

VANESSA M. TANNER

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2025

LOCAL ELECTION SUCCESS

On 1st May, I was re-elected as a Town Councillor along with the other twelve candidates from our independent party, The Devizes Guardians.

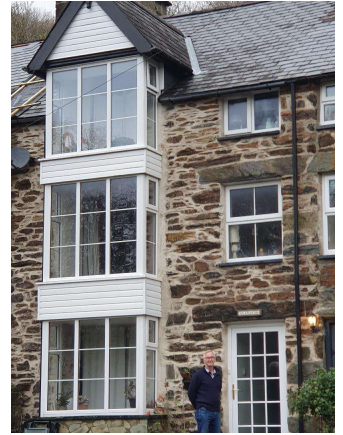
Despite what our name suggests, no capes or tights are involved, just a commitment to serve our community, listen to local people and make our lovely town even better.

AN UNEXPECTED RECONNECTION

'My heart skipped a beat when you mentioned Millie's Folly in your acknowledgement and I was only a few pages into the story when I recognised the leading couple.'

Out of the blue I received this message via Facebook from a reader who recognised the characters in the story. It turns out she knew Jim and Isabella when she was a child. In fact, her family used to own a property next door in Bonttdu and she visited each year. It was during these visits that she got to know my husband, John, and his brother.

I've put the reader and John in contact and they've been happily reminiscing since. It feels good to know that my book has brought back fond memories of a place and people my reader enjoyed being with as a child.



John outside his grandparents' house in Bonttdu.



What a messy job!

POTTERY IS MUCH HARDER THAN IT LOOKS

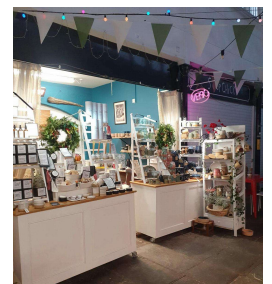
John and I celebrated our ninth wedding anniversary with a pottery lesson with a lovely teacher in our local indoor market, The Shambles. My main aim was to make a couple of pieces to give to my sons, the youngest of whom made me a dreadful bowl for Mother's Day!

As you can see, we used an actual potters' wheel but, to John's disappointment, it was less Ghost, more mud-slinging!

Pottery involves a lot of intuitively feeling the clay and trying to work out what it wants to do. We eventually got the hang of it and created something resembling a bowl each. Watch this space for photos when we've collected them.

Helen Mills Functional Pottery space in the Shambles market. She also sells pieces she's made (not ours thankfully) plus a selection of lotions and potions. You can follow her on [Facebook](#).

Do you have any experience of making pottery? Please share your stories or photos with me.





Half an amber ale for me and something stronger for the husband.

SEEND BEER FESTIVAL

We were lucky to get a pair of tickets to the increasingly popular Seend Beer Festival. The event is family friendly with music in the marquee tent, and a variety of food offerings. We sat outside in the garden area and enjoyed the music to the backdrop of the lovely Wiltshire countryside.

The first Seend Beer Festival was held in 2001. It was organised by a group of people who played skittles for Seend Cleeve Sailing Club and had a shared love of real ale. Nowadays, it's a really popular event which invariably sells out.

Click here for more information: [Seend Beer Festival](#)

YOUR NEXT READ

Over the few months, I've been chatting to a few local authors, and as we like to support each other, I'd like to recommend their books to you. Whether you enjoy crime fiction or historical drama, one of these could be for you.

1. Death In Valletta by Lynne Marie Taylor. Find out more [here](#)
2. Broken Shadows by Sorrel Pitts. Find out more [here](#)
3. The Witchfinder's Well by Jonathan Posner. Find out more [here](#)

AND FINALLY – MY GRAMMAR RANT

Please give me a moment to rant about a grammar error I've been noticing for some time now. Even on the BBC, would you believe it?

quick (adjective) **quicker** (comparative adjective)

quickly (adverb) **more quickly** (comparative adverb)

I've recently noticed that many people, more often than not, use a comparative adjective when they should use a comparative adverb.

"The economy is growing quicker than we expected." **WRONG**

"The economy is growing more quickly than we expected." **CORRECT**

As we all know, language evolves over time (or we'd still be talking like Chaucer), and this includes semantic shifts and spelling modifications. However, grammar is still important in order to make your meaning clear. I really wish those who should know this, such as journalists and reporters, would just get it right.

Is there a mistake, grammar or otherwise, that really annoys you? Please share it with me and we can moan about it together!