

# HARPENDIA

HARPENDEN PEOPLE, CULTURE & NEWS

SPRING 2010



## EXCLUSIVE ARTICLES and INTERVIEWS

- Family Newspaper Dynasty. Page 5.
- Funding the England team at Commonwealth Games. Page 6.
- Helping the under 25's to find a career. Pages 15 - 16
- How to make silver jewellery. Page 19.

### Roundwood Park School Students Journalism.

Exclusive articles for  
HARPENDIA.

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### Harpenden's Travel Agents .

Book with them or DIY?

**Plus** Traveller's Tales  
from Cuba.

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### Free Prize Draw

Win a limited edition  
print by MJ Forster.  
See Page 4.

### Free Subscription.

Send an e mail for your  
free copy of HARPENDIA  
to [info@harpendingia.com](mailto:info@harpendingia.com)

# From the Editor Spring



Spring has arrived in all its glory with masses of spring flowers and blossoms. The trees are finally coming into leaf as we go to press so enjoy the sheer vitality and freshness of it all!

Election fever is gathering pace with only a short time to polling day. HARPENDIA was one of the first mediums to accurately predict the election date. YES, the 'Last Word' on the Appendix page of Spring 2009 gave May 6th as the date.

I'm pleased to welcome many new contributors to this edition, all of whom are Harpenden based or have links to Harpenden. I hope you continue to enjoy the editorial balance, however please feel free to let me know if you have any subject matter you would like to see.

There will be a Free Prize Draw from the A & K Wilson Gallery to link with their MJ Forster exhibition which runs from May 4 - 29. Up to the minute information about this can be found on the HARPENDIA web site in May.

Finally, the video interviews and reports posted to You Tube have proved very popular. There are now 5 short films for you to see. You can see the HARPENDIA videos on the web site or on my You Tube site. Simply type *harpendiamagazine* in the You Tube search box and all will be revealed. Or go direct to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c02AscZn6q0>

If you have any comments or views about the magazine please send them to me at [info@harpedia.com](mailto:info@harpedia.com)

Ron Taylor  
Editor  
[www.harpedia.com](http://www.harpedia.com)

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### STOP PRESS:

**Congratulations to the winner of the Rolf Harris special edition book.**

**Ms. K. West will be presented with her prize at The Lemongrove Gallery in May.**

# 'ÜBERBRITAIN' storms into Harpenden.

## At the A&K Wilson Gallery

By Ron Taylor. Editor

No, this is not a late arrival to the political scene but the challenging work by MJ Forster, (below) an artist from the North East who is featured during May at the A&K Wilson Gallery in Station Approach.



As a self taught artist Matt is obsessed with water colour. "I aim to create paintings that break the boundaries of 21st Century watercolour painting. My watercolour has moved to a more evolved and modern approach that implies both the real and a super landscape, the **Überpainting**." A style that has developed since 2006, examples of which will be on display from May 1st -31st.

With an interest in art from an early age he received tuition from a local artist on basic watercolour techniques in 1988. His interest in art grew and developed over the next 10 years culminating in the award of Tynedale Artist of the year in 1999.

He opened a studio gallery in Hexham in 1996, followed by a second 'The Art Works' with 5,000 sq ft of space in Newcastle in 2003. Travelling the World to develop observational and painting skills he is now an established name in the UK. 2010 was a year of achievement with work accepted into the Royal Society of British Artists Annual Exhibition and work accepted into the RWS Sunday Times Competition

Matt's other passion, Rugby, almost led him in another direction when in 1994 he decided to take this sporting interest further by studying for a Degree in Sports Science and Geography Loughborough University. Although achieving his degree in 1997 he decided that Art was the way forward. Judging by his success to date it would seem to have been the right choice.

Why not judge for yourself and visit the exhibition during May to see what '**überpainting**' is all about.

### Exhibition May 4 -29

Gallery owner Andrew Wilson (below) commented "I first saw Matt's work last autumn and I was immediately taken with it. I liked the way Matt really pares down his landscapes, condensing them until they retain just the quintessential essence of the place. His paintings are created in that most traditional of media, pure watercolour on paper, but they have a very strong modern graphic feel. I know Matt views his work as very new and contemporary, but interestingly I thought I saw echoes of the Modernist linocuts of The Grosvenor School of the 1920's, which didn't really seem to fit.

Matt explained later how he views his process of painting, he said that the technique is best thought of as being like silkscreen printing, he literally 'prints' 5 layers, 5 set colours in a set shape on top of each other, by putting these colours on top of each other they are mixing on the paper and that's where he builds up the tones and colour". This is of course exactly what you do with linocuts, so I'm not going mad after all!



Tuesday & Wed. 9.15–5.30, Thursday 9.15–2.00, 6.00–8.00  
Friday & Saturday 9.15–5.30, Sunday & Monday Closed  
A & K Wilson Gallery Ltd, 11 Station Approach,  
Harpenden, Herts. AL5 4SP Tel/Fax: 01582 760824  
E-mail: [drew@akwilsongallery.co.uk](mailto:drew@akwilsongallery.co.uk)  
[www.akwilsongallery.co.uk](http://www.akwilsongallery.co.uk)

### FREE PRIZE DRAW

Win one of M J Forster's beautiful limited edition prints South Coast.

Simply send an email with 'Prize Draw' in the subject line containing your name, full address and contact number to: [drew@akwilsongallery.co.uk](mailto:drew@akwilsongallery.co.uk)

The draw will take place immediately after the exhibition and the winner will be notified by June 10. See [www.harpendia.com](http://www.harpendia.com) for details.

# Family Newspaper Dynasty?

By Joseph Thrussell.

Around forty years ago I started selling newspapers outside John Hockadays the newsagents at the northern end of Harpenden High Street. This lasted until he retired when I moved to my present pitch outside Charles Wilson.



In those days there were no garages or supermarkets selling papers and most of the newsagents closed early on a Sunday. Owing to a shortage of newsprint after the war there were perhaps six to eight pages in each paper, maybe less I can't quite remember.

## Back in 1910

About 100 years ago my grandfather was selling papers outside the George Hotel. Then my father became a local agent for Sunday papers which he did until he retired. As a very young lad I delivered papers around the village, collecting the money by knocking on doors or customers would leave the money on the doorsteps. Many of those papers are long forgotten names such as the Reynolds News, The Sunday Dispatch the Sunday Chronicle and a few others. When I first did a paper round the price of the papers was between 2 pence and 3 pence (pre decimal).

## Colour Magazines

The Sunday Telegraph was first printed in 1961. The Mail on Sunday in 1982 followed shortly with the introduction of You magazine. The first paper to publish a Sunday magazine was The Sunday Times in 1962, followed years later by many others.

Forty years ago the papers were delivered round the country by rail which meant meeting the paper train about 3.30 in the morning. Often the papers were just dropped on the middle platform and then carried by trolley across the tracks into the waiting room to be sorted.



## Today's top sellers

The Sunday Times and The Mail on Sunday are the big sellers although it is not always

easy to get the supply required. It is also surprising the number of people who buy both The Sunday Times and the News of the World.

## Catering for all Tastes

I make a point of supplying papers such as the Irish Sunday Independent, The Scotland on Sunday, Non League and a few other specialist papers.

I guess around 75% of my customers are regulars many of them many of them recall being brought along as small children by their parents, with some of them now bringing their own children along.

## Speakers Corner

The pitch is quite a meeting place every Sunday morning, mostly among men who spend a few minutes discussing the news [mostly back pages] with me and other regulars.

The main beef about the papers does not seem to be the price but the size of them. It seems most people would be quite happy for them to be a lot smaller than they are.

Although I have really enjoyed the past forty years meeting and getting to know so many people, I have found the past winter quite difficult. Hopefully I shall manage a few more before I call it a day.



# Leading the team to Commonwealth Gold in Delhi

Ron Taylor interviews Duncan Lewis

Taking a team to the Commonwealth Games takes a lot more than 400 super fit and motivated athletes. It requires funding from sponsors to the tune of around a million pounds to supplement grants for everyday operating costs from Sport England.



That's where Harpenden based **Duncan Lewis** comes in. As Strategic Marketing and Commercial Lead for Commonwealth Games England he and a team (including Development Director, Joanna Robinson who went to school at Roundwood Park) have the responsibility for generating the 'cash' from private sector business. The kit sponsors -adidas- have already signed up, but there are still several commercial opportunities to be secured by the end of July.

Duncan signed up for this 'dream job' in July last year. "I love sport and the chance to use my marketing skills in such a massive arena was too good to miss". Sponsors benefit in many ways with their brands being 'connected' to the England team and the individual athletes. "It's not just a badging exercise – we don't provide exposure of

logos on shirts and banners around stadia, but we do create great opportunities for sponsors, their customers and their employees to provide practical support for the team and really get behind the 'We are England' rallying cry"

The Commonwealth Games is an unusual international event as, despite being drawn from 71 different nations, the competitors share a common language – English. As a result, everyone can talk and connect with each other, hence the title 'The Friendly Games'. That doesn't mean any lack of competitiveness though. Swimmers like Rebecca Adlington who holds 2 Olympic Golds still crave a Commonwealth gold. And previous gold medal winners like Kelly Holmes in 2002 went on to double Olympic Gold in 2004. It's also a showcase for emerging talent with athletes who are hoping to establish themselves in the big time. Remember Christine Ohuruogu who made her breakthrough in Melbourne in the 400m, then went on to win Gold at Beijing.

The Australian team won most medals in Melbourne 2006 and are favourites this year, but England are hard on their heels. With pleasantly warm, settled weather in October the stage is set for what should be a spectacular tussle for the podium.

The Games are a massive media spectacle with extensive coverage on TV and radio expected by the BBC. Given the attendance of so many top world athletes like, Chris Hoy, Victoria Pendleton, Tom Daley and Christine Ohuruogu (back to defend her title) it will be a feast of sporting achievement.

"The 17 venues in New Delhi are looking good, with several new stadiums and the existing main stadium receiving a full refurbishment. **The Games will be opened by Prince Charles on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Keep up to date with all the latest news on [www.weareengland.org](http://www.weareengland.org)



**Captions.** Above. Duncan Lewis. Right. Standing - L-R Ann Hogbin, Chief Executive of Commonwealth Games England, Mark Foster, Karen Pickering, Geva Mentor (current England netball international), me and Joanna Robinson (CGE Development Director) Crouching - L-R Alexis Freeman (CGE team), Lawrence Dallaglio, Dame Kelly Holmes (CGE President), Karen Atkinson (current England netball international), Jeffrey Lalwal-Balogun (sprinter).



# Where will you be booking your holiday this year?

By Emma Downey, Branch Manager The Co-operative Travel.



## Internet.....direct with a tour operator.....maybe through Teletext.....?

If you'd prefer to have a professional, knowledgeable real person as opposed to a computer virtual assistant, or a press 1 for this and 2 for that, then why not come to the Co-operative Travel on Station Road in Harpenden. You will meet an experienced team who really care about getting you the right holiday. That's myself, Emma, with Sara and Hayley.

Let me tell you a bit about us. Co-operative Travel are a well established, independent agency with over 400 branches throughout the UK. Previously trading as Andes Travel for 30 years as an independent agency in Harpenden.

Unlike other travel agents we are completely independent allowing us the flexibility to sell you any holiday, from a night out in London with a theatre ticket to a round the world, once in a lifetime dream holiday.

An exciting new venture for us is the launch of our very own brochure. Prices are ridiculously low starting from £139 per person without compromising on quality. There are other added bonuses such as guaranteed free child places (subject to availability) and large family 4 bedded rooms. Plus you can collect points from our popular membership scheme, and by booking a Co-operative Holiday we will give you double, yes double points.

Now you've booked your holiday, what other services can we offer you? Travel insurance is a must. You can insure your family from £25 for a holiday in Europe. We can book airport hotels and car parking or even an airport lounge for under a tenner!

And when you arrive at your destination..... kids want to hit the water park, dad wants some culture and mum wants to see the sights in a limo tour. We can save you time, money and queues for many attractions by pre booking. Now, back to the airport and problems with luggage collection. If you have my luck it will be the last bag around or worse still it doesn't show. Don't worry if you've joined our membership scheme we get a "Tag 'n' Traq." It's a free gift which can track your luggage using a unique tracking number.

One last thing. You may need some currency before you go. We can offer best rates guaranteed on over 80 currencies all commission free, with advice on the best currency to take and the different options available.

**So if you want the financial security of a fully protected holiday and total peace of mind, you know where to come.**  
**The Co-operative Travel in Harpenden.**



Captions. Top left. The local branch in Station Road. Top right. Branch manager Emma Downey. Above. Hayley Moir.

[www.co-operativetravel.co.uk](http://www.co-operativetravel.co.uk)

# Choose your holiday with confidence

## Service with a smile at Thomson



Our customers visit retail shops such as the Thomson shop in Harpenden because of the service we offer consumers who want face to face communication with a knowledgeable agent coupled with the service, experience, comfort and support that our agency is able to provide.

We take time to understand what customers want from their holiday and ensure we treat every customer as an individual with differing needs for what they want to get out of their holiday.

We get just as excited about our customers holiday as they do, and take great pride in forming relationships with our customers who choose to come back to us year after year because we know customers have a choice of where and how they book their holiday so whether that is just picking up a brochure, getting holiday prices, booking their trip or popping in to pick up some foreign currency, we do everything we can to provide for all their holiday needs.



Many of our customers are reluctant to book online because they don't have the time to research their holiday, instead they want to talk to people who have been there or just want the reassurance of Thomson staff.

Our shop in Harpenden has recently had a major refit, bringing a fresher and more modern look and feel to the shop. The shop has a real feeling of quality with large holiday pictures and individual desks so you can talk privately to a member of the team and we now have a foreign exchange bureau. We check our rates daily to ensure we are competitive.



This refit is part of a wider business strategy of modernisation and expansion. In March of this year, Thomson and First Choice outlined their intentions to open up to 35 new shops including new Holiday Superstores over the next two years. This expansion is well underway and outlines our faith in the retail sector as a booking channel for our customers.

*Images. Top left: Deputy Manager Lynda Wain "Check our window for the latest deals" Bottom left: Lynda at the Foreign Currency desk "Commission free currency" Above: Hayley Pattison helping a customer choose a holiday.*

**Thomson**  
**37 High Street, Harpenden. AL5 2SD**  
**01582 765 600**  
[harpenden@thomson-shop.co.uk](mailto:harpenden@thomson-shop.co.uk)

# Cuba Conundrum

By. B. Watson



When we decided to tour Cuba we were tempted by the usual icons of music, rum, old American cars, winter sun, and colourful people. In the event we found them all, but discovered that there is much more to this Caribbean island. Our heads are still spinning from the experience.

We spent two weeks driving 1000 miles from Holguin to Havana via a hinterland almost untouched by tourism.

Everywhere we encountered wonderful live music, in bars, restaurants and public squares. The classic rhythm (son) has spawned others such as salsa, mambo, conga, rumba, chachacha. We recognized some, but to our uneducated ears the wide variety of instruments and styles just merged into a delightful soundtrack. Of course, most music is performed for tourists, but at midnight in the Casa de la Musica, Santiago, we were the only foreigners and the eroticism of the dancers made "Strictly" look like Morris dancing!

Local rum comes in a wide variety of styles and vintages. The best are as smooth as a fine cognac, though we mostly drank it in refreshing mojitos, cuba libras and daiquiris. They were all carefully prepared for just £1.40 each. There are only two brands of beer, and both are mediocre. Wine is almost unknown to Cubans, but imported bottles are available at a price.

Picturesque 1950s American cars really are still used everywhere and we found palm-fringed silver-sand beaches as good as any in the world.

Most memorable, though, are the people.



We found them friendly, helpful and patient, despite the ubiquitous queues.

There is poverty, but rationed staple foods at very low prices mean that no-one goes hungry. The 52 year-old Republic has also provided housing, a good education, and healthcare for all. It is an example to most third world countries, and there is much pride in these achievements.

However, the downsides of socialist living are all too apparent when Cubans are able to talk privately. Foreign travel is prohibited for most, and even internal relocation requires state approval. Political criticism is illegal, all media are subject to censorship, jobs are allocated by the state, and there is no right to strike; a human rights record that has been formally deplored by the EU.

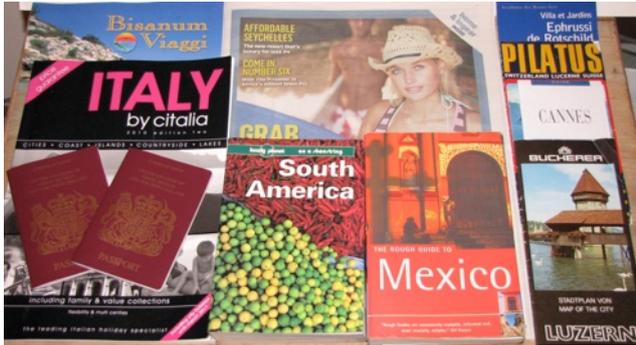
The Castro brothers do not seem to be starting a dynasty, and the next generation of leaders will no doubt deliver the much-heralded transformation of this anachronistic and intriguing country. In the meantime is it a socialist paradise, a totalitarian nightmare, or a Caribbean island gem?

Don't ask me! All I know is that we had a great time indulging all our senses and we are left with a real affection for the people that we met.

# Is it safe to be your own travel agent?

By our Travel Correspondent

When Globespan went into administration last December, some 4,500 holidaymakers were stranded abroad. Most had booked on the internet, and reading about their plight made many of us who arrange our own holidays on-line think twice about the risks involved.



Is it foolhardy to act as your own travel agent, and would you be safer going back to the high street? Twenty seven airlines have failed in the past two years alone, so it is not a hypothetical concern.

Just over 1000 of the stranded Globespan passengers found that they had ATOL protection; they could continue their holidays knowing that repatriation would be organised, and paid for, by the scheme. Most did not, and had to make their own arrangements. The difference was the type of holiday they were on, not how they booked.

ATOL applies only to package bookings with tour operators. It is not available for flight-only or accommodation-only bookings, even if made through an ABTA/ATOL travel agent. ABTA is just a trade association; buying direct from the tour operator or via a travel agent has no impact on your protection status.



On the other hand, how you pay does have an impact. A credit card is always best as the card company will be liable to refund any payments over £100. This also applies to some debit cards – check with your bank.

Travel insurance is the only other recourse in the event of company failure, and policy wordings vary greatly. You need to read your actual policy to be sure, but I found that my own provides no cover.

If you want a specialist holiday or a round-the-world ticket it may well make sense to use a travel agent, but it adds little or nothing to your protection. For all other bookings; keep on clicking, check you have ATOL for package tours, pay by credit card, and look for travel insurance that covers airline failure.



**In my experience, booking on-line is quicker, more flexible, cheaper and easier than booking through a travel agent, and it is no more risky.**



The idea to launch an e-zine began in November with a special assembly to Sixth Formers about journalism. As PR Prefects for Roundwood Park School, Sarah and I were charged with designing, producing and managing the school magazine – ParkLife - which will be available via Roundwood Park’s website, [www.roundwoodpark.herts.sch.uk](http://www.roundwoodpark.herts.sch.uk)

The final product had to be entertaining and dynamic whilst simultaneously presenting a professional image to a reader. Ewan volunteered to help us achieve this goal and together we formed a close knit team. The initial steps involved advertising for a series of sub-editors and reporters, each responsible for a section of the magazine (Arts, Sport etc.). The take up from the Sixth Form was impressive, allowing the editing team to pick and choose from a wide range of highly proficient and interesting

articles. These were then converted into a clear yet eye catching layout and processed on the computer into the finished product. Ewan and Sarah both commented on the commitment and organizational skills of the team as well as citing their own personal thoughts about the magazine itself:

“In order to consolidate and prepare myself for my intended study of History and English at university I offered myself as an editor for this production. The magazine’s design has been extremely fun and entertaining to participate in despite the ever present and sometimes, unending discussions on formatting and content. The people working on the magazine have been dedicated and resourceful and I do not doubt I am alone in being very proud of our achievement. I look forward to passing on my role as editor to the new year 13s and feel privileged to have kick started the project.” Ewan.

“As PR Prefect I was offered the opportunity to develop and produce this exciting new magazine. The posting suited me perfectly, supporting my desire to study creative writing at university. The chance to not only submit my own work but also explore other people’s interests and ideas was both exciting and educational. The magazine at first was a daunting prospect but our team’s ability to meet deadlines with a very high quality of material, contributed to its success. I wish the new year 13s the best of luck in continuing this fulfilling venture and greatly anticipate further issues!” Sarah.

In conclusion, the magazine from start to finish has offered the three of us a demanding but hugely enjoyable challenge. The experience in managing and coordinating the effort will doubtless prove useful in our futures and we can take solace and pride in being able to look back as ParkLife moves from strength to strength next year under the guidance of the new editing team.

Written by Oliver, Year 13.

Photo who’s who (from left to right): Ewan, Sarah and Olly

**SCROLL DOWN FOR PAGE 2 OF PARK LIFE**

# NEWS



In the week beginning 1st February 2010, Sixth Formers at Roundwood Park School were privileged to have the opportunity to go on two trips.

The week began with an eventful trip to Parliament for Politics and Sociology students (as pictured). After arriving early at Harpenden train station, we left excited about the day ahead. After a quick lunch and shop around London we arrived at the entrance and many were surprised to find that the entrance was on the opposite side of the road to where we had thought it would have been. On arrival inside the building we were quickly thrilled by the appearance of David Cameron in the Lobby and then by Jacqui Smith walking into the House of Commons. After a quick wave we headed off on our tour and saw John Bercow, speaker of the House of Commons, make his way into the chamber.

We then watched proceedings in both Houses for a while. This was particularly interesting as we were able to see the differences in the workings of each House as well as marvel at the grand architecture in the Lords.

At the end of the day we had been left with what was felt an extremely enjoyable experience by all. However, just as we were about to leave for home, David Milliband, the Foreign Secretary, made his way through the lobby and, after being waved at by some excited members of our group, stopped to talk to us. He seemed interested to find out more about us and how we came to be interested in politics, so much so he was almost late for his speech in the House of Commons.

If that wasn't enough excitement for one week, on Friday 5th February, English Students were also privileged to spend a day in London, this time at the BBC Broadcasting House. There students learnt how to animate examples of poetry which are part of their A Level English curriculum.

"It was a different trip that made me think outside the box," noted one student, "[as it] helped me break down and understand the poem further." However, as is always the case at Roundwood Park, this trip was eventful as, whilst walking to lunch, our students were filmed whilst they were inadvertently talking about ITV. Needless to say, the camera crew will not be using that footage!

The canteen at the BBC was another attraction for students as there was "so much food," as one noted. Then, to finish off yet another interesting day, the students were given a BBC souvenir, in the form of a lanyard.

Written by Georgina, Year 12.

Photograph taken by Roundwood's guide around the Houses of Parliament

# SOUNDWOOD

Every issue, we take a brilliantly-titled peek at some of the brand-spanking new talent emerging on our very soil. This time, it's double-act *In Her Image*, comprised of Roundwood students Rory and Alex (pictured), who we caught up with after their most recent gig at the St. Albans Pioneer. The pair has produced some tantalising twists on existing songs in addition to beautifully composed melodies of their own. So without further ado, we put *In Her Image* in your ears...



**SW: So, Alex, who do *In Her Image* sound like...**

It's all acoustic, but I'd say the solos are reminiscent of Eric Clapton and you can definitely see some Arctic Monkeys in there.

**SW: What was it that inspired you to start the band?**

Rory was always a fan of acoustic artists and from being in our other band *Intermission* we knew from the outset that we could write well together. Mostly, we just wanted to explore some new directions in our music.

**SW: So do you write your music together? What's the normal process?**

Normally one of us will have a riff which we'll show to the other. Since we've both got similar tastes, we'll have similar ideas on what we can make out of the bare riffs or chords – we just seem to blend them together into a sort of messy jam. After that we'll cut unnecessary bits or add things that are missing until we have a finished product.

**SW: Got any funny stories to tell us?**

Pretty much every time we play together is a funny story! For example, in the past Rory has forgotten the tuning to some of our songs – you're about to do a solo and suddenly you're hearing completely the wrong notes in the background! The good thing is we're used to stuff like this, so usually we can improvise or pull through it when it happens on stage. If not, we'll turn it into a joke on Rory for the crowd.

**SW: Yes, we hear that Rory is gaining something of a cult following from your fans... is it true that you toyed with calling yourselves 'Acoustic Rory'?**

When we started it was Rory's own solo side project, so he got a lot of stick from the band, who used to call him Acoustic Rory. The name stuck for a while but when he asked me to join we changed it to something that would better represent both of us. Now and then we still call him Acoustic Rory for a laugh, though!

**SW: Good stuff... so what can we expect from *In Her Image* in the near future?**

Well we're recording an EP at the moment that we'll be giving out at gigs, so some new material and hopefully more shows to come from that. For now, we've got some gigs lined up at the Pioneer in St. Albans, and have demos and practise videos on our Facebook for anyone who wants to take a look.

**LISTEN TO: 'Cigarettes In Summertime'**

The most interesting thing about *In Her Image* is the way in which the soft guitars blend with surprisingly intricate vocal melodies – a technique which can be seen in this song. The spiralling chorus is guaranteed to stick in your head long after you listen and the lyrics add a beautiful poetry to the whole thing ("When tomorrow comes, in all of its virtue, remember me please as we gleam in the sun"). A great song that, with professional production, could easily pass as a composition from a band with decades more experience.

**SOUNDS LIKE:** A minimalistic Killers with lashings of Marmaduke Duke's experimental originality.

Listen to the band's songs at [www.myspace.com/inher1image](http://www.myspace.com/inher1image) or search for their fan page on Facebook.

Written by Bob, Year 12.

Photograph by Sophie, Year 12.

# COMMUNITY

Getting involved in the local community is something that all students at Roundwood Park School are encouraged to do. Sixth Formers especially are meant to show an example to the younger school with regards to the community. Every Wednesday afternoon is an allocated free period whereby it is obligatory for Sixth Formers to get out of the classroom and do something worthwhile, either a sporting or voluntary activity in the local area. On a Wednesday afternoon you are sure to find Roundwood Park students staffing charity shops and helping out in old people's homes and primary schools.

On top of this, there are other many opportunities which Roundwood students have been channelling their energy into. Every other year the school in partnership with Outlook Expeditions offers students aged over 16 the life-changing opportunity to travel to Africa for a month to provide help to deprived and undeveloped communities. Students are required to raise the £3,500 by themselves for this trip by organising fund raising opportunities in their local area. This year's Africa expedition group is travelling to Zambia, Botswana and Namibia this summer and we wish them the best of luck!

Roundwood Park School also has a very active Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, run by Louise Crosby and David Green, who were given a special award at the last Year 11 leavers' day for the fantastic job they do. Part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award involves taking part in a regular service to the community. Each year at Roundwood Park an average of 60 Year 10 students opt to take their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award which requires this community service.

Roundwood students are also very active on the Harpenden Youth Town Council, which is a great opportunity for all the schools in Harpenden to work together. The Youth Town Council is not a political group and is open to students aged 11 to 18 in Harpenden and the surrounding areas. Its aim is to give young people a voice in Harpenden and to try and get as many young people as possible involved in shaping and improving facilities within our community.

Dedicating time and energy towards the community is something that all Roundwood Park students are given an opportunity to do and has help many to discover what they want to do.

Written by Georgie, Year 12.

## ParkLife



Left: The ParkLife Editorial Team, flanked by (left) English teacher Louise Carter and (right) Harpenden's Amanda Thomas

Photo by Ron Taylor



## Positive career help for under 25's in a tough market.

By Sally Wells Managing Director Kids2Work Ltd.

In September last year youth unemployment hit 947,000 as the jobless rate of the under 25's hit one in five. With only 24% of employers aiming to recruit this age group, a major problem existed, even for well qualified school leavers and university graduates.

However one local business woman decided there was a real need to try and help these young people in their career search. Sally Wells established a company in January 2010 called Kids2Works Ltd ([www.kids2work.co.uk](http://www.kids2work.co.uk)) to help young job seekers stand out in the crowd by giving them confidence, better tools, and focus in their job search. Uniquely all Kids2Work Associates come from a business background and the company has access to probably the UK's largest database of jobs through associations with international recruitment businesses.

"In the last 14 years I have helped thousands of people find jobs and felt that this experience should be used to good effect"

Sally has worked with many local young people ranging in age from 14 to 50! However most of her clients are in the 16-24 age group all in very different circumstances.

Ben Springate, 16, is still at school and is unsure of what to do next, whether to take a gap year or go to university or go straight into the world of work. Ben says: "Sally really helped me understand the consequences of each action and by providing me with an action plan focussed me on researching all the options out there. I now have a much better understanding of what is available to me".

Jonathan Gray, 24, a graduate from Durham University, is seen in the attached video clip explaining how he was helped through the programme, and has now started in a role that takes him on the first steps to a great career.

Ani Sharp, 21, left school with 8 GCSE's and 3 A's levels and tried to work in an office but it really didn't suit her. Her parents were desperate to help but struggled to find a way, however as a result of coming to Kids2Work Ani has now embarked on her dream career training to be Norland nurse. Ani says "I was delighted by the support received by Sally. The psychometric profile really helped me understand what I was good at and what career I was best suited to. Sally really helped me focus on my career direction and I am really happy now doing something I am good at!"



Sally Wells Managing Director Kids2Work Ltd.

# More than job seeking skills... a guide to career fulfillment.



By Sally Wells Managing Director Kids2Work Ltd.

## The course comprises of the following:

- An online psychometric profile.
- A 2 hour face to face consultation in an office environment in full interview conditions to include:
- Thomas PPT psychometric profiling and feedback from a qualified assessor.
- An experienced consultant who has interviewed and recruited hundreds of people in a work, non school or university environment who will provide real objective focus to the job search.
- Interview skills counselling including body language, clothing, eye contact, questioning and answering guidance.
- CV support- re-writing CVs when required to be best in class.
- Access to the UK's largest database of jobs through Randstad the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest recruitment company and Alexander Mann Solutions the world's largest Recruitment Process Outsourcing Company.
- Guidance on Internet job boards, how they work and how best to get your CV noticed. Also help in identifying the right job boards for an individuals needs.
- An agreed action plan, which can be presented to both the individual and the parents.
- Up to 3 follow up contacts over the next 3 months which could be for the following reasons:

Post interview feedback

Job application support

CV re-writing for specific roles

Interview skills refresh

Confidence giving before an interview

Contact Sally Wells for more details and costs: 01438 832253/ 07968 560345

[sallywells@kids2work.co.uk](mailto:sallywells@kids2work.co.uk)

[www.kids2work.co.uk](http://www.kids2work.co.uk)

## Student Feed Back



**Mike Harris** (above)

“The session with Kids2Work consultant really helped me focus on my job search. I am now in a paid role that supports my long term ambitions”



**Emma Heys** (above)

“I felt that the Kids2Work consultation was extremely helpful in providing me with confirmation that I was looking for jobs that match my skills and giving me more focus in my job search”

## Video Interview with Jonathan Grey Thursday April 8th

Here is still from the interview between Sally Wells and Jonathan Grey. See the whole video on You Tube. Click the link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-ds2lLgRKY>



# Nobody knows more about Harpenden!

By Ron Taylor. Editor

**Harpenden Directory** was conceived 18 months ago by Tony McFarland (below) who had previously worked in Sales and Marketing where he managed Corporate Accounts such as Adecco UK, AstraZeneca and The Carphone Warehouse.



Seeing an opportunity to engage with local businesses the Harpenden Directory was born.

Now well established online and with demand from local businesses recently published in a conventional paper directory, it has served the needs of the local community well with many Businesses praising the quality of the Directory and the amount of work it continues to generate.

## Going digital

However with digital markets moving fast, the existing Harpenden Directory website is undergoing some major changes that will allow users to search not only for Shops and Businesses in the local area but communicate with friends and colleagues through the social networking side of the site. People will be able to post their local events and inform users that have subscribed when and where these events will take place. Another feature will be the Group Section where local groups, clubs, societies, schools such as the Harpenden Pipe band, The Lions, Roundwood Park School can post information about their organization and invite people to join and contribute to the group on an ongoing basis.

The new strategy makes life a lot easier for local residents and business to find up to the minute information quickly and easily by allowing business and group leaders to update their own information about forthcoming events.



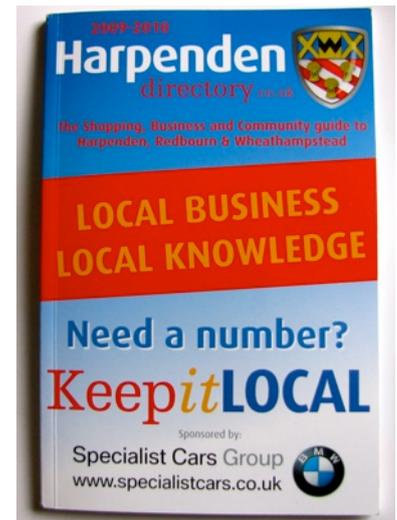
To advertise contact: 01582 469117  
[www.harpendendirectory.co.uk](http://www.harpendendirectory.co.uk)

## HOW THE DIRECTORY WORKS FOR US

*"I recently chose to promote my company on the Harpenden Directory and have been very happy with the response I have received to date.*

*Just recently I had an enquiry for a garden project for £7,500 which has now converted to an order; I also have 6 Reviews from satisfied clients giving me a 5 star rating, giving prospective clients some peace of mind when dealing with Badger Landscapes"*

**Pete Stevenson**  
**Badger Landscapes**



*"Dear Mike  
 I would just like to say a big thank you for all your assistance with your printed Directory....  
 As soon as your Directory hit the door mats of local people in Harpenden...my phone hasn't stopped ringing.....I picked up 3 jobs in the first week of it being delivered, enabling me to invoice in excess of £1750.....I am really impressed and grateful for the response from local residents, who have really embraced the Town Council's Keep it local campaign"*

**IAN MINAL, Director, IGM  
 Plumbing and Heating. 18th March 2010**

**CONTINUED.....SCROLL DOWN FOR MORE OF THIS ARTICLE**

# Nobody knows more about Harpenden!

By Ron Taylor. Editor

## Keeping it Local

With **Harpenden Directory Online** local businesses can ensure that they are communicating their message constantly to local users. By enhancing their listing they are able to promote their business in multiple categories and enhance its presentation with: Description, Image Gallery, Map, Reviews, Offers, Menu/Document Downloads, Website and Email links.

*“In the days of supermarket domination and dwindling high street independents it is important that as a local community we fully support our local Retailers and Businesses.*

*Locally owned businesses recycle three times more revenue back into the local economy, for example purchasing from local producers, thereby enriching the entire community”*

*Tony McFarland*

**“We are working with the local Town Council to ensure that the Keep it Local campaign is kept in the spotlight as much as possible and ensuring Shops, Businesses and Residents are aware of all the services available in Harpenden and the surrounding villages”**

**Council representative Mike Weaver (below)**



### On your doorstep

Based at **No.65 High Street** the headquarters of Harpenden Directory, there is a staff of three who look after the day to day requirements of a multitude of different customers. From enhanced listing online, promoting goods and services to E-mail marketing campaigns to 1,000's of local residents informing them of up and coming offers and events.

### The future is bright in Harpenden

They want to energize the business community in Harpenden to the benefits of modern marketing. Not just digital but with a balance of traditional techniques. They have recently introduced a Bluetooth marketing service allowing them to broadcast animated messages throughout the local area updating people with special offers. So make sure you turn on to receive these offers on a regular basis.

## The Directory Team

**Tony McFarland (below) owner of the Harpenden Directory. Day to day responsibility for back office functions and production.**



**Mike Hamilton (below) responsible for sales and new business development. I fell in love with selling when I worked for a local newspaper in St Albans and Harpenden at the age of 18. Having lived in Harpenden all my life I am passionate about keeping the town and local areas vibrant with business.**



**Victoria Graham (below) Responsible for marketing and sales development, Victoria has extensive experience in this discipline having worked for easyjet in Luton.**



# Make your own silver jewellery

By Joanna Mason



Ever wanted to bend and mould metal in your hands? Well now you can. Silver Clay is a revolutionary new material that can be worked in the same way as clay and when fired leaves your design with all its detail in pure silver! You can learn how to work with this amazing material right here in **Harpenden**, at The Hertfordshire School of Jewellery – located at **Thrales End Farm**. Silver jewellery making can be rewarding, satisfying and a great outlet for stress – as 7 individuals found out last Sunday at The Hertfordshire School of Jewellery. They all attended the Introduction to Silver Clay Workshop to learn how to work with this amazing new material. Taught by HSJ Director and Professional Jewellery Artist **Joanna Mason** the students learnt step by step with hands on involvement at all the stages how to create beautiful silver jewellery. Joanna said: “Silver Clay is such a special material to work with as you don’t need lots of expensive equipment and you can start creating on your kitchen table at home!”

Silver Clay is a mixture of pure silver particles, water and an organic binder. Hertfordshire School of Jewellery students learn how to work the Silver Clay in its lump form where it can be rolled out, textured, modelled and cut into shape. The sky really is the limit here! After drying, which removes the water content; the student sanded and filed their creations ready for firing.

Now comes the magical part...Students then learnt how to fire their jewellery using a small butane gas torch. This firing process removes the organic binder to leave your designs in pure 999 silver. Not only were the students happy with their beautiful creations but were also amazed at how many pieces they finished in one day.



One of the attendees Sue from Herts said: “Absolutely excellent class. Highly recommended.”

Helen from Herts said: Jo is a great teacher with an encouraging and enthusiastic manner. She creates a really good atmosphere in which to work.”

Lisa from London said: To pack so much into one day whilst still having fun and being inspired is an amazing accomplishment. I would recommend to anyone!”

Bernie from Herts said: “Am surprised to come away with 3 pendants and 2 pairs of earrings all in one day!” The Introduction to Silver Clay Workshop held at The Hertfordshire School of Jewellery costs £85 for the 6 hour day. Runs from 10am – 4.30pm and includes



all your materials (including 17g Silver Clay), tools, expert tuition and refreshments. And of course you get to take all of your jewellery creations home with you!

The Hertfordshire School of Jewellery runs a comprehensive selection of jewellery making workshops for the beginner and more experienced artist alike. The Hertfordshire School of Jewellery was started by jewellery artist and silversmith **Joanna Mason** who wanted to share her skills and creations with local community. Joanna aims to awaken the inbuilt creativity which we all possess, endeavouring to improve mental, physical and emotional wellbeing through the creative process.

Joanna said: “Programmes such as ‘Kirstie’s Homemade Home’ have emphasised Britain's need to get crafting again. I’m so passionate about Silver Clay because it really is as limitless as your imagination!” Log on to the website for details of the next Silver Clay Workshop and all of The Hertfordshire School of Jewellery’s creative classes at: [www.hertfordshireschoolofjewellery.co.uk](http://www.hertfordshireschoolofjewellery.co.uk)



Joanna Mason (left) with students showing their work from the course on March 21st



## Colourful Summer Days

By Renata Rybczyk-Savage. (above) The Plantsitter.

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy a long, bright burst of colour in your garden. These days the variety of plants available seems never ending, with a choice for those of us who are green-fingered and those of us that just want to relax in an easy to maintain garden.

Among the most common summer plants to fill your beds and borders with are; lobelia, begonia, dahlia, gladiolus, busy lizzie and geranium. All can be grown from seed (or bulb) or purchased as young plants to transplant to your beds.

The key to a great looking garden is a little thoughtful planting. Always look at the maximum heights that a plant will reach, for instance Cosmos will grow at 1.5m, whereas Antirrhinum will usually grow to 50cm at most and lobelia a humble few centimetres from the ground. Try to combine different colours too. Most plants will come with a variety of colours for their flowers but you can also plant companions which have a different foliage colour. Grasses come in red, black and blue, while heucheras come with foliage varying from lime green to purple or peach colours and are great ground cover plants.

Perennials such as dahlias and clematis never cease to satisfy the eye year after year but care must be taken to look after them to ensure the successful flowering every year. Among the easiest to grow are the annuals, as you don't need to care for them much.



Once you've planted your summer beds and borders you will need to water little and often, occasionally adding some feed to boost the number of flowers each plant will produce. Remember to remove dead flowers as this will encourage more flowers and a longer flowering period. Finally: just sit back and relax and take in the marvellous view!

Finally, for those of us that don't have big gardens or any beds to spare there are the pots, troughs and window boxes. These can be filled with any summer flowering plants to grace your home and in any colour that brings a smile to your face on those lazy summer days.

A great web site for advice on individual plants is Shooting Gardening or you could try the RHS and look through their plant finder. When shopping in a garden centre don't be afraid to ask - a good nursery will have knowledgeable staff that are always happy to use their experience to help you.

For more information go to the following web sites:

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

[www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

**Renata Rybczyk-Savage**

Website: [www.theplantsitter.co.uk](http://www.theplantsitter.co.uk) E-mail:

[renata@theplantsitter.co.uk](mailto:renata@theplantsitter.co.uk)

See my next column in the Summer edition of HARPENDIA.

# APPENDIA

## Looking forward to Summer

### EXCITING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

#### HARPENDEN CARNIVAL

Harpenden Round Table are preparing once again to stage the hugely popular Harpenden Carnival in Rothamstead Park on **Sunday 23rd May** 2010.

The theme this year is "Africa" and a multitude of events and activities reflecting this will be on offer:

Live demonstrations by the internationally renowned Drum Café The Kangaroos Gymnastics Display Team, one of the leading gymnastics entertainment teams in the UK. Food and drink from the Carnival Café. A beer tent provided by the Engineer Pub, and food from Lussmanns of St Albans

Carnival Chairman, Jeremy Ledger, says *"Last year's event was very successful and we are confident we can introduce an even larger and more varied day for the whole family to enjoy"*.

Last year the Round Table, assisted by Circle, Tangent, 41 Club, Rotary and Explorer Scouts, raised over £10,000 for charitable donations and if you would also like to be involved please contact [harpendencarnival@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:harpendencarnival@yahoo.co.uk).

For more information please visit the Harpenden Round Table website at [www.harpendenroundtable.org](http://www.harpendenroundtable.org).

#### DIVAS CHARITY CONCERT 5th JUNE

A Dazzle of Divas Charity Concert in aid of The Children's Society. St John's Church Harpenden 7.30pm. £12 to include a glass of wine For details call 01582 621286

#### ROTHAMSTED RESEARCH OPEN WEEKEND. MAY 22 & 23.

11am - 5pm and free admission For details call Margeret Creighton 01582 763133

### HARPENDIA MAGAZINE SUMMER FEATURES

#### CHILDWICKBURY ARTS FAIR JULY 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

A preview of this important weekend of art and music, with an exclusive interview with Katharina Kubrick Phelps and a recipe from top vegetarian chef Celia Brooks Brown.

#### SUMMER MOTORING

Views from local auto dealers, car care specialists and conversion experts.

**CLASSICS ON THE COMMON**  
Conversations with some of the organisers and participants.

#### HARPENDEN YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

How the HYTC are contributing to Harpenden society.

#### SUMMER SPORTS

Details of sport you know about and some you may never of heard of.

#### THE GARDENING COLUMN

A hanging basket feature with lots of surprises.

#### PLUS

Lots more news, views and features.

**THE SUMMER EDITION of HARPENDIA PUBLISHES END OF JUNE.**