Summer 2014
Out & About Guide
Events • Entertainment • Food & Drink

New look for an old friend: P23-25
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Big date for local girls

Young women from across Chesterfield are being invited to a festival to encourage them to get active and have some fun.

The Us Girls Rocks Festival, a female only event, arrives at Newbold Community School on 2nd August.

The event hosted by the town’s Crystal Cheer and Dance, features a range of sports for young women to try and aims to get a generation of young women active.

Activities include cheerleading, dance fitness, boxing, handball, netball, football, martial arts, fencing, archery and much more. As a reward for having a go, participants will be able to enjoy free beauty treatments, plus there will be goodie bags and prizes up for grabs.

Organiser, Stephanie Miles, said: “The Us Girls Rocks Festivals are all about bringing young women together to have fun playing sport, removing all the barriers such as cost, equipment, ability and body image.

“We are expecting at least 100 young women and girls to come along, some of which will be trying certain sports for the first time.”

The day is aimed at young women aged 13 to 26 but they are encouraged to bring their friends, sisters, mum and aunts to join in.

For more information, go to www.usgirls.org.uk or follow the action on Twitter @UsGirlsTweet or on facebook.com/UsGirlsGetActive

Dave on stage for ‘Crying Game’ 50th anniversary

We report elsewhere in this issue of Twist on an event which will be taking Chesterfield folk back to the 80s... but a music show at The Winding Wheel will be going even further back in time.

If you remember dancing to the latest rock ‘n’ roll sounds at town centre venues ‘The Vic’ and ‘Jimmy’s’ in the 1950s and early 1960s, a date for your diary is Saturday, September 27th.

Local recording stars Dave Berry & The Cruisers and The Cadillacs are to feature at a show in aid of the local Nenna Kind Cancer Centre’s Weston Park Hospital Transport Appeal.

The show co-incides with the 50th anniversary of Dave riding high in the Hit Parade with his most famous UK hit, ‘The Crying Game’. It promises to be a wonderful evening of nostalgia with great live music from the early days of rock ‘n’ roll. Tickets (£14 advance, £16 on the night) from Chesterfield Theatres Box Office and online at www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk

Cover: The restored and refurbished Manor at Brampton

Dave Berry... Back on stage in Chesterfield on the 50th anniversary of his big chart hit

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Eighties were greaties

The 1980s were a golden era for Chesterfield, despite the town ignoring Simon Cowell!

He’s now one of the most recognisable faces on the planet, but few gave Simon Cowell a second look when he visited Chesterfield in the mid-1980s.

Clubbers at a packed Moulin Rouge on Elder Way were far more interested in his then girlfriend, Sinitta, who was performing at the popular nightspot.

DJ Dave Whyld remembers it well: “She performed for about 20 minutes and got paid nearly £2,500. The place was absolutely packed but no-one gave Simon Cowell a second glance, all they were interested in was Sinetta”

The show is one of the many recollections Dave has of an era that saw him grow to become one of the most sought-after DJs in the area; memories he thought had been consigned to history until the publication of the ‘Dirty Stop Out’s Guide to 1980s Chesterfield’ last year brought renewed interest in his talents.

Dave is now back in demand and returns to the decks for ‘Eighties! The Biggest Reunion... Ever’ - a night inspired by the book - at Chesterfield’s Proact Stadium on Saturday, July 26.

He’ll be spinning the tunes that provided a soundtrack to the 1980s generations at venues like Montmartre and the Moulin Rouge for much of the era.

Dave, like many disc jockeys of the era, started out as a mobile DJ but his talents were soon spotted by club owners.

He said: “I started as a mobile DJ which I did for a couple of years until I was offered the job as a DJ at Ziggis on Brampton - one of the area’s first fun pubs.”

He was best known as the DJ face of Montmartre nightclub on Stephenson Place which was the result of a £1.2m revamp of the former Fascination nightclub.

Dave remembers the 1980s as a great era for going out in the town.

He said: “It was a fantastic time to be growing up. There really was so much going on in so many venues.”

Dave remembers many great nights at the Moulin Rouge where he often DJed.

“I remember the night Simon Wickes, actor Nick Berry, of ‘Eastenders’, did a PA. It was absolutely packed and women were throwing their knickers at him!”

Tickets for the big reunion are £7.50 each and available from www.acmretro.com or from the CFC ticket line on 01246 209765, ext. 4162.

The event will be raising money for Ashgate Hospice.

A busy weekend at the Moulin Rouge in the mid-1980s

Above: DJ Dave Whyld (far right) and other DJs and beauty contest hopefuls at Moulin Rouge in the 1980s

Left: Ziggi’s fun bar at Brampton in Chesterfield where Dave Whyld was a DJ
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On parade at The Proact

Former Armed Services personnel now have help and advice close at hand through a monthly meeting at the town’s football ground

Support is on hand for ex-members of the Armed Forces at a community hub marking six months of being up and running.

Each month, representatives of organisations which provide services to former forces personnel gather at Chesterfield’s Proact Stadium.

Information and advice is provided in areas including housing, law, debt management, employment, work training, mental health services and leisure activities.

At the latest meeting, Lord Mayor of Chesterfield, Alexis Diouf, and local MP, Tony Perkins, were given an insight into the initiative.

Angela Stansfield, employer and partnership manager for Job Centre Plus Chesterfield, who is involved in the project, said it was about bringing under one roof all the support that’s available for people who have left the forces, are about to, or their families.

She said: “We’ve had about 20 people come along for each of the six events we’ve run and they’ve served in various conflicts, including the Falkland Islands and Afghanistan.

“We don’t know exactly how many others there are in the town who could benefit because data isn’t available, but we hope more people will hear about the hub and come along.”

Adjusting to civilian life can be difficult for those who have left the services, especially if due to redundancy or ill health.

The Chesterfield Ex-Forces Hub meets in the stadium’s East Stand on the last Friday of the month, between 10am and noon. For more information, visit www.cafandvh.wix.com/forces-vets-hub or just turn up.

Joe Roberts of Newbold uses the Proact Stadium meeting to promote the Armed Forces Event at Poolsbrook Country Park
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The team, who between them have a combined experience of more than 50 years in the trade, carry out all manner of work from a puncture repair to a complete engine rebuild. This includes servicing, brakes, exhausts and full diagnostics on most vehicles. MoTs can also be arranged.

The business’s friendly and honest approach has won them many loyal customers, often from the same families or friendship groups.

Rob said: “A lot of the work we get is by recommendation and that’s especially true of women customers who probably account for about half of our business.

“Our ethos is to use good products and never cut corners, rush a job, or return a car until we’re completely happy. We always take pride in looking after cars and people appreciate this.”

The centre is open six days a week, from 9am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, and 8.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday.

Baton’s lofty appearance

Chesterfield’s Crooked Spire was the setting of a double celebration for local members of the Women’s Institute.

The Rutland Group of WIs, made of ten branches in the area, took receipt of a special baton making its way around the country in the run-up to the national organisation’s centenary next year. In addition, the Rutland Group is marking its own 70th anniversary.

The church was decorated in flowers in the WI colours of green, white and yellow, for a week-long festival in honour of the occasion.

Chesterfield Mayor Alexis Diouf attended to take official acceptance of the baton and then his wife and Mayoress, Vicki Anne, carried the symbolic item up the church tower, accompanied by Chrissie Booth, chairman of the Derbyshire Federation of WIs.

Rutland Group convener, Debbie Waters, said: “It was a very special day and supported by members of the public. The baton was passed around representatives of each of the individual WIs in the Rutland Group.

“Some of the floral displays were sponsored by local companies and our thanks go to them as well as Audrey Fretwell, the ‘flower lady’ at the Crooked Spire, for all her help and assistance.”

Frank Berry, resident organist of The Annunciation Church, Chesterfield, also gave a recital on the day which included an arrangement of ‘The Dam Busters March’ and WI ‘anthem’, ‘Jerusalem’.

Each federation visited during the WI relay will upload 12 photos to a memory stick stored within the baton to represent their members.

Chrissie Booth (DFWI County Chairman), Vicki Anne Diouf (Mayoress of Chesterfield) and Sheila Berry (DFWI Trustee)
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RECORD numbers of car enthusiasts turned out for the Eckington Classic Car & Bike Show, organised by the Rotary Club of Chesterfield.

Almost 3,000 classic car and bike enthusiasts from all over the region gathered at Renishaw Hall to see 500 vehicles from every era on display.

The event, now in its tenth year, raised £7,000 for three local charities: Weston Park Cancer Charity, Bluebell Wood Children’s Hospice and Chesterfield’s Ashgate Hospice.

Main organiser Stuart Bradley said: “Renishaw Hall is such a splendid location for this charitable event and over the last ten years the sum of nearly £40,000 has been raised for the local charities.

“It always amazes me how far people travel but they are very proud of their cars and love to show them to other people.”

While, said Stuart, the show was often hit by rain, the weather this year was warm and sunny.

The winning classic car was a 1925 McLaughlin Buick, originally manufactured in Canada and imported for sale in England. Current owner is Bob Fergusson from Eckington who bought the car 25 years ago as a wreck after it had been garaged in London since 1939.

The winning classic bike was a 1961 500cc Triumph Tiger 100 SS, owned by Lawrence Bradley, of Bolsover. He has spent the last seven years renovating the machine.

Top prize for classic scooter went to a 1965 180cc Vespa SS 180 which has been owned by Ray Copley, from Killamarsh, for the last seven years. He is a member of the Killamarsh Nomads Scooter Club.

As well as classic motors, the show featured musical entertainment from Direction Theatre Arts, a variety of stalls and amusements, plus refreshments. The event was sponsored by new and used car dealership Autoworld.

Stuart added: “I want to thank everyone for their wonderful support once again and look forward to seeing everyone at Renishaw Hall, in June 2015.”

The next Rotary Classic Car & Bike Show is at Rectory Fields, Ashover, on Sunday, 27th July, from 10am to 4pm.
The latest issue of the Sheffield nostalgia periodical

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Hey lads, it's a Streak!

O you ever find yourself getting all misty-eyed about the things that have gone forever? Take heart, for nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

However, we also need to make sure that we don't look at the world through rose-tinted bifocals. OK, so we never locked our houses, and everybody was in and out of each others’ place all day long, but only because we had nothing worth nicking.

Would the criminal with the flat cap, mask, striped jersey and bag marked “SWAG”, who breaks into the local Manor House to nick the Coalport or the Spode, bother sneaking his way in to No 23A to lift a couple of jamjars 'cos we couldn’t afford cups?

Whereas somewhere posh may well have a telly, a video and a computer to pinch, in those days the most valuable item in our house was the matchbox on the mantelpiece with the three bob for the gas and an expired pools coupon. (Actually, my Dad did once get 11 draws, but since that week there were about 42 across the country, the payout per person was about two and ninepence.)

Oh, but we had certain things that nobody has these days - like diphtheria, the Nit Nurse, sour school milk that “Miss” had put on the radiator to thaw out, loo paper that could double up as tracing paper, seriously chapped knees as a result of short trousers and nothing to watch, there was less stress, people said that it was “nearly half past” as opposed to the digital 2:28, or, worse yet, 14:28 and trains ran in Miles Per Hour.

You didn’t need to remember 23 PIN numbers and passwords were something you used to get in contact with a spy. You know the kind of thing, you say “The grey goose flies over Grandmother’s potting shed”, and he replies “Baby has got new shoes!” prior to a conversation that decides the fate of the Western World. But there are improvements as well. For example, Archie Andrews is no longer on the radio and oxtail soup is a thing of the past. And yet, and yet...

Do you remember going to your Gran’s on Sunday, for tea? Either tinned ham or tinned salmon, with a skerrick of tomato, a minuscule, skinny slice of cucumber in vinegar, grated carrots, cold peas and on High Days and Holidays mayhap a cold boiled spud.

What I do remember was my Grandad cutting the bread. He would butter (marge) the end of the loaf, hold it to his woolly cardigan and cut it to exactly three-sixteenths of an inch, plus or minus two thou. He is the only man in history who could cut a Hovis so finely that you could read the paper through it. You could have shaved with his bread knife, it was that sharp.

Only yesterday (Sunday, since you ask), I thought of him, as I sat on a settee in Kolkata Bengali and tried to decide between a Chicken Bhuna, a Vegetable Biryani, a Lamb Dopiaza or a Prawn Bindi. Choice is the curse of the 21st Century, since I ended up with a Machli Jalfrezi, and superb it was, too. Not a single grating of carrot in sight. I admit, I was tempted by two and ninepence.) What perverse derangement of the grey matter does it take to think that pilchards are edible? Or sardines? Boiled cabbage?

Rub. Having said that too much choice is a bad thing - why does any civilised society need 14 different types of peanut butter?

But it has to be better than some of the stuff that got served up in the sweet lang syne. What warped mind though of grating carrot? Which psychopath decided that boiled beef was fit nosh for a growing lad?

(Look, I know that I am growing outwards rather than upwards, but beggars can’t be choosers.) What perversive derangement of the grey matter does it take to think that pilchards are edible? Or sardines? Boiled cabbage? Corned beef hash?

Thanks to the Empire that has, fortunately, disappeared, we can eat something different for 296 days of the year. That is from the beginning of the year to October 23rd, if only we can remember that it is no longer Calcutta but Kolkata. And that, dear reader, is food for thought.

Oxtail: Not a particular favourite of mine

The mighty Mallard

Steam trains are a wonderful reminder of glorious days gone by... but not so pilchards or oxtail soup. Twist’s Dafydd Manton explains
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Roar of approval for Little Lions

It’s a jungle out there! The Little Lions Private Day Nursery has opened in Chesterfield town centre and its owners and staff are filled with pride.

IT could have come straight off the wish list of local parents looking for childcare for their little one: A purpose-built nursery with new high specification facilities run by a team that has already achieved an outstanding rating from the childcare watchdog, Ofsted.

Add to this a lovely historic building and a convenient location in the town centre, complete with parking.

That’s exactly what Chesterfield mum Natalie Johnson has set up in Little Lions, the latest of her three jungle-themed private day nurseries in the town.

Although the nursery has only just opened in Elder Court, Saltergate, there has been lots of interest in its 60 places for children up to the age of 12. An open day offered an opportunity for parents to see for themselves what Little Lions is all about, and the first children are now settling in.

Former primary school teacher Natalie realised her dream of opening her own day nursery five years ago when she took over a failing nursery in Newbold and transformed it.

The success of Cheeky Monkeys was followed by the launch, in 2010, of The Jungle, a 100-plus place purpose built nursery and indoor play centre on Foxwood Road, Sheepbridge. The second nursery, which has facilities including a separate dining room and library, and excellent experienced staff impressed Ofsted inspectors so much that they rated it ‘outstanding’ across the board.

Natalie had been looking for a town centre location to continue her Philosophy; giving children the best start in life, by expanding their knowledge, skills and attitudes in a fun, creative and loving environment, whilst being affordable and flexible to parents. She said: “As our reputation has grown and we’ve become busier, we were looking at the town centre and we could see that this was an ideal site for the high-spec nursery we wanted, although there was a lot of work to do.”

What we had was an empty former pub (The Courtyard) so everything was stripped back to make way for the three-month-long building project. Interestingly, the building was originally a school house, built in the 17th century, and Natalie is thrilled to see the place come full circle.

The nursery has three light and airy rooms for newborns to two-year-olds, two to threes, and three to fives, along with before and after school and holiday club members, aged up to 12 years. The rooms are connected by large windows to create a sense of connection for staff and children and the two rooms for older youngsters are linked by toilets. This makes all the difference when it comes to potty training and is a successful feature of The Jungle which Natalie has replicated at Little Lions.

Other facilities include a parents’ area, secured entry, CCTV cameras, and a secure outdoor play area with a soft surface and numerous equipment, toys and a vegetable plot. There is a kitchen where the nursery cook prepares home-cooked, nutritious meals.

Natalie, who has a Master’s Degree in childcare and EYFS, oversees all of the nurseries, along with Dawn Thelwell, area manager, who has 25 years experience. The day to day running rests with deputy manager Danielle Holmes and the rest of the experienced team. Each of the rooms has a supervisor and all staff have at least Level 3 qualifications in childcare.

Natalie, who has a nine-month-old daughter, understands how important it is for parents to feel secure when leaving their child in the care of a nursery. Parents will be closely involved throughout their child’s time at Little Lions and every child has their own developmental file.

Flexibility for families is viewed as key, the nursery is open 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and is also open at weekends - 52 weeks of the year.

Natalie commented: “A lot of parents at our other nurseries are professionals who work different shifts so we try to accommodate people’s working patterns where we can, which isn’t always the case with some nurseries.”
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EVERYTHING can seem so much better when the sun is shining can’t it? And as much as the six-week school break is welcomed by children, being a parent myself, I know it can be a headache.

How do you keep the youngsters entertained throughout the holidays, avoid the repeated cries of ‘I’m bored’ and not require a bank loan to do it? A holiday away is not an option for everyone which is why finding activities (preferably free) to do on your doorstep is so important. Our Summer in Chesterfield campaign is designed to do just that – showcase everything that is happening in and around Chesterfield during the summer months. And there is so much to do – both free and paid for.

It could be a simple picnic in glorious Queen’s Park or a visit to Chesterfield Museum and Art Gallery where, from 9th to 16th August, it’s World War I Week. Venture further afield into the beautiful Peak District, which we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep, and we have Chatsworth Country Fair from 29th to 31st August.

Summer activities aside, it’s so important that our town caters for all ages, particularly young people and families, in its offering. They are the future workers and residents of Chesterfield and will help maintain the ongoing success of the town by helping attract new investors who will see a ready and waiting quality workforce alongside the variety of commercial property we offer and great transport links.

I welcomed news recently of £174m of Government funding being awarded to the Local Enterprise Partnership for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to support local projects. As well as creating jobs, importantly this money will help to protect existing jobs and build homes in Chesterfield over the next five years. This money means real change for Chesterfield. It will help us attract new businesses to the area, help young people to get the skills they need to get on, and ensure we have the workforce locally that we need to prosper.

By investing now to create long-term job and housing opportunities for young people and their families, I hope that once they have finished in our education system they will choose to enjoy summer (and winter, spring and autumn) in Chesterfield for many years to come.

To find out more about the events happening in and around Chesterfield this summer, follow Chesterfield UK on Facebook or visit www.chesterfield.co.uk/forthcoming-events
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www.themanoratbrampton.com
HEN it comes to making an impact, the Manor at Brampton has it all. The glorious 16th century manor house, set close to open countryside, is highly sought after for its drinks and dining experiences, spa days, functions and events, including weddings.

Now facilities both inside and outside the venue have been further enhanced following a substantial programme of investment. The new-look venue was officially opened by the Mayor of Chesterfield, Coun Alexis Diouf.

The building itself has undergone an extensive refurbishment, under the guidance of English Heritage, to carefully restore some of its previously hidden architectural features, particularly around the doorways. Meanwhile, the interior has been completely refreshed with the addition of sumptuous Champagne booths.

Outside, the Manor boasts a new front patio, sun terrace and children’s play area, underlining its commitment to being a family-friendly venue. Large outdoor television screens have been installed so customers can follow sporting action and other major events while also making the most of summer days.

The team at The Manor hope that the new look, which effortlessly blends traditional and contemporary styles, will present an opportunity to welcome local people who know the name but have still yet to visit.

Brampton Manor was built by two brothers, Robert and John Watkinson, between 1585 and 1599 and was a private family residence until the mid-60s when it had a colourful spell as a Gentleman’s Dining and Gaming Club, with the only late licence in Chesterfield.

From 1970 onwards, the venue became more known as a members’ squash club. Current owner Craig Lynch bought the business as a whole in 2005 and turned it into a thriving country club open to all.

Craig, who also owns The Fox & Goose at Old Brampton, recently sold the sports club side of the business to local businessman Stephen Prince who has renamed the members’ club ‘Prince’s Sports Club @ The Manor’, while Craig retains the Manor House, bar, and dining areas, and the also the salon and spa on the first floor.

A new set of menus have also been unveiled to offer an
extensive, tempting choice to suit all appetites and budgets. Customers can call in for just a freshly-brewed coffee or sandwich, share tapas, or opt for something more substantial like an English classic, such as Pie of the Day, a steak from the grill, or a continental favourite.

Customers should also look out for special deals including, on Wednesdays, a homemade gourmet burger with a pint of guest ale, draught lager, or glass of house wine, for £10, or two Derbyshire rump steaks and a bottle of house wine for £25, on Thursdays.

On Sundays, The Manor stakes its claim to offering the best carvery in the area with three choices of locally-sourced meats, plus vegetarian option, as well as all kinds of mouth-watering trimmings.

Special mention must also go to the hog roast banquets the Manor provides which have guests talking for months afterwards.

On the bar side, The Manor goes to great lengths to select the very best real ales and aims to showcase locally-brewed beers.

The bar is the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing smoothie or cocktail with friends. Who could resist a Lady of the Manor or a Manor Mojito?

The Manor is about to unveil its menus for the festive season. For information on menus, all regular and special events, packages and hire, visit www.themanoratbrampton.com

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WITH just days to go, plans for this year’s Bakewell Show are well in hand with organisers keeping their fingers crossed that the current warm, dry spell will continue.

Highlight this year is a competition which has really caught the public’s imagination. “Sshhh, show us yer sheep” invites schoolchildren, their parents, businesses in fact anyone to make their own sheep and display them at Bakewell Show.

The 2014 Show takes place on August 6th and 7th with the now-established Equestrian Day on August 5th.

The competition is open to everyone and the sheep can be made out of anything from wool or dough to chicken wire or paper. They can be a minimum of a foot long and a maximum life size, the only limit is imagination and there will be some exciting prizes.

Bakewell Show this year will be extra special for the Food and Farming section, for 2014 marks its 25th anniversary. Silver celebrations are being planned to commemorate the milestone which began as a one-off exhibition as part of British Food and Farming Year. By happy coincidence, the 2014 President is Mary Morten, who has played such a large part in establishing the success of the section.

The big Centre Ring attraction will be the James Dylan Motorcycle Stunt Display Team, headed by dazzling adventurer James Dylan. And by popular demand Titan is back. The 8ft robot, who thrills his audience with his conversation and “singing,” took a break last year, but the crowds will be happy to see him again.

It’s a fantastic value-for-money day out for the whole family, with kids going free. To find out more and to book pre-show cut-price tickets call 01629 812736 or log on to www.bakewellshow.org.

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It has stood beside the Chesterfield to Matlock road for 300 years or more, but the appeal of The Kelstedge has never been greater. Twist’s Deborah Wain calls in to find out why.

T’S approaching two years since Roger and Rebecca Salt took over the Kelstedge Country Pub and Kitchen, in a picturesque setting beside Matlock Road, near Ashover.

The husband and wife team had a clear vision in mind: a traditional country pub offering superb dining, hand-chosen real ales and wine and a fantastic service.

They’ve made good on their aim and, after running two establishments in Chesterfield town centre prior to the move, are greatly enjoying the change of scenery.

The Kelstedge has been awarded a “Certificate of Excellence” for both 2013 and 2014 from consumer website Trip Advisor, testament to the rave reviews its getting.

Roger describes the pub’s offering as being “good pub food, served with a bit of a twist” and its success means the food operation accounts for 80 per cent of business.

Many visitors return time and again, with diners drawn from Chesterfield, Matlock and the surrounding areas. Saturdays and Sundays are especially popular as food is served all day. In fact, booking is always advised at the weekends.

While in some establishments you might find quality compromised by choice, that’s certainly not the case at the Kelstedge. There’s a huge selection of dishes to choose from on the regular menus, including plenty to tempt vegetarians (check out the pub’s website to see the range for yourself).

The daily specials board, online and on the pub wall, is where head chef Emma Harcourt and her team get a free rein, and that's also packed with mouth-watering options. And, if you need a further example of variety, take the way the pub serves its potatoes. Choose from home-made chips, jackets, creamed, new, skinny fries or seasoned wedges!

The pub has just launched new summer and Sunday menus. I visited with colleague Mike Firth midweek. We both went for starters from the board; Mike, a griddled black pudding with bread sauce and crispy bacon (£4.85), and me, a smoked mackerel fishcake served with leaves and a scoop of zesty lime mayo (£4.85). Both of us thought it was a fantastic first course.

For mains, Mike went classic with a pastry pie of the day and I went for the confit duck breast, served with a bed of wild mushrooms, roast potatoes and a date chutney (£14.75). Again, we were delighted.

Our waitress at The Kelstedge, Natasha Jefferson
filled with large chunks of minty lamb, served with new potatoes, seasonal vegetables and a meat gravy (£11.95). He reported that the lamb was particularly tender, fat-free and tasty and he had no trouble clearing his plate.

I again opted for a special: spiced feta cheese and watermelon salad (£9.45). Unusual, huh? It was inspired. The salty, cumin and lemon flavours of the cheese worked beautifully with the refreshing watermelon salsa. It was plated up with leaves and a warm bread.

There was just enough room for dessert (but only just). Mike had profiteroles which came in a sundae glass covered in chocolate and cream. It was a summery strawberry cheesecake for me with a side of vanilla ice cream. Yum.

The Kelstedge offers its menus with options for children under ten so is perfect for a family meal. It also has a newly-built seating area outside with splendid views over the surrounding countryside.

*The Kelstedge Country Pub and Kitchen, Kelstedge, near Ashover. Tel: 01246 590448. www.thekelstedge.co.uk Food noon-3pm and 5pm-9pm, Mon-Fri, noon-9pm Sat, noon-8pm Sun. Bookings can be made via the website.*
Make Your Way to the Medieval Market

CHESTERFIELD’S famous outdoor market will take a step back in time to the Middle Ages for a Medieval Market on Tuesday, 29th July, from 10am to 4pm.

The event, one of the biggest free shows in the area, will see Chesterfield Market stall holders in fancy dress selling goods and running tombolas and games for the event.

This year, the Alchemist will entertain all ages with his light-hearted, slightly-slapstick puppet show, whilst the fearsome Troll will wander around the Market. Go along and say ‘hello’ to this fierce but friendly giant and be entertained by medieval beggars and musicians.

There’s a medieval encampment complete with knights, ladies, sword fights and skirmishes in the grounds of the ‘Crooked Spire’ Church, and court jester Heironymous Slop is back with his own brand of comedy.

Visitors will be able to take a trip up the tower of the ‘Crooked Spire’, Chesterfield Museum will play host to a Medieval Tiler and there will be a funfair for children in New Square.

Pick up a full programme of events on the day from the Visitor Information Centre in Rykneld Square, open 9.30am to 5pm.
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The Reverend Patrick Coleman becomes vicar of St Mary and All Saints Church this month, moving from Abertillery, in South Wales. He was born and bred in Pontypool and has lived, worked, taught and studied in places as diverse as Cardiff, Rome and Munich. Rev Coleman has been a priest for 31 years, first in the Roman Catholic Church and then, since 1996, as an Anglican.

He says of himself: “I am crazy about pipe organs, choral music, Alfa Romeos and sheepdogs, as well as good food and drink. I have a fair amount of Irish blood, with a little Welsh, Scottish and traveller blood mixed in, but I admit (quite quietly in Wales!) to the greatest part of English blood, a quarter of which is from Normanton near Wakefield – so not too far from Chesterfield!”

What's your first impression of life in Chesterfield?

It’s a buzzing, friendly town. I love the mix of the standard high street chains along with interesting independent traders; and the market is incredible! Most of all, it’s great that the church is at the centre of the town and the ownership everyone seems to have of the Crooked Spire.

Does it have any similarities to your last parish?

Abertillery is in the heart of the Welsh Valleys so it goes without saying that everyone is just as friendly - just a different accent! Here, I’ll be working on a much bigger scale but over a smaller area, so I won’t be spread so thinly. I’ll also have a great team of people to work with.

What are you looking forward to about your new role?

It’ll be the standard of worship and music at the Crooked Spire that rivals most cathedrals, joined with the chance to spend time with real people in the Market Place - and I mean that literally: I’ll be out and about in the Market Place talking to people and generally making a nuisance of myself!

Have you been up the church tower yet?

No - I’m not frightened of very much but I am scared of heights! I plan to go up there soon, on my own with just a churchwarden to support me and talk me down if I freeze. Then I’ll be able to say at least that I’ve gone up there!

Do you have a favourite item of clothing that you couldn’t bear to part with?

I have a combined duffel coat/trench coat that I’m inseparable from in the winter. I also love my collection of onesies!

Do you have a special piece of music?

I’m a competent organist but not especially brilliant - so it would have to be any piece of Bach that I can actually play properly and all the way through.

Can you tell us something about yourself that people might find surprising?

I have shares in two vintage buses and I also own two Alfa Romeos - a classic and a modern car.

What was your most memorable day?

I’ve been so fortunate and have been part of some very memorable occasions in my life so far - some of them historic. The most memorable has to be the day of my ordination as a priest in a small church in Pontypool, where I and my brother were baptised and confirmed, where my parents were baptised, confirmed and married - and from which I later buried them.

The lasting memory is of preparing large amounts of steak, kidney and Guinness pie late that evening when all the guests had gone, as we had to feed all the people who were coming back after the First Mass the next day!

Favourite view in the UK or overseas?

I can’t really make my mind up on that one - there are so many in the places I’ve lived in Wales, in Italy, in Germany - and I see already that there are plenty of fantastic views in Derbyshire: who knows if one of those will become my favourite? All suggestions gratefully received!
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