Fay Hughes from UTS Run Club in Hoylake with a time of 39 minutes 1 second. This is the second consecutive year Fay has taken top honours in this race.

Second place was Becky Chittick from Penny Lane Striders in 45 minutes 29 seconds, while Anita Dawson finished third in 45 minutes 32 seconds.

The current female course record remains. It was set in 2019 by Kirsty Longley from Liverpool Pembroke Sefton Harriers with a time of 36 minutes 19 seconds. Kirsty broke the record she had previously set in 2017 by knocking a further 30 seconds off her time.



The point-to-point race started in Liverpool city centre taking runners straight into the Kingsway Tunnel. The route also included Seacombe Promenade, Fort Perch Rock and Marine Lake, before finishing on Ian Fraser Walk in New Brighton overlooking the River Mersey.

Finishers were presented with a commemorative medal and bespoke T-shirt to mark their achievement.

Volunteer teams representing British Red Cross, Dockside Runners, Everton in the Community, and Liverpool Running Bugs helped with water stations, medals, and T-shirts.

Overseas runners travelled from Malaysia, Spain, and Sweden to take part. While local running clubs were

well represented by Hoylake Road Runners, Liverpool Running Club, Penny Lane Striders, Rimrose Runners, and Wallasey AC.

While 10-year-old Owen Oswick from Wirral wowed everyone on the day by clocking a time of 40 minutes 49 seconds – finishing in 24th overall position.

The day's most senior runners were Tunnel 10K regulars 83-year-old Phil Humphreys from Wirral, and Ron Thornton aged 81 from Liverpool.

The extensive BTR Liverpool race portfolio features various distances across different terrains, all with an ongoing commitment to sustainability. Events also include the Liverpool Skyline Half Marathon, Port Sunlight Road Race, Tour Of Merseyside, and Liverpool Santa Dash.

BTR Liverpool Race Director Alan Rothwell explained:

"Well done to everyone who took part, and once again made the BTR Mersey Tunnel 10K a very memorable day especially during this incredibly poignant and historic time. The atmosphere on the day was understandably subdued, and I congratulate our runners on all their achievements.

"I want to publicly thank everyone who impeccably observed the two minutes silence to honour and thank Her Majesty The Queen for her loyal and dedicated duty which spanned more than seven decades. We felt The Beatles' song In My Life was a fitting tribute and heartwarming but respectful nod from Liverpool, especially before we followed in her footsteps and headed into the Kingsway Tunnel which she officially opened 51 years ago.

"The Mersey Tunnel 10K is a unique race given it's the only time you can make your way through on foot. I'm sure everyone who was involved on the day will remember this year's race for many special reasons."

The date for the BTR Mersey Tunnel 10K 2023 will be announced shortly.

Next in the BTR event portfolio is a new Winter 5K series spanning three events starts at the end of September with Autumn Leaves in Arrowe Park, followed by Bonfire Blast in Hoylake in November, and Winter's Trail on the Wirral Way in December.

Festive spectacular Liverpool Santa Dash sponsored by Park Christmas Savings returns on Sunday 4 December, followed by The Grinch 5K in West Kirby on Sunday 11 December.

First race in the calendar for 2023 is the 30th anniversary of the Liverpool Skyline Half Marathon on Sunday 26 March.

Full race information and online entry can be found by visiting www.btrliverpool.com

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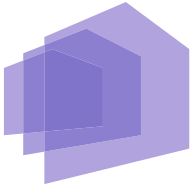
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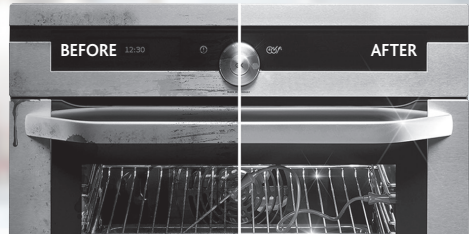
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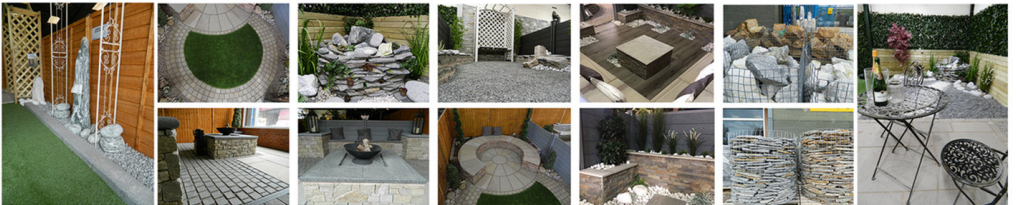


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The Rotary Club of Birkenhead

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LOSS OF OUR PAST PRESIDENT



Rotarians across Merseyside were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Birkenhead's "larger than life" immediate past president Graham Connolly, who had also previously served twice as President of the then Rotary Club of Liverpool.

Graham was a staunch supporter of the Late Queen Elizabeth II, whose company he was privileged to be in many years ago in London. He developed this love of Her Majesty into a number of musical events, whilst also raising funds for Rotary projects.

The 2012 Diamond Jubilee commemoration provided the opportunity for such a project to be developed at Birkenhead Rotary by Graham. It featured a concert in St. Georges Hall, Concert Room, compared by the Late Tom O'Connor.

Graham is pictured with his then familiar Union Jack waistcoat, accompanied by the late Tom O'Connor and soloist Barbara Ruzsics. The 2012 Jubilee concert also featured Wirral Community Choir, of which Graham was founder. Most recently, whilst President of Birkenhead, Graham strongly supported the Club's Platinum Jubilee commemoration held in June. Graham Connolly was instrumental in encouraging Birkenhead's Rotarians to return to meet together weekly, socially distanced of course, in July 2021.

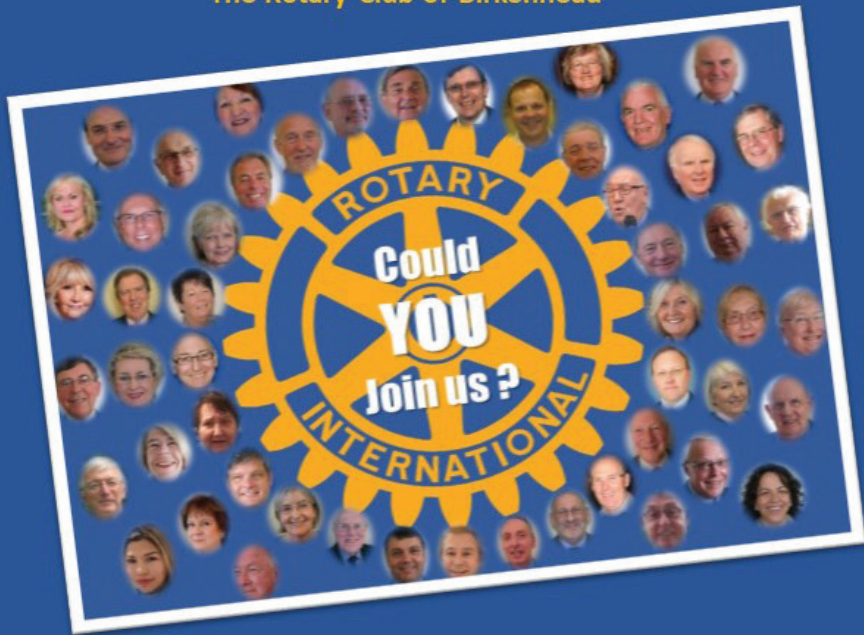
COMMUNITY DONATIONS

At the Rotary year end various donations were made to community groups, including Wirral Mencap, Talking Newspapers, Veterans, Wirral Fund for Children with Special Needs, The Ark Centre for Homeless people, The Salvation Army, Charles Thompson Mission, Neo and Make it Happen – both organisations supporting communities in great need in a variety of ways. As fundraising has been challenging, the Club also developed appeals for winter coats to be donated to The Ark and non-perishable food to be collected for Charles Thompson Mission.

Fundraising for Ukraine is on-going.

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The Rotary Club of Birkenhead



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This panoramic view was taken on the opening of the Mersey Tunnel on the 18th of July 1934 at the Birkenhead entrance in King's Square. The crowds gathered to watch King George V and Queen Mary perform the opening ceremony.

Work commenced on both sides of the River Mersey on the 16th December 1925, it took almost 9 years to complete.



Looking down Grange Road, Birkenhead in 1935, Irwins Grocers shop is on the left next to FW Woolworths who later moved to premises on the site of Grange Road Baptist Church on the corner of Catherine Street. The white building beyond is the Birkenhead Co-op Society's new premises which opened in this year on the site of the Hippodrome Theatre.



In 1942, workmen sinking a stanchion for a new roundabout on New Brighton Promenade uncovered caves which gave Mr W Wilkie (amusement director of the Palace Amusements) the idea of starting a munitions factory there. Following development to provide blast proof rooms, production commenced in March 1942. Unknown to millions of holiday makers, beneath the promenade the weekly output of this small factory was up to 250,000 machine gun bullets, 25,000 shells and 1,400 press-button switches for aircraft radios.



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Choose Friends Carefully: Surround Yourself with the Right People

County Lines

Author - Simon Harding

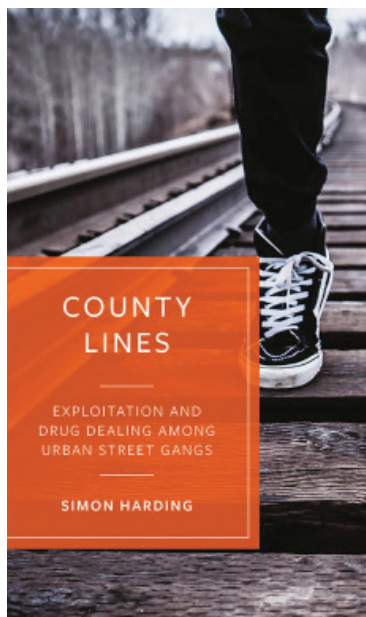
Publisher - Bristol University Press

In recent months the problem of drug dealing, violence and exploitation of young people and adults by urban street gangs has become a major issue within the Wirral, Chester, Wrexham and other surrounding areas. **Simon Harding, "County Lines"** is an insightful, brilliantly researched book which **exposes in an all embracing "no holds barred" text, the impact that involvement within the gangs structure can have** on the individual, families, friendship groups, schools, colleges and communities.

The author's detailed knowledge of the County Lines structure, in particular **his interaction and conversations with active members of gangs, enables the reader to gain an awareness of the repercussions of "getting involved"**. Many readers may well find many aspects of the text emotionally disturbing or alarming in terms of actions, expectations and violent retributions. However, the strength of Simon Harding's lucid style is that **he takes the reader into this "murky world" of professional gang leaders, offending couriers and the "victims" of the "headless dealers"**.

The "County Lines" are a continually evolving model of drug distribution within many areas of the UK, particularly from urban metropolitan centres such as Liverpool and Manchester to rural towns and villages such as Heswall, Chester, Blacon, Wrexham, Ruthin, Bala, Corwen, Llangollen, etc. Simon Harding highlights how the market for drugs and interaction with social media has created opportunities for the evolution of street gangs. **The "market for drugs" has created opportunities for considerable wealth for gang leaders and other personnel in new locations**, within a structured framework of entrepreneurship. This "Prism" structure exploits young people to be actively involved in criminal activities by creating and establishing "drug markets". **Some students in schools, colleges and universities are easy prey and vulnerable** due to emotional issues, friendship and family breakdowns, bullying, financial difficulties, limited educational success, lack of outlet for energies, etc. In contrast, **the gang culture creates a "buzz", a group excitement, easy money and "acceptance"**.

In an outstanding analysis of how young people are attracted to and "become available" by falling into the pathways of the "gang", Simon has undertaken a range of case studies. **The interviews provide intimate and harrowing insight into their experiences, range of roles and life within a county line team.** Readers will gain realistic insight into the issues faced and mindsets of users, dealers, families, communities and police. Some readers may have siblings or be aware of others who have become immersed or trapped within the "business structure" and can appreciate the frankness and relevance of the research findings which emphasise the emotional turmoil, reverberations and consequences experienced, which in many cases send a cold shiver down the spine. The strength of Simon Harding's research



is that he “leaves no stone buried” as he unravels the processes of “grinding” and in particular, the role of County Line “managers” in tactical actions to “control staff” including exploitation, intimidation, debt bondage and violence. Readers may well reflect on the impact of recent “gang provoked” deaths within Liverpool as the author discusses how violence is a regular occurrence in order to protect the “income from county lines”. Within a “dog eat dog world”, they are not playing games !!

The fact that “violence becomes a lifestyle” is extensively discussed in the sections on “exploitation and sanctions” and “cuckooing and nuance dealing”. The research indicates how potential grooming of young and vulnerable individuals emerges into the formation of gangs, highlighting how meeting their needs for income, “loyalty for safety”, an outlet for pent up energies etc, becomes a “life that’s hard to get out of”. The “County Lines Control Repertoire” creates a mindset of compliance, and subtle forms of “mind manipulation” to ensure that “crew members” do not step out of line. The “business model” with the key focus on financial profit is based on “compliance and control”.

This is an outstanding book which provides a valuable in-depth analysis of the threat of “county lines”. The insight given in interviews by those involved regarding the impact of the criminal activities, violence, emotional control and generation of fear by the “gangs”, takes the reader beyond the headlines directly into the lives of the victims, offenders and professionals involved. It should be pre-requisite reading for parents, managers, support teams and pastoral staff in schools, colleges and universities, social workers, police and probation teams, and agencies working with vulnerable or at risk young people.

Toxic

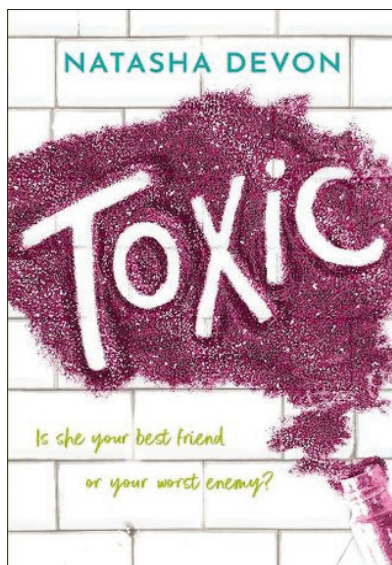
Author - Natasha Devon

Publisher - UCLan Publishing

Within many areas, an increasing number of young people are experiencing social, emotional and health problems resulting from issues linked to interaction or friendship difficulties, isolation by group rejection, body image, mental health and on line safety. Evidence clearly highlights how the key issue of bullying, in particular “subtle bullying,” framed within a false dynamic of friendship, is on the increase, particularly among teenage girls. In an enlightening, thought provoking and engaging social novel, “Toxic” by Natasha Devon, discusses, in a dramatised work of fiction, the emotional trauma of bullying experienced by the key teenage character, “Llewella”, A key feature of the story line

is the raising awareness for readers of the emotional impact of “subtle and hidden bullying”. The author highlights how many girls experience friendship difficulties which can deteriorate into toxic relationships through story lines that highlight the emotional and personal traumas experienced by “Llewella” including panic attacks, anxiety, mental health issues, body image, eating disorders, on line safety etc.

The author creates an insightful range of scenarios based on the mindset of Llewella, the daughter of single Mum Cerys Williams, whose parents were Welsh speaking living in Llangunnon. Llewella describes her mother as the Welshest woman who ever



lived, who wanted to “stamp a bit of her culture on me”. The problem for Llewella was that they lived in Surrey and no one could pronounce her name and called her “Loo”. **From her personal perspective, this was an additional issue alongside the fact she was overweight, of mixed race, had no “father figure” to call her his “Special Little Princess”, which became emotional stumbling blocks** in her efforts to seek group acceptance and friendship.

The focus is on how “Llewella”, in her need “for acceptance” latches on to and develops an intense “friendship” bond with another girl “Aretha”, to address her emotional and physical needs to reduce isolation and gain recognition within the group. **The insightful story line evolves over a range of interactions which illustrate how the need for “acceptance” and desire for a “friend” can leave an individual vulnerable to the “power of the bully”.** The manipulative bully has learnt the skills of how to promote inroads of acceptance and belonging, leading to control of the vulnerable individual. **The reader will gain insight into how “Aretha”, the bully, enacts a manipulative “power game” with Llewella’s mindset with the underlying intent to exert control.** In the text Aretha promotes and exploits her power over Llewella in terms of emotional and psychological manipulation by control and intimidation, moving from “best friend to worst enemy. **The term used for this type of bullying is “gaslighting”** which results in the victim of the bullying, Llewella, experiencing considerable self doubt, anxiety, loss of self influence and a growing dependence on the perpetrator. **In contrast, the perpetrator of the bullying gains self satisfaction** in fulfilling their need for power and control of others.

It is unfortunate that the author does not include a section at the end of each chapter or scenario by creating pointers for “personal reflection” by the individual reader or group discussion, seeking to resolve and get to the “root of the problem”. **Creating a “thinking continuum”** would have enhanced the contribution and impact of this “socio novel” to address and promote clarity about, barriers, issues of “support” and ways forward for both victim perpetrator and “onlookers”. Failing to create in the framework of the text opportunities to hear the voice of “onlookers”, parents, extended family and professionals with **“ideas for ways forward” is a missed opportunity to extend and enhance the impact of issues discussed within the text highlighting a growing social issue.**

Evidence shows that for many individuals who have suffered the pain of “gaslighting”, including “rejection”, exclusion from activities, internet harassment, or the emotional torment of distrust or hurt, **the effects last into adulthood.** Schools and colleges have promoted many aspects of effective practice to address emotional and mental health issues caused by bullying and promoting the skills of victims to deal or cope with conflict and gaslighting. **However evidence highlights that the attitudes, behaviour and needs of the “female bully” and “manipulative individual” continues to require a greater focus.**

About the reviewer

John T Morris BA(Hons),MEd,MPhil,DipPsych,CertEd.

John taught physical education in an Inner London secondary school and fitness at the Middle Row Boxing Club. On moving to Wales, he was headteacher of three specialist centres for young people in North Wales, fitness and weight training coach in Wrexham, fitness coach at Wrexham RFC and with the WRU. John was consultant adviser on addressing the needs of the bully and victims in schools in Birmingham, Walsall, Salford, Bedfordshire and Ceredigion and a range of colleges of FE, across England and Wales.



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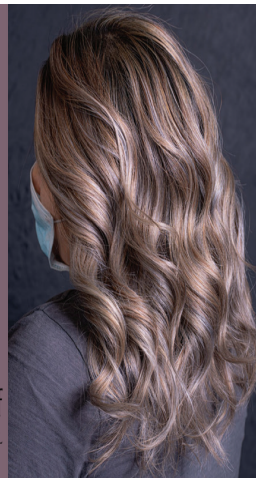
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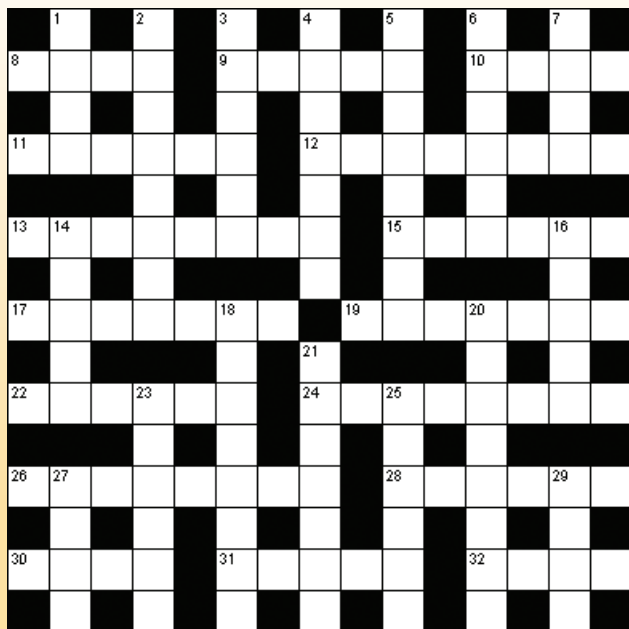
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PUZZLE CORNER



Down

- 1 Ebb (4)
- 2 Chicago's state (8)
- 3 Large North American deer (6)
- 4 Uncultured (7)
- 5 Hitting swiftly (8)
- 6 Stellar (6)
- 7 Ketch (4)
- 14 Mistake (5)
- 16 A small picture inserted within another (5)
- 18 Occlusion of a blood vessel (8)
- 20 Shook (8)
- 21 Inane (7)
- 23 Swoons (6)
- 25 A yellow-and-black Eurasian finch (6)
- 27 At a distant place (4)
- 29 Placed (4)

Across

- 8 Cry loudly (4)
- 9 Shot from a bow (5)
- 10 Fake (4)
- 11 Zodiacal twins (6)
- 12 Ability to read and write (8)
- 13 Remembrances (8)

- 15 Adorned (furniture) (6)
- 17 Anagram of "Deserts" (7)
- 19 Self-importance (7)
- 22 Pre-built (6)
- 24 Imagines to be true (8)
- 26 Bells in a tower (8)
- 28 Difficult to detect (6)
- 30 Final (4)

- 31 The mountain of the Ten Commandments (5)
- 32 Heroic (4)

Sudoku Puzzle

How to play:

The numbers 1 through 9 will appear once only in each row, column, and 3x3 zone. There are 9 such zones in each sudoku grid.

There is only one correct solution to each sudoku. Good luck!

Difficulty level: Medium.

	9	5						8
		6	8				7	
								1
		4				5		6
	3		2	1				
8				9		1		
					6	7	9	4
							6	
7				8				

Solutions can be found on our website

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WIRRAL GARDEN CENTRE STAFFED BY AUTISTIC VOLUNTEERS REOPENS



A Wirral garden centre and café, run by a local autism charity, has reopened to the public after closing during the pandemic.

Based in Bromborough Pool Village, near Port Sunlight, the garden centre offers a chance for autistic people to gain valuable workplace and social skills, while serving customers and working behind the scenes.

Managed by Wirral-based Autism Together, the business first opened in 2012 and has always been popular with customers from the local community.



Autism Together's team of staff and autistic volunteers

During the pandemic Bromborough Pool Garden Centre closed its doors, along with most other shops. As a service supporting autistic people, the centre was governed by different safety rules and so was unable to reopen its doors at the same time as other businesses.

Staff at Autism Together used this extra preparation time to develop the skills of some of the people the charity supports to take a greater role in the daily running of the business, particularly in the café area.



Under the leadership of managers Emma Crabb and Mike Christiansen, many individuals have been working hard in the build up to the reopening, gaining awards in customer service, completing training in food hygiene, checking fridge temperatures, correct lifting and carrying techniques, and more.

The Garden Centre itself currently offers a range of perennial plants and flowers in outside areas, including a greenhouse and polytunnel behind the café area.

Alongside the flora, there are gift items for sale created by some of the talented people Autism Together supports, made in the charity's woodworking and ceramics departments.

Mike Christiansen, who leads the café team, said:

“A highlight for many of our visitors is the café itself. There, a team of autistic volunteers, supported by Autism Together staff, are on hand to take orders, prepare food and drinks, and serve customers at their table.

“Our menu items include a full choice of teas, coffees and cold drinks, a selection of sandwiches and toasties, and a range of cakes and treats for those with a sweet tooth. There’s even a children’s meal deal.”

“There is a free car park next to the Garden Centre site which overlooks the village cricket pitch in picturesque Bromborough Pool Village. The village itself is well worth a visit as it was created as a model village for workers at Prices Candles, and pre-dates nearby Port Sunlight.”

Emma Crabb, manager of Bromborough Pool Garden Centre, said:

“We would like to invite customers old and new to try out our reopened garden centre and café in Bromborough Pool village.

“Our vision involves the people we support being at the forefront of everything we do here. They have been involved in planning our menus, what plants we sell, where we place them out for sale, and even with our new branding.

“The garden centre’s aim is to provide opportunities to help the people we support develop a range of social and business skills, including numeracy and communication.

“Our goal is to support our team to eventually get work outside of Autism Together.

“We are a non-profit charity and all money made is invested back into the people we support and their activities.

“The people we support really enjoy sharing what they have learnt with customers, so we do hope to see you at our garden centre and café soon.”



Autism Together supports many autistic adults to volunteer at its Bromborough Pool Garden Centre.

Bromborough Pool Garden Centre & Café is open Monday to Friday, from 10am to 3.30pm.

For more details about the Garden Centre and Café, please visit their dedicated Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BromboroughPoolGardenCentre/.

For more about Autism Together, please visit the charity’s website: www.autismtogether.co.uk/



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IMAGE by John Fowler

“You are late this morning, your Handsomeness. I have been talking to the chair for the past half an hour, but at least it seems to listen.”

“Look Billy, I have been meaning to have a word with you about your image, because I think you are letting the club down.”

“I don’t want any criticism, because my track record is second to none.” responded Billy.

“When is the last time you won anything?”

“Well I have been a successful coach here for the past thirty years, and I know we haven’t won a trophy but we’ve entertained the crowd.”

“In this day and age, you have got to look the part and earn the respect of the players, especially as they all tend to look after themselves, and present a good image to the fans. The point is, old Scruffball, you are unkempt, make flippant remarks, smoke, break wind, pick your nose, belch, tell smutty jokes, sing off-key, and generally make a nuisance of yourself.”

“Oh, Magnificent Features, that is unfair. I don’t belch, do I?”

“Is it true you put in for a sickness pension on the grounds of acute dandruff, because it prevents you from wearing a dark tracksuit? And you seem to have a terrible wind problem.”

“It keeps the flies off my Guinness.”

“I want to help you, Chubs, what is your deep rooted problem?”

“Well, your Handsomeness, I seem to be in a daze all day just walking around, looking important, but really doing nothing and getting nowhere.”

“Pull yourself together, man. You are not a pundit yet. And take that thing off your face, you look stupid, Red Nose day finished ages ago.”

“But I am not wearing anything.”

“Listen, you pillock of Society, you don’t realise how lucky you are. It must be a great life being a coach at this football club. Don’t have to make the big decisions, don’t get blamed when we lose. You are the sort of Indiana Jones of football. Thrills and adventure, travel the world, have beautiful women swoon over you, loads of money, and flash cars.”

“It does have its drawbacks, your Suaveness.”

“What’s that?”

“Putting the cones out for the Training sessions.”



WALKER'S WORDS FOR OCTOBER

A tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

By The time you read this month's edition, the national periods of mourning will be over, the state funeral will have been undertaken, and the process of changing all royal insignia will be underway.



As I write my Column in advance, it was not possible to change the September Edition of Love Wirral (and I was still on my holidays). So, it only seemed appropriate to use this month's edition to pay tribute to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

As we will all be aware, Queen Elizabeth II died peacefully at Balmoral Castle in Scotland on 8th September 2022 and her death was publicly announced at 18:31.

I was in London at the time, co-incidentally passing Buckingham Palace at the time of the announcement of her death, a million to one chance of being in that place at that exact time for that moment in history, I was on my way to see Wicked at the Apollo Theatre, just down the road from the Palace.

As soon as the passing was announced, the mood from hope and well wishing changed to that of a sombre and sad atmosphere, with many breaking out into a rendition of "god save the Queen". It was a cloudy and drizzly day, however, as the news broke of the passing of the Queen, a sudden burst of sunlight lit up and illuminated the skies around Buckingham palace. Within moments, Floral tributes began to arrive left by well-wishers and those feeling the need to pay their respects to the late Monarch. Signage boards around the city began to change showing tributes to Her Late Majesty, one of the quickest I noticed as a simple yet sombre window display by the Girl Guiding association, this is located opposite Buckingham Palace. Within hours, the crowds had thronged outside of Buckingham Palace, the police were called in to control crowds and direct traffic away from the area, as the walking public were simply taking over the area, each of these people wanting to share their moment in history and to be there with people they have never met before to share memories and tributes to Her late Majesty.

As I was in London I returned to Green Park the following day, on behalf of a friend who could not get down to London to lay floral tributes, and to view the already growing number of floral tributes that had been left at Green Park already, who was to know that within a few days, this makeshift tribute site would be adorned with thousands of flowers and tributes. One thing I could not help but notice was the number of Paddington Bear tributes that had been left for the Queen, as following her Platinum Jubilee celebrations back in June, many young children now associate the late Monarch with Paddington Bear – I thought this was really sweet and showed a real connection between young children and the appeal of her Late Majesty.



I departed London, with a heavy heart, wanting to stay a bit longer to watch history unfold and be part of something that we will likely never see again,

Upon Returning to Wirral, I noticed that there were floral tributes beginning to be left at the cenotaph in Hamilton Square, and a few days before the State Funeral I took some time to read the hand written tributes that had been left for the Late Monarch.

What was evident, was that she has made such a difference to the lives of the people of Wirral on the four different occasions that she Visited the Wirral, and most recently, opening the New Floral Pavilion in New Brighton. Hamilton Square and the Town Hall were lit up in a respectful shade of Purple and set a very sombre atmosphere, to reflect that of the nation at the time of mourning.



What has been clear during the national period of mourning, is that the late Queen made such a difference to the lives of many different people from all walks of life, the loss of her late Majesty reminded people of their own personal grief, the loss of a loved one closer to home, being able to relate to that feeling and that raw emotion, the realisation at the centre of all this was the loss of a mother, a grandmother, a great grandmother and most of all “the nations nanna”.



I very much doubt that we will see another leader like Queen Elizabeth II during our lifetimes, and that we have all shared a very significant moment in not only British history but history across the globe, I have no doubt that we will all be able to remember for life what we were doing when we heard that the late monarch had passed away. I know I certainly won't forget.

On Behalf of the readers, advertisers' contributors and staff of Love Wirral, we thank you Ma'am for your dedication and service for over seventy years, may you now enjoy your eternal rest.

I wanted to finish this edition by saying if you are struggling with Grief, or the loss of a loved one you can get in touch with Cruse Bereavement care on 0808 808 1677 lines are open Monday & Friday 9:00am – 7:00pm and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00am – 8:00pm or the Samaritans are open 24/7 on 116 123.

Until next time,

Take care

Ian X





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