
HENSON HERALD

EDITED BY EMMA LOCKLEY

The month has been exceptionally busy with the Summer School as well as several new authors to publish.

In October we are staging another concert for Ukraine, although St James' Church in Clayton, Newcastle, will also benefit.

My spell on the Council at Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce has come to an end but I am aiming to stand again. Natasha Beckles from Staffordshire University very kindly deputised at the July meeting when I was on holiday.

Currently we are negotiating with Publishing Weekly in New York to further our reach and spent a very happy hour over a Guinness in the Bow Street Tavern talking to their reps.

Malcolm Henson MPhil (M.D.)

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Unyielding Spirit: Ukraine's Battle for Survival Amidst Chaos

Amidst the scorching weather and vast wheat fields of Ukraine lies a brutal conflict that has engulfed the nation, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake. The war in Ukraine has taken a heavy toll on civilians, who face the merciless impact of modern warfare. Drones and cluster bombs have become the harbingers of destruction, while brave medics risk their lives to provide aid in the most dangerous situations.

The conflict has witnessed the extensive use of advanced technologies, with drones flying high above the battlefields, surveilling and striking with lethal precision. The lethal efficiency of these unmanned aerial vehicles has altered the dynamics of warfare, and civilians often find themselves trapped in the crosshairs of these remote-controlled killing machines.

Cluster bombs, a particularly cruel and indiscriminate weapon, rain down over both military targets and civilian areas alike, inflicting unimaginable suffering. These explosive devices scatter deadly submunitions over a wide area, resulting in a long-lasting threat to civilians, even after the conflict ends. The sprawling wheat fields, once a symbol of prosperity, now bear the scars of war, as these fertile lands are tainted with the remnants of violence.

In this dark time, hope emerges in the form of medics and humanitarian organizations like the Red Cross. These brave souls defy danger to save lives, often venturing into dangerous territories to provide much-needed medical assistance to the wounded and suffering. Their dedication to the sanctity of life remains unwavering, and they work tirelessly to provide a sanctuary amidst the chaos.

In the midst of hostilities, prisoners of war (POWs) often find themselves caught in the quagmire of conflict. The fight for their humane treatment becomes crucial in upholding the values of respect and dignity, a testament to the human spirit's resilience even in the face of adversity.

The conflict in Ukraine is not just a battle for territory; it's a fight for the very soul of the nation. The holy trinity of faith, hope, and unity sustains the Ukrainian people as they face unimaginable hardships. Despite the towering cumulonimbus of challenges on the horizon, the people of Ukraine hold onto their resilience, drawing strength from the richness of their history and culture.

As the war in Ukraine rages on, the world must not forget the sacrifices made by its people. It is incumbent upon the global community to stand in solidarity with Ukraine, supporting efforts to end the conflict and foster peace in the region. For in the face of adversity, it is the unity of nations and the sanctity of humanity that will ultimately prevail.

I. Soltys

Government Publishes Sector Vision

The Government's long-awaited Creative Industries Sector Vision was launched this week. This is the strategy that the creative industries sector has been working on with government for many months, through the Creative Industries Sector Council, on which the PA has a seat. Stephen Page of Faber & Faber chaired and steered the skills pipeline element. Key points include:

- The plan intends to grow the creative industries by £50bn and support a million more jobs by 2030, with £77m of new funding for the sector announced.
- The government will invest at least £50m in the next wave of UKRI's Creative Industries Clusters programme. This funding will be used to identify and support at least six new clusters specialising in creative subsectors, helping entrepreneurs and businesses in these areas innovate with new technologies, secure investment, and access global markets. We will look to profile this funding opportunity with the wider membership to ensure that our sector bids.
- Work with industry will commence to ensure post-16 technical skills routes work effectively for the creative industries. This will include supporting the rollout of T-Levels in creative subjects and increasing provision and take-up of high-quality creative apprenticeships.
- Through a code of practice for text and data mining, government will help to ensure the UK copyright framework continues to promote and reward investment in creativity, while also meeting our ambition to make the UK a world leader in research and AI innovation. The vision says government "wants rights holders to be assured that their content is appropriately protected under the existing copyright framework, with reasonable opportunity to monetise that content, and... to ensure AI-generated outputs are labelled appropriately to provide confidence in the origin of creative content".
- Work with industry to ensure that the UK's creative IP rights are the best protected in the world, setting the gold standard globally.

The Fabulous Peshalls

David Jacques, PhD, OBE, is an historian concentrating principally on historic parks, gardens and landscapes. He was the Inspector of Historic Parks and Gardens at English Heritage 1987–1993 and advisor to Historic Royal Palaces from 1994, and to ICOMOS on World Heritage Sites from 2020. He also inherited interests in genealogy and local history from his father, and today is a Trustee of the William Salt Library in Stafford, the only remaining independent topographical library in Britain. His best-known books have been *Georgian Gardens* published in 1983, which demonstrated that there were many designers other than Capability Brown, and was on most garden history reading lists for 35 years. Other notable titles include *Gardens of Court and Country* published in 2017, which provided for the first time a full account of the formal garden tradition in England 1630–1730. It was selected as an “Outstanding Academic Title” by Choice, the publication of the American Libraries Association, and was shortlisted for the William MB Berger Prize for British Art History in 2018.

The Fabulous Peshalls (2023)

Unravelling genealogical conundra is a satisfying pastime if met with success. Generally, the errors will have occurred because the family researcher has been over-enthusiastic and has seen connections when a more rigorous approach would have persuaded otherwise. But what to think when the enthusiasm extends to doctoring historical records like official pedigrees and gravestones?

This book looks at such a case – the Reverend John Pearsall – who desperately wanted to be descended from the Pershall baronets.

Was he misguided or a fraudster?

One thing is certain: he promulgated fake news. He has thoroughly confused his own family for over a quarter of a millennium, and its modern representatives are decent and likeable people who do not deserve it. The book should allow modern-day Pearsalls to find some resolution, and is an encouragement and caution to others embarking on their family history to respect the evidence and not to let wishful thinking occlude the truth.

Cheesy Chard Gratin

Serves 4

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 35 minutes

Ingredients

Bunch chard (about 340g)

150ml double cream

1tbsp wholegrain mustard
(or gluten-free alternative)

140g gruyère (coarsely
grated)

Butter (for greasing)

2tbsp finely grated
parmesan



Method

STEP 1

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/Gas Mark 6. Strip the chard leaves from the stalks, then cut the stalks into sticks. Bring a pan of water to the boil and cook the stalks for 3-4 mins until starting to soften. Then throw in the leaves for a few moments so that they just wilt. Drain well.

STEP 2

Mix the cream with the mustard, then toss through the chard with most of the gruyère. Grease a medium gratin dish, spread the chard mix over, then scatter with the remaining gruyère and the parmesan. Bake for 30 mins until bubbling and golden. Serve straight from the dish.

Recipe can be found at: [Cheesy chard gratin recipe | BBC Good Food](#)

Cacio e Pepe with Runner Beans

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 15 minutes

Serves 2

Ingredients

180g linguine or bucatini

160g runner beans (topped, tailed, string removed and finely sliced)

splash of olive oil

60g butter

1 tsp black peppercorns
(crushed – not too finely)

30g parmesan and 30g pecorino (finely grated and at room temperature, plus extra to serve)



Method

STEP 1

Boil a pan of salted water, add the pasta and cook for 4 minutes. Add the runner beans and cook together for 2 minutes, then drain, reserving the water.

STEP 2

Gently heat the oil and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the butter in a large, high-sided frying pan over a medium heat. Stir in the pepper with a wooden spoon and cook for 1 minute, then add in a ladleful of the pasta water and whisk vigorously until you have the beginnings of a smooth sauce. Add in the rest of the butter, the pasta and the beans and half the cheeses, and stir, shaking the pan as you go to mix everything together and release starch from the pasta to make it extra creamy. Add in the rest of the cheese and shake some more until it melts and you have a silky-smooth sauce. Ladle in more pasta water to loosen it if necessary, and make sure the pasta is cooked. Season with salt and serve straightaway with extra pecorino and pepper.

Recipe can be found at: [Cacio e pepe with runner beans recipe | BBC Good Food](#)

Meeting Editors from Publishers Weekly

On Wednesday 19th July, in the Bow Street Tavern, Covent Garden, I met Ed Nawotka and Joe Murray who are Senior International and Bookselling Editors from Publishers Weekly in New York, USA. It was a blind date, and over a Guinness we discussed matters of common interest and broke the ice. The meeting was set up by Gloria Bailey of the PA, to whom I am very grateful.



Trust Strangers and Do Less

Many of us look at those who have “made it” and assume they have assistants because they’re successful but almost all the high-profile, successful entrepreneurs I have studied invest in people to help them at the very start of their journey. Too many small business owners believe it’s quicker to do things themselves. Those are the ones who end up chasing late paying clients and issuing invoices, rather than going home to read their kids a bedtime story or calling their parents. Too many entrepreneurs think they’ll have to do the same job twice when it comes back to them unfinished or done to an unacceptable standard. These are the ones who work seven days a week and never take vacations.

Here are three things the world’s best delegators do:

1. Have blind faith – trusting a person before they have given you good reason to might seem at odds, but it’s crucial to forging a strong and positive partnership with your assistant, and your staff. Great delegators create trust by declaring it. This has a profound effect on that person who feels responsible for completing a task to a good standard and to deadline.
2. Delegate in quantity – inexperienced delegators often expect to delegate a one-hour task and save an hour. But it doesn’t work like this. People who are successful at delegating know they will normally only save minutes on each task they delegate by the time they’ve given instructions, offered guidance, and assisted with queries. But they know that as long as they are saving some time, they are still in a better position than if they had not delegated. This is why handing over lots of jobs is going to have a bigger effect on the person delegating.
3. Stay invested – expert delegators know that even when they palm off a task they’re still fully responsible for it. This means being on hand to answer questions and perhaps even contribute to its completion. This increases the quality of the finished task, saving time.

(Excerpt from the article [The Billionaire Secret To Success? Trust Strangers And Do Less \(forbes.com\)](#))

Falling Down the Years

A love that spanned the years!
A deserted petrol station -
Two cars with open doors -
His, and mine!
Synchronized car radios,
And the velvet voice of Ella Fitzgerald -
"Every time you say goodbye."
A meeting of eyes,
And synchronized memories,
Falling down the years -

To our first encounter,
Our first coffee,
Our first intimate conversation,
Blood surging through my veins,
That mirrored his.
I fought hard to tell myself,
That this was supposed to be business,
I didn't need this,
I was committed elsewhere,
And long term, to another.

There were further encounters
Falling down the years,
An orchestral concert -
A vacant seat next to mine -
Suddenly occupied by him,
His proximity unsettling,

His dulcet tones, seductive.
Concentration ebbed,
As violins were tuned,
And coat tails arranged.

Always the time was wrong,
Until now!
Time to make up for lost time,
Compensate for lives, lived apart,
And we did!
With a fervour, wasted on youth,
To satiate our souls, our heart's desire!
To strains of Puccini, Rachmaninov -
No love duet, could ever match
The heights achieved, the passion
expended!

And then, it was over,
From the peak of a love duet,
To the depth of an adagio!
And now, there will be no further
Falling down the years -
But a silence, broken by the wind
Howling through the trees -
Echoing my own broken thoughts;
A perverse, finality-mories,
Of sorts!

Muriel M. Bradbury



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Malcolm Henson M.D.



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