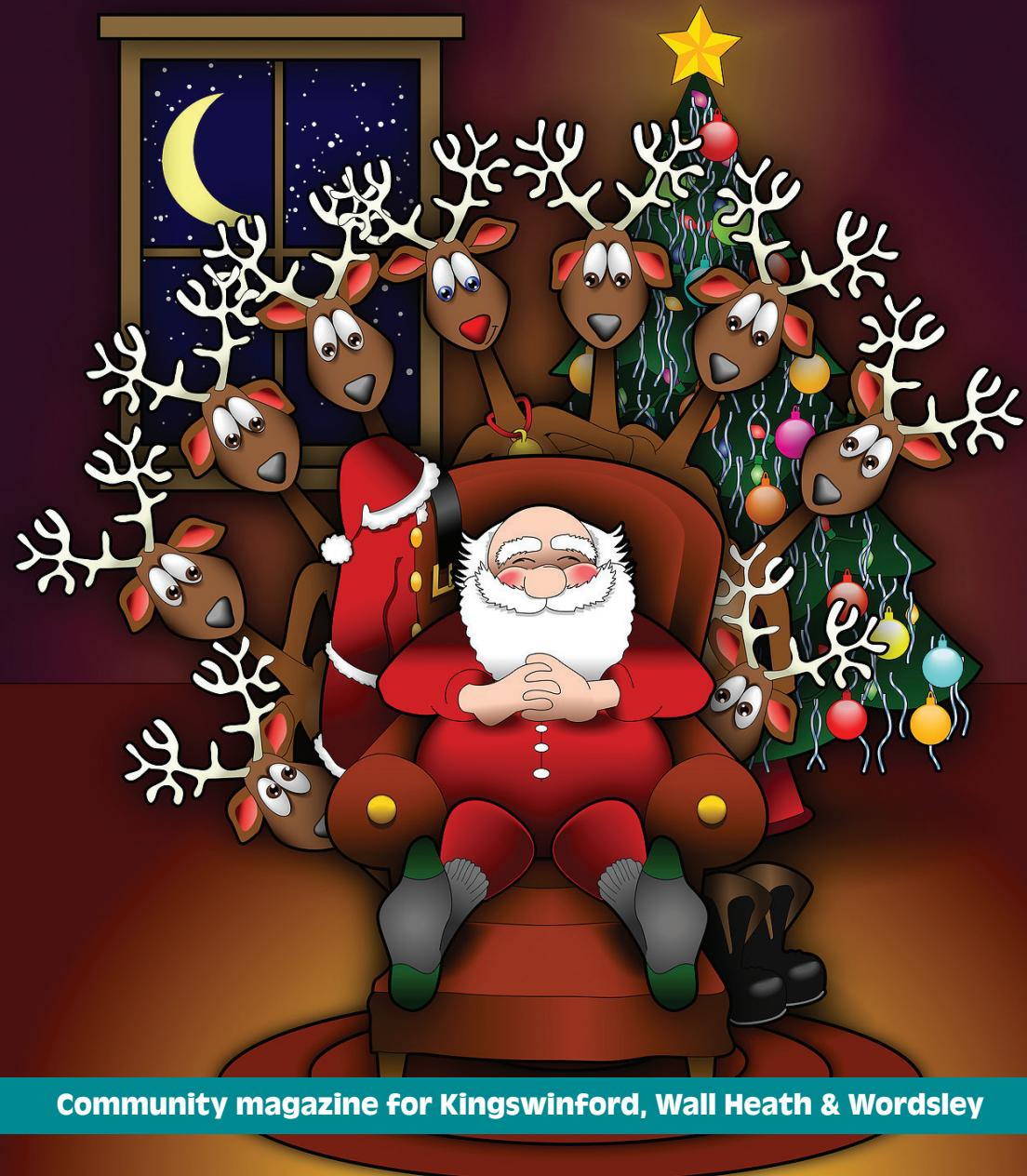


FREE

Village Voice

Chris Smith - We Remember!

ISSUE 231 | DECEMBER 2025



Community magazine for Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley



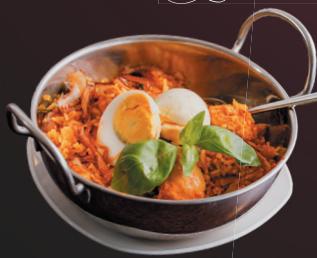
ROYAL MASALA

Proudly led by Rafique Miah (recently awarded the Best Curry Chef 2025 for Wombourne Tandoori which was established in 1989) and his Head Chef Anwar. Together they bring a rich heritage of flavour, hospitality and years of culinary experience to Royal Masala, Kingswinford's newest destination for authentic Bangladeshi cuisine. Whether you are a long-time lover of Indian food or just want to try something new, we look forward to welcoming you.

You are welcome to bring your own alcoholic beverage. Please note, however, that soft drinks from outside are not permitted as they are available for purchase in the restaurant.

Alongside our fine dine-in experience we are also offering takeaway and delivery with fantastic deals – enjoy 20% off on collection and 10% off delivery when you order online.

Prepare for a
CULINARY
Adventure



ROYAL MASALA
8 Charterfield Drive
Kingswinford
DY6 7SH

OPENING HOURS

Sunday – Thursday (5:30pm – 10:30pm)

Friday – Saturday (5:00pm – 11:30pm)

OPEN BANK HOLIDAY MONDAYS

CONTACT US

www.myroyalmasala.co.uk
info@myroyalmasala.co.uk
01384 438147

Village Voice
is published monthly by
Village Voice Magazines Ltd
Forge House, 50 Redhall Road,
Gornal Wood, Dudley DY3 2NL



01384 866688 / 07817 904477



villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk



www.villagevoice-online.co.uk

**All rights reserved.
No part of this publication may
be reproduced without written
permission from the publishers.**

© Village Voice Magazines Ltd 2025



MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION
OF SMALL BUSINESSES

**VILLAGE VOICE MAGAZINES LTD
ARE PROUD SPONSORS OF**



**DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

Cover photo © Bigstock

The publishers cannot accept loss, damage or omission caused by error in the printing of any advertisement or editorial. Village Voice Magazines Ltd. does not endorse any advertising material within this publication. Please note that no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system or transmitted in any form without the prior written consent of the publishers.

Village Voice

**Community magazine for
Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley**

Cover story



Christmas is, of course, almost upon us and the annual frenzy of buying presents has well and truly started – indeed, some of the “Christmas” sales actually began in October! If, however, you can put aside all the commercialism that abounds, Christmas can still remain a time of quiet reflection with the family. Many of us strive to keep the familiar Christmas customs such as decorating the Christmas tree, a roast turkey lunch and even the King’s Speech. Indeed, even those that go abroad at this time of year still often look forward to maintaining the old traditions with Christmas trees and turkey sandwiches on the beach!

Wherever you are have a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Peaceful New Year.

Gail



IN THIS ISSUE



6,16,42,58 It's A Fact!

10 Brainteasers

18 Some Christmas Trivia.

28 Black Country at War.

32 Rock the Mistletoe is a newly formed band who have dedicated their time and effort free of charge to come up with a song. All in aid of children's charities.

46-47 For our Wordsearch competition this month, our good friends at the Odeon Cinema, Merry Hill have very kindly given us 2 x family passes to give away. Will you be a winner?

50-51 Our Charity Focus this month features the Samaritans

68 Brainteasers Answers

70-75 The Parish Pump: Read about what is going on in your area.

Please note that the closing date for our competition this month is FRIDAY, 19th DECEMBER 2025. Entries received after this date will not be entered into the draw. Please ensure your name, address, telephone number and email address are included on your entry.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

AMBULANCE, FIRE OR POLICE 999 OR 112
NON EMERGENCY-POLICE 101

HEALTH

NHS 111
RUSSELLS HALL A & E DEPT 01384 456111

TRAVEL

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT 0871 222 0072
NATIONAL EXPRESS COACHES 0871 781 8181
NATIONAL RAIL LINE 0345 748 4950
TRAVELINE WEST MIDLANDS 0871 200 2233

HELP LINES

AGE UK ADVICE CENTRE 0800 678 1602
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 01384 482929
CHILDLINE 0800 11 11
SAMARITANS 116 123
STOP SMOKING HELPLINE 0300 123 1044
VICTIM SUPPORT 01384 241511

UTILITIES

SEVERN TRENT WATER (SEWERS) 0800 783 4444
SOUTH STAFFS WATER
(EMERGENCIES) 0800 389 10 11
(LEAK LINE) 0800 24 33 52
ELECTRICITY POWER LOSS 0800 328 1111
GAS LEAKS 07415 602 536

COUNCIL SERVICES

DUDLEY MBC 0300 555 2345
LIBRARIES - KINGSWINFOR
- WORDSLEY 01384 81 27 40
01384 81 27 65

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR COPY

Each month over **2,000** copies of this edition of **Village Voice** are delivered throughout **Kingswinford, Wall Heath** and **Wordsley**. Extras are given to libraries and selected shops in each area. Be sure to look out for your copy.

DO YOU RUN A NON PROFIT MAKING CLUB OR SOCIETY? ARE YOU ON THE LOCAL COMMITTEE OF A CHARITY?

Would you like some **FREE** publicity for forthcoming events or to recruit new members? Give us a call, send us an email or drop us a line here at **VILLAGE VOICE** – we would love to help. See our contact details on page 3.

COPY DEADLINE

Please note that the copy deadline for the **JANUARY 2026** edition of **VILLAGE VOICE** is **THURSDAY, 18th DECEMBER 2025**. Please book your space early to avoid disappointment.



Courtesy of **THE ROBIN** in Bilston, we have two tickets up for grabs for one lucky winner. All you have to do to be entered is to send your **NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER** and **EMAIL ADDRESS** to **villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk** or write to us at The Robin Tickets, Forge House, 50 Redhall Road, Dudley DY3 2NL. The lucky winner will be drawn on **Friday, 19th December 2025 – GOOD LUCK!**

Congratulations to **MICHELLE GARRATT** of Tipton who was the lucky winner of the two tickets on offer in the **NOVEMBER** edition.

Has Your Double Glazing Steamed Up?

Established for over a decade Cloudy2Clear windows have become a leading company for glass replacement. Issues with double glazing can often be gradual and may only be noticed during a clear sunny day or during the winter. A failed glass unit may no longer provide you with the protection you need or be energy efficient. Why not spend a few minutes checking your home to see if you have any failed double glazing? If you act now you can avoid these problems.

Now, you may think you need to replace

the whole window including the frames and all the hardware, however Cloudy2Clear have come up with a simple and cost saving solution... Just replace the glass!!

If you see condensation in your windows just visit our website or give us a call on **0800 61 21 118**. We will send out our highly experienced engineers for a free no obligation quote. A Cloudy2Clear quote takes on average no longer than 20 minutes. Once the quote is completed, we will sit down with you and explain the problem and tell you

how we can fix it. With years of experience Cloudy2Clear have a wealth of knowledge and are recognised as a Which Trusted Trader, plus our work is backed by an industry leading 25 year guarantee. Cloudy2Clear also replace faulty locks handles and hinges on all windows and doors.

Your friendly local Cloudy2Clear specialist is Brian Stanley and he services Kingswinford, and Wordsley.

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118**.

“

Cloudy2Clear GUARANTEE All Customers That An Average Quote Will Take No Longer Than 20 MINS!!!

”



Cloudy2Clear Windows... Service With A Smile!

Cloudy2Clear Are A...



Which?
Trusted
Trader



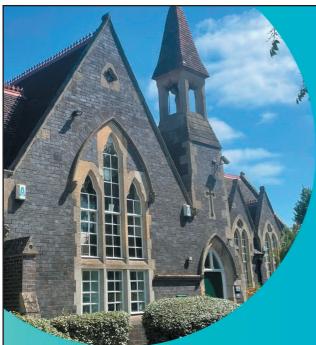
All Glazing Backed By Our

**25 YEAR
GUARANTEE**

Priority Freephone
0800 61 21 118
www.cloudy2clear.com

Broken Or Damaged Windows? Faulty Locks, Handles, Hinges?





ST JAMES DENTAL AND FACIAL AESTHETICS

With over 30 years experience, Helen Christie and team are ready to provide the best private dental care with full attention.

Our small practice prides itself on our welcoming and personable feel, with a wide range of private dental plans to suit you.

MORE INFORMATION

01384 394880

www.stjamesdentalcentre.co.uk

Bridgnorth Road,
Wollaston, Stourbridge
DY8 3QG

OUR SERVICE:

- Basic home visits for assessments, exams & dentures
- In depth in surgery check-ups
- Cosmetic dental work
- Teeth whitening
- Airflow cleaning
- £125 fixed fee non registered emergencies
- Same day emergency appointments (Subject to availability)
- Dentures
- Facial Aesthetics by Helen Christie

it's a fact!

- ★ In 1864 George Whitehouse, a local publican, was fined £10 and ordered to pay 14s/6d compensation to the Himley Troop of the Staffordshire Yeomanry after he left their ranks and refused to return some equipment. He was warned that if he did not pay then he would be committed to prison for seven days.
- ★ In August 1887 the annual festival of Church Sunday Schools in the parish of St Mary's, Kingswinford was held. The children all assembled at their schools and marched to the church where a short service was held before they all formed a procession (accompanied by the Kingswinford Volunteer Band) to the grounds of the home of Henry Smith of Summerhill. Tea was provided for the 470 or so children who were later joined by almost 1000 parents and friends.
- ★ In November 1902 the Sporting Life noted that the All-England £5 Rabbit Coursing Sweepstakes was being held in the grounds of the Waggon and Horses Hotel in Wall Heath. It was being organised by Joe Foley, landlord of the nearby Yew Tree Hotel and it was said that some of the best dogs in the Midlands were due to compete in catching a rabbit on a 60 yard course.
- ★ There was a certain amount of outrage at the monthly meeting of the Kingswinford Grouped School Managers in March 1907 when a report highlighted the expenditure per head for the pupils at Wall Heath Schools. The report by the Council Education Committee showed the cost in Wall Heath was £14 per head whilst at Wordsley it was only £6/17s/6d, at Brockmoor £8/10s/10d, at Mount Pleasant £8/2s/6d and Quarry Bank £6/8s/7d. An explanation was requested as to why the Wall Heath figure was so high but no response was forthcoming.



The Ninja Beer Company



Same day beer delivery 7 days a week

Keg beers, bottled beers, spirits & gas

Delivery to pubs, clubs, restaurants and home bars

Over 500 products in stock

Installation of home bar equipment

**0121 520 8444 or 07983 257316
thejinjabeercompany@gmail.com**

FLAT ROOF



FIX4U ROOFING & BUILDING SERVICES LTD

We have a reliable, honest and highly skilled team of roofers, which enables us to offer you one of the most professional and cost-effective services throughout the West Midlands.

We also offer: Building Work Damp Proofing
 Paving & Drives Landscaping



01902 581 522

Kings House St Johns Square, Wolverhampton WV2 4DT
info@fix4uroofingandbuilding.co.uk

SPECIALISTS



GBRB

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

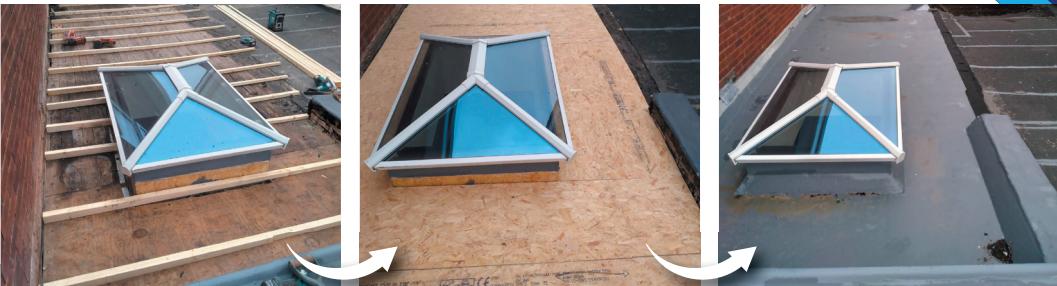
Fix4u Roofing & Building (Flat Roof Specialist)

Awarding Fix4u Roofing & Building (Flat Roof Specialist) with
the GBRB Best Business Verification Certificate for setting
unprecedented standards in business operations and
customer satisfaction.

2024



Signature



WE ALSO SPECIALISE IN ALL KINDS OF HOME IMPROVEMENTS

- 14 day cooling off period
- Free estimates
- No deposits
- £5 million liability insurance
- All work guaranteed



NABC

National Association
of Building Contractors



Roofing & Building Contractor
of the Year 2021 - Wolverhampton



www.fix4uroofingandbuilding.co.uk

BRAINTEASERS

We end 2025 with another batch of devious Brainteasers. If you by chance need the answers they can be found on page 68. Good luck!

1. Two barrels contain the same amount of water. The water temperature in one (barrel A) is 47°F and the other (barrel B) is 29°F. Two cricket balls of the same size and weight are dropped simultaneously from the same height into each barrel. Which ball will touch the bottom of the barrel first?
2. To paint two lines dividing a motorway into three lanes costs £1000 a mile. What would it cost to paint lines to divide the road into six lanes over a distance of six miles?
3. Rearrange the letters of NEW DOOR to make one word. A clue is that the answer ends in 'd'.
4. John has three sons. The eldest is four years older than the second son who in turn is four years older than the youngest who is exactly half the age of the eldest. How old are the three sons?
5. And now for a WORDBAT! All you have to do is to identify the word or phrase.

| | |
|---|---|
| D | D |
| O | O |
| O | O |
| G | G |
| O | O |
| N | N |



Wheelers

Gas, Plumbing & Heating Ltd

Experienced and reliable Gas, Plumbing and Heating services working in the Black Country and surrounding areas

**5% discount
for OAP's
No call out fee**

Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE 07377 453081

Giving you Peace of Mind

Meet our Wills & Probate Team



813 High Street
Kingswinford | DY6 8AD
waldrons.co.uk | 01384 888 771

 **Waldrons**
Solicitors

Supportive Legal Experts | Trusted Since 1867

Waldrons Solicitors Ltd is Authorised & Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. SRA Number: 564439

BUY FLOORS DIRECT

FREE UNDERLAY ON ALL CARPETS OVER £17.99 SQ/MT



ORDER NOW FOR GUARANTEED



Caroline

3+2 £1,279

3+1+1 £1,399

Lucy Corner

£1,799



Jodie

3+2 was £1,649 NOW £1,399

3+1+1 was £1,849 NOW £1,599

Lucy

3+2 £1,599

3+1+1 £1,999

www.buysofasdirect.co.uk

BUY SOFAS DIRECT

All Sofas Handmade in the Black Country

PRE CHRISTMAS DELIVERY



Luxury Carpets
for any room
from £11.99sq/mt

FREE UNDERLAY ON
ALL CARPETS OVER
£17.99sq/mt

12mm Laminate
flooring from
£39.99 per pack

LVT Plank or
Herringbone flooring
from £32.99sq/mt



FANTASTIC OFFERS ON SOFAS, BEDS, LIVING AND DINING FURNITURE AND CARPETS

Large showroom | Free car parking | Established 1985

BUY SOFAS KIDDERMINSTER NOW OPEN

52-54 Oxford Street, Kidderminster DY10 1AR Tel: 01562 541473

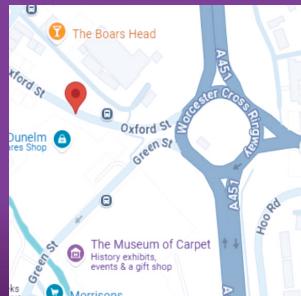
Merry Hill Opening hours

Monday – Saturday 9am-6pm | Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm



Merry Hill: Pedmore Road,
Brierley Hill, DY5 1TP
01384 958 793

Rowley Regis: 1 Marlow Street,
Rowley Regis B65 0AY
0121 561 5386



www.buysofasdirect.co.uk

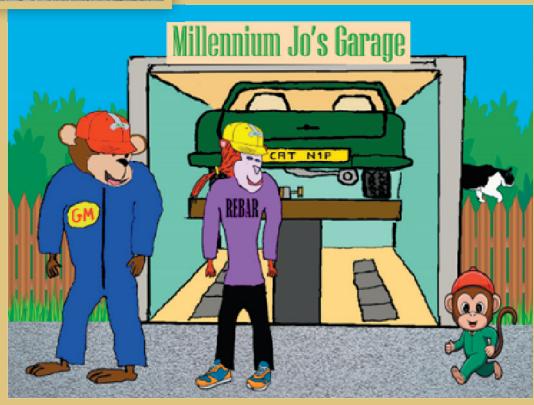
GLASTONBURY AND BONE'S PURRFECT BLACK COUNTRY CRIMBO

With all their friends around Smestow Bridge Industrial Estate



Glastonbury and Bone's Purrfect Black Country Crimbo Living Spake special edition is part of the Glastonbury Tails Picture book series about the adventures of the Highly Lovable Cats and tells the tale of how Glastonbury and Bone rescue the APP's (Amanda and Peter Panda) who are trapped in a huge snow drift on their way to the Crimbo Market to buy their Crimbo Bamboo; eventually they are rescued by

Glastonbury and Bone with some help from the Thai Hares who are a special form of Kung Fu Tyre fitters next to Grease Monkeys Garage and drive around in a Bright Yellow Pick Up truck. The Book also contains a special Crimbo Version of the Glastonbury Song. Also available in the Glastonbury Tails series is the Festive Time Fettlers picture book where the Glastonbury, Bone and the Bargies travel back in time to a Victorian Crimbo Market aboard the Time Rattler Canal barge.



Businesses and friends of the Smestow Bridge Industrial Estate have all joined together to raise enough money to produce a special edition 2026 Calendar and make a donation to their friends at Wombourne's High Flyers Charity to bring a little joy and happiness every day in 2026.

Wombourne Memorials (01902 892635) – Wombourne Printers (01902 324242) – Dacro Tracking & Security (01902 934934)
– Village Voice Magazines Ltd (0781 7904477) – Black Country Firewood (01384) 884481 – Millennium Garage (01902 894978)
– Aby Auto's (07427 779004) – Wombourne Ford Service (01902 895816) – Law Tool Hire (01902 893890) – Prestwood
Commercials Ltd (01384 424522) Moss Mobile (07903 009359) – Road Runner Motor Factors (01902 334849) – M Walton
Electrical (07889 442228) – Heaths Gym (01902 288007) – Blakedown Car Company (0800 246 1707) Interclass (01902 324422)
– Dangerous Sheep Events (0330 229 4041) – OCD Valeting (07714 648071) – RJ Restow & Recovery (07432 780813)
– Noby Garden Services (07392 827643) DAC (01902 324646) – Canmec Ltd (01902 896971) – AJD Motors (07778 594939)
– Total Garden Care (07889 123008) – Black Country Chairs (07736 206150) – Sterling Metals (01902 326202) – Magnus
Industrial Supplies (01384 295718) – Fun World (01902 895520) – The Room Beauty Studio Wombourne (01902 823111).

Special thanks to Wombourne Tyres (01902 896166) – DB Auto care (01902 326759) – Steve Perry Transport (07973 615208)
– R Dent Insulations (07950 438264) – RR Body repairs (07870 686248) – MBM (07976 850060) – R.J's Café (01902 326778)
– Wombourne MOT Centre (01902 897110) – N & D Alternators and Starter Motors



DECEMBER AT THE ROBIN



TALON BEST OF EAGLES

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER
FLASH
A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER
T.REXTASY
A TRIBUTE TO T.REX AND MARC BOLAN

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER
ROXY MAGIC
A TRIBUTE TO ROXY MUSIC

THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER
JAGGED LITTLE PILL
A TRIBUTE TO ALANIS MORISSETTE

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER
FLEETWOOD BAC
A TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD MAC

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER
ROB LAMBERTI
A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MICHAEL

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER
FRANKIE THE CONCERT
A TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE VALLI

WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER
BLACK EYED SONS

THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER
BOOT LED-ZEPPELIN
A TRIBUTE TO LED-ZEPPELIN

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER
TALON
BEST OF EAGLES

SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER
KICK UP THE 80'S
80'S PARTY NIGHT

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER
MOSTLY AUTUMN
PROGRESSIVE ROCK

SATURDAY 27TH DECEMBER
MAET LIVE
A TRIBUTE TO MEAT LOAF

SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER
AC/DSHE
A TRIBUTE TO AC/DC

TUESDAY 30TH DECEMBER
ELTONESQUE
A TRIBUTE TO SIR ELTON JOHN

WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER
THE SUPERSKAS
NEW YEARS EVE SPECIAL

FLASH
A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER



01902 401 211

therobin.co.uk

Nicholas Barwell & Co. Ltd

Accountants & Tax Advisors

Stirling House, Carriers Fold, Church Road, Wombourne, West Midlands, WV5 9DJ

Tel: 01902 897141 Fax: 01902 897242

Email: benb@nicholasbarwell.co.uk Website: www.nicholasbarwell.co.uk



We are delighted to offer the following services at sensible rates and with a personable approach

- Accounts preparation, self employed and corporate clients
- Self Assessment tax return preparation and assistance thereon
- Payroll and book-keeping services
- VAT return preparation and assistance thereon
- Business development and tax planning
- Start-up advice and assistance in the preparation of business plans and forecasting
- Corporation Tax returns and assistance thereon

INITIAL FREE CONSULTATION

We offer a friendly professional service and specialise in owner managed businesses.

Please feel free to contact Ben Barwell on 01902 897141 or e-mail benb@nicholasbarwell.co.uk.

it's a fact!

- ★ On 19th June 1882 the independent Free Gardeners held a 'Grand Demonstration & Picnic' at Shutt End Park. The park was loaned by its owner, Gabriel Jones and on the day members of the Society's local lodges assembled at various pubs and marched to Shutt End where the crowds were entertained by amongst others—Tom Betts ("comic singer, author and motto vocalist") and Ettie Lloyd ("dashing seriocomic ballad singer from the principal music halls"). Admission was 6d for adults and 3d for children.
- ★ Heavy rain and gale-force winds in May 1971 caused wholesale disruption in and around Kingswinford. A 70 foot sycamore tree was brought crashing down, completely blocking the A449 at Summerhill. Three teams of council workmen with electric saws were despatched to cut up the tree whilst the police said that it was a miracle that no-one was injured.
- ★ Greenfield Gardens was the first public park in the town of Stourbridge and was originally opened in 1903. It had an ornamental pool, fountain and bandstand (all of which have long since gone). Initially it was known as Burnt Oak Field then Paradise Gardens before being given the name by which it is known today.
- ★ An important auction took place at the Seven Stars Inn at Wall Heath on 22nd September 1845 when land and potatoes were put for sale. The first lots on offer were a series of plots of "desirable freehold building land in a delightful situation". These were then followed by an auction of a crop of two acres of potatoes "of a superior quality and to be sold without reserve"

RICHARD ALLEN-ZOARDER

POWERED BY
exp[®] UK

BESPOKE ESTATE AGENT

Nikon



YOUR LOCAL PROPERTY EXPERT

SALES

LETTINGS

MANAGEMENT

SURVEYS

0800 112 3677



CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

Just how much do you know about Christmas? We have gathered together some little-known facts that surprised us—and we hope will intrigue you too!

The use of the shortened form of the word Christmas—Xmas—dates back to the 16th century. The ‘X’ comes from the Greek letter Chi which is at the start of the Greek word for Christ.

The portrayal of Santa Clause as an old man with a white beard came from a cartoon (seen right) by Thomas Nast and featured in Harper's Weekly in January 1881.

Did you know that Christmas was once banned in the UK? In 1647 Parliament passed an ordinance that abolished Christmas Day and it lasted for 13 years between 1647 and 1660.

The first person to dress up as Santa in a department store was James Edgar in 1890. He owned a store in Brockton, Mass. and decided to take the part of Santa himself.

In Sweden it is a tradition to watch a Disney film entitled *From All Of Us To All Of You* on Christmas Eve. The film features Donald Duck.

The most important family member should sit at the head of the table. This tradition comes from the days when families would share their meals with the servants. The head of the table was where the most important family member would sit. This tradition (strangely) has carried on and is actually still used in some British households.

Santa's suit was not always red—Coca Cola actually re-invented it for an ad campaign. St Nick had appeared in numerous illustrations and written descriptions previously wearing tan, green and even scarlet, but never the bright red we now all know and love!



Yet another connection between Christmas and Coca Cola is that Santa's friend, Sprite Boy inspired the drink 'Sprite'. In 1942 Coca-Cola introduced "Sprite Boy" a character who appeared with Santa Clause in Coca-Cola advertising campaigns throughout the 1940s and 50s.

Coal was given to naughty children for two reasons. Parents left coal for their naughty children because it killed two birds with one stone—it was designed to convince their child to be less naughty and could also be used for cooking food or heating homes during the cold winter months.

During World War 1, soldiers stopped fighting at Christmas. British and German troops held a truce on Christmas Day. They stopped fighting, exchanged gifts and played games of football.

The highest grossing Christmas movie is the *Grinch*. *Home Alone* was beaten by this animated hit.



J & B PAVING & LANDSCAPING

Our Services include:

- Block Paving
- Tarmac Drives (Red Or Black)
- Paths & Patios
- Fencing
- Gravelling
- Brick Walls



07780 528 555 or 01384 943226

www.jandbpavinglandscapes.co.uk

Email: jandbpavingandlandscapes@gmail.com



Security Post Experts in the West Midlands



SECURITY POST SPECIALISTS IN THE WEST MIDLANDS & SURROUNDING AREAS

**Trusted Supply & Installation of Security Posts for Driveways
& Car Parks in the West Midlands & Surrounding Areas**



**Experienced
Specialists**



**High quality
installations**



**Strong
products**



**Free
site surveys**

Mobile: 07445 115084 Freephone: 0800 747 1215

Email: deltaposts@outlook.com www.deltasecurityposts.co.uk



VILLAGE CAFE

Coffee ★ Breakfast ★ Lunch

Village Cafe Ltd

01384
404449

8 Townsend Place, Kingswinford DY6 9JL

Engin and his team welcome you to The Village Cafe experience where all food is freshly prepared to order and using only the best of ingredients

BREAKFASTS • LUNCHES • LIGHT BITES • CAKES



ALL DAY BREAKFASTS AND FULL ENGLISH SET BREAKFAST

Tea and toast or bread and butter served 8am - 4pm

TRY OUR HOMEMADE LASAGNE, SHEPHERDS PIE AND OMELETTES



OPEN SUNDAYS
9.00am – 3.00pm

All Day Breakfasts

**Sunday Lunches
served**

**12.00 noon – 3.00pm
(booking essential)**

Wall Heath

DECORMAR

Home Garden & Pet Supplies

COMING SOON!!

Real Christmas
Trees and Handmade
Christmas Wreaths.

Place your orders
NOW!



Don't forget the
firelighters this winter –
we have plenty of stock.



We have everything you need to keep your fires burning
this winter. Bags of logs and coal always available.



Look out for Christmas
decorations, artificial
and real trees, wreaths
and holly balls.
Remember to place
your order early to
avoid disappointment.



Cards & Gift Bags • Key Cutting • Calor Gas • Logs & Coal

11A Enville Rd, Kingswinford DY6 0JT

Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm

Saturday 9am – 4:30pm Sunday 10am – 1pm

01384 274312

THE STRANGE CASE OF JOHN DUNCALFE

On 22nd June 1677 John Duncalfe was buried at St Mary's Church, Kingswinford and shortly afterwards his "fame" spread throughout the land, largely due to the publication of two pamphlets about him.

The most popular of these was by a gentleman called James Illingworth who gave his work the descriptive (if not very succinct) title: "*A Just Narrative of Account of the Man whose Hands and Legs rotted off in the Parish of King's Swinford in Staffordshire, Where he died June 21st 1677, Carefully collected by J.A. Illingworth BD, an Eye and Ear Witness of most of the material passages in it*".

The story of John Duncalfe is indeed fascinating. He became known as the "man whose hands rotted" and many at the time believed that his demise was directly caused by "God's anger and justice". He was born in Codsall but, having been orphaned, moved to Kingswinford as an apprentice wheelwright. About 30 months into his apprenticeship, however, he was sent to prison for stealing goods from his master. On his release from Stafford gaol he fell into criminal ways again and stole a bible from the wife of Henry Babb in Wolverhampton and sold it to a servant girl at Grange Mill. He was caught but fervently denied the theft saying that "*he cursed himself wishing his hands might rot off if it were true*". Reports say that within days his arms and legs started to wither. He was unable to walk and was taken back to Kingswinford for relief under the Poor Law. He was committed to the care of John Bennett of Wall Heath but his condition became steadily worse and on 21st June 1677 he finally died as a result of his affliction. In his last days he was visited by many churchmen who professed that the "rotting" was due to him having uttered the oath about not stealing the bible. Subsequently the tale was told in many sermons across the land.



ALL TYPES OF ROOFING & MAINTENANCE WORK UNDERTAKEN

- Re-roofing
- Storm damage
- Soffits
- Pointing
- New Roofs
- Tile & Slate repairs
- Guttering
- Brick work
- Flat Roofs
- UPVc fascias
- Exterior painting
- Rendering

For a **FREE** estimate please call **SHAYNE!**

➤ Mob : **07518 363151**

➤ Email : **ormesroofing@yahoo.co.uk**

Merry Christmas

Lift
and Rise
chairs all
reduced!

Massive Winter Sale Now On! Savings up to 75%!

Come and see our amazing offers, while stocks last, immediate delivery



WE WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE!

MASSIVE SHOWROOM AND STOCK CLEARANCE AMAZING QUALITY, WITH PRICES SLASHED ACROSS THE STORE!

Dreamworld offers a wide range of three piece suites, luxury divans, dining and occasional furniture to complement any home, that coupled with over 40 years of experience there is always someone available to offer the best quality service.

UP TO £1000 PART
EXCHANGE AVAILABLE
FOR YOUR OLD SUITE

FREE REMOVAL AND
DISPOSAL OF YOUR
OLD BED

FRIENDLY FREE
DELIVERY TO A ROOM
OF YOUR CHOICE

ODD CHAIRS AND
MATTRESSES
TO CLEAR

Dreamworld
Furniture



VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
8 STALLINGS LANE, KINGSWINFORD DY6 7HU

TEL: 01384 295660



<https://www.facebook.com/dreamworldfurniture2017>

www.dreamworld.furniture

FIVE WAYS INN



LOYALTY CARD

10P BACK FOR
EVERY £1 SPENT
DARTS, POOL TABLE
& OTHER PUB GAMES

BathamS
PRIZEWINNING ALES

LIVE SPORT

sky sports  

BathamS
PRIZEWINNING ALES

LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT EVERY WEEK

375 Himley Road, Gornal DY3 2PZ  **01384 252968**

DID YOU KNOW?

At one time in the 19th century many pubs in the area had a rat pit in their backyard. Traditionally 30 rats would be put into the pit and then a fighting dog introduced. Bets would be taken as to the length of time that the dog took to kill all 30 rats.

The first Conservative Club in Dudley was established in 1884 on Birmingham Road opposite St Edmund's Church. It was officially opened by the Rt Hon Earl Beauchamp. To celebrate the opening a banquet for 200 people was held at the Dudley Arms Hotel and by the following year the club had over 350 members who had paid a guinea entrance fee and a further annual subscription of a guinea. Within five years the membership reached almost 750.

The Round Oak Steelworks opened in 1857 and closed in 1982. At its peak in the 1950s it was producing up to 500,000 tons of steel a year.

'The Dudley Herald' newspaper was established in 1866 and *'The Dudley Chronicle'* started publishing in 1885. Both, however, were pre-dated by Brierley Hill's first newspaper—"The Advertiser" which was started by George Ford in 1853. It ceased publication in 1967.

In 1987 the Richardson twins, Don and Roy, announced that they were planning a £500 million leisure complex at Merry Hill. It was to include a sports village with a 20,000 sq ft sports hall, five indoor tennis courts, eight squash courts, an indoor wet ski arena and a health and fitness centre. There was also to be a floating galleon restaurant, an 'Atlantis Water World' fun water park including wave and beach pools, saunas, jacuzzis and spas.

It is almost 48 years since the death of Carl Bridgewater at Yew Tree Farm at Prestwood.



**Members get amazing
savings all year!**

**Use our QR code to
register or book online!**

**Latest creams
available in store!**



**Can't find what you're looking for?
Just ask one of the team, we're always
happy to help!**



FIND US

8 Stallings Lane, K-Ford Dudley, DY6 7HU

MyDreamTan.co.uk
mydreamtan@gmail.com
01384 438950

Bring
this advert
in to get
Free
Minutes



Follow us on socials for more offers and updates: @MyDreamTan

Lisa's Cleaning Services

Providing a professional, quality, reliable service.
DBS checked, insured and references available

Services Offered:

- Kitchen Cleans
- Bathroom Cleans
- Mopping
- Dusting, Polishing
- Vacuuming
- Changing Bed Linen
- Deep Cleans
- Window Cleaning



07873 707740

 lisatimmins1975@gmail.com



Step Ahead

Margaret Cox
Foot Health Practitioner, DipCFHP MPSPract

Member of the Alliance Register of Foot Health Practitioners
Foot Care In the Comfort Of Your Own Home

Foot Care Services include:

- Nail Trimming
- Treatment of Corns
- Callus Reduction
- Verrucas
- Fungal Infection
- Diabetic Footcare

To Book an Appointment Contact Me On:

07752 570538



FOR REINDEER READ GOAT!



If anyone tells you that they have seen Santa's sleigh being pulled by a team of reindeer don't believe them! In fact since ancient times it has been pulled by two goats!

The suggestion that the sleigh is powered by eight reindeer called Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder and Blitzen comes from an American poem entitled "*A Visit From St. Nicholas*" by Clement Moore and published in 1823. Before this it was generally accepted that the sleigh was pulled by two magical goats called Gnasher and Cracker. This comes from ancient Norse mythology in which it is said that Thor, the God of Thunder was pulled on his chariot by two goats. Through this tale goats became revered and it was said that if you were to put a goat on its head on New Year's Eve you would have good luck for the next year. The Moore poem, however, introduced the idea that it was reindeer that pulled Santa's sleigh

and in America at least, this became the widely accepted story. The reindeer were described as "tiny" and not at all like the traditional Caribou-type animals depicted in most films since including the very popular 1994 version of "*Miracle on 34th Street*". In New Brunswick, Canada there is a range of peaks known since 1964 as the "*Christmas Mountains*". There are a total of 10 separate peaks in the range—eight of which are named after the reindeer in Moore's poem. The other two are North Pole Mountain and Mount St. Nicholas.



J&B TREE & LANDSCAPING

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE...

- PATIOS
- PAVING
- TREE TRIMMING & PRUNING
- GRAVEL
- LANDSCAPE DESIGN
- FENCING
- POWER WASHING
- TREE REMOVAL

- HEDGE CUTTING
- TREE FELLING
- ALL WASTE REMOVED



07780 528 555 or 01384 943226

Email: **JANDBTREEANDLAND@GMAIL.COM**



Rightio Plumbing & Heating **01384 847 002**

We work in
Kingswinford, Wall Heath, Wordsley and all surrounding areas.

► COMPETITIVE RATES ◀

- ✓ Fast Response
- ✓ All Work Guaranteed
- ✓ Flexible Appointment Times

► **12 Month Guarantee on labour!**
Excludes blockages

► **OAP Discount**
Speak to us today!

► **1-2 Hour Emergency Response time!**



OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Boiler Breakdowns
- ✓ Boiler Servicing
- ✓ Radiators & Pipes
- ✓ Tanks & Cylinders
- ✓ Toilets & Taps
- ✓ Leaks & Bursts
- ✓ Showers
- ✓ Clearing Blockages
- ✓ Pipework Replacement
- ✓ Gas Safe Certified

BLACK COUNTRY AT WAR

1914-1918

Despite the fact that in the autumn of 1914 troops were told that “*it will all be over by Christmas*” they had to ensure four festive seasons before peace was declared.

The Christmas of 1914 was particularly remembered for the unofficial truces that the British and German forces observed along parts of the Front Line:

“On Christmas Day the Germans stuck up a white light and shouted that if we refrained from firing they would do the same. We did so and people started showing themselves over the trenches and waving to each other. Shortly two Germans advanced unarmed towards our trenches and our men did the same. They met half way and shook hands, exchanged cigars and cigarettes and souvenirs and soon there was quite a big crowd between the trenches...Both sides then buried the dead whom they had been unable to get at before, after which the Germans were ordered back to their trenches.”

(Rifleman Jack Chappell, 1/5th London)

Many soldiers of both sides took photographs of these unusual meetings and a number of units even arranged a second truce on New Year's Day so that prints could be exchanged.

All this activity was firmly discouraged by the senior ranks and in early December 1915 orders were issued to every battalion on the Front Line that no fraternisation with the enemy would be allowed and that any soldier



British and German troops met in No Man's Land between the two Front Lines on Christmas Day.

found doing so would be severely punished. In fact there was little appetite amongst most troops for a repeat of the Christmas Day truce of the previous year. Reports of zeppelins killing civilians back home, the sinking of the Lusitania and the use of poison gas in France had all contrived to raise the level of hostile feelings towards the German troops.

For the troops serving in France and Belgium at Christmas in 1917 life proved particularly tough. It began snowing just before Christmas and all over the festive season the ground was frozen solid, making the digging of trenches virtually impossible. Much worse was to come, however, as the snow melted so the trenches flooded and in some cases had to be abandoned, often with the loss of all the soldiers' belongings and kit. Elsewhere in the world Christmas for the troops was equally hard. In East Africa December 1916 saw almost 25,000 British troops suffering from malaria whilst in Gallipoli Christmas 1916 saw the Allied troops preparing to retreat.





A HIGH CLASS CATERING SERVICE FOR HOME & OFFICE

- LUNCH & DINNER PARTIES • COCKTAIL PARTIES
- BUSINESS LUNCHES • AFTERNOON TEAS • WEDDINGS
- FUNERALS • HOT & COLD BUFFETS • FREEZER FILLING

Tel: 01902 896170 Mob: 07721 754000

www.maryhermansmithcatering.co.uk Can also be found on

Arthur's Jewellery and watches

Hand Made Gold
& Silver Jewellery

REPAIRS, RE-MOUNTS &
PRIVATE COMMISSIONS

ARTHUR ALSO BUYS GOLD

FINE WATCHES
BOUGHT & SOLD
including Rolex, Omega,
Breitling, Cartier

The Craft Centre, Halfpenny Green Vineyard,
Tom Lane, Bobbington DY7 5EP

01384 221567

07856 898558



- FULL & PART REWIRES
- FUSEBOARD CHANGES • CALL OUTS
- TESTING • EXTRA SOCKETS
- OUTSIDE LIGHTS

Wilf's Mobile:
07572 613414

Email:
wilfredo123@hotmail.co.uk



|| FASCIAS & SOFFITS || FELT ROOFS
|| ROOF REPAIRS || SLATE ROOFING
|| CLEANING, TILING & REPAIRS
|| FIRESTONE RUBBER ROOFING
|| CURE IT FIBRE GLASS ROOFING



Get rid of your Flat Roof worries...



SCAN ME

// ALL ASPECTS OF
ROOFING COVERED //
// FULLY INSURED //



GMD
ROOFING
// FREE QUOTES //

07714 899321

E: DENSONGARETH@YMAIL.COM



ROCK THE MISTLETOE is a band of around 20 local artists who have got together to record a song entitled “*Christmas Time (Bells Chime)*”. The idea was the brainchild of Steve Taylor of Black Country Carpets in Stourbridge who got together with Alan Bell from Stage Studios in Halesowen, Ade Hill from the band Dr and the Medics, Gel Newey from Bleeding Hearts and Plutonium.

Alan was the initial creator of the song and with everyone’s help and a few studio sessions they turned it into the song it is today.

Steve hosts Retro Rock on Black Country Radio every Monday evening and through the show he met all the artists now involved in putting together the song. It was a case of getting together over a couple of weeks to record the vocals and instrumentals and then Alan went ahead and arranged for the song to be mixed.

The line-up boasts an impressive array of talent including Alan Bell and Mark David from Moosejaw, Russell Peake from Electus, Lisa and Tallukah Lilley from Showcall Academy of Performing Arts, James Barnes and Mike Conningby from Queen Reloaded, Ian Slater from Don’t Stop, Ian Hideous and Jay Decay from Decay 87, Jason Keely from Black Country Radio, Cy Wooldridge and Jess Skidmore (who Steve knew mainly from local theatre as well as performing with them in various bands such as Housewives Choice and Adam Husk from Labelled Ded). Alex Bell played keyboards with Sofia Whitehouse on vocals. Also on vocals were Mike Croutear from Queen Reloaded and Alan’s fellow band mate Mark Davies from Moosejaw

Everyone involved with this project has freely given their time and Alan has done all of the recording and offered his studios free of charge. The object is quite simply to raise as much money for children’s charities as they can via downloads and streams. CDs will also be available and a video (edited by Philippa Davies and assisted by Jess Skidmore) has been recorded which is now available to view on YouTube. The song is available to download on most major streaming apps and platforms.

The group are hoping that the song will become a future favourite and, fingers crossed, that it also makes the charts. All they need is enough interest and promotion which they are constantly striving to get—if there is anyone out there who has any ideas of further promotion the team are always willing to listen.

If you would like further information or would like to speak about possible promotional aspects of the project please contact Steve Taylor at Black Country Carpets on 0795 898 2246



ROCK THE MISTLETOE

ONE COMMUNITY UPDATE BY SHAZ SALEEM

Hey wonderful people of Kingswinford and Wall Heath, I'm very proud to be part of the Village Voice writing a monthly blog to highlight amazing community groups and community champions.

As the founder of the Saleem Foundation charity and recipient of The High Sheriff Award, I believe volunteering makes me feel as though I am an ambassador for my area; I feel a sense of pride for where I come from.

Kingswinford Remembers

I was honoured to join Kingswinford Royal British Legion at the Remembrance Parade service. The turnout from our amazing residents of Kingswinford was incredible as hundreds lined up to watch the parade go past!! This is why when it comes to #OneCommunity, Kingswinford leads the way!

Special shoutout to the 2488 Kingswinford Squadron Air Training Corps who led the parade and the band were amazing, they are based in Kingswinford. Their support is greatly appreciated!

The parade began at the Legion and concluded at St. Mary's Parish Church, Kingswinford, where I had the opportunity to lay a wreath on behalf of the Saleem Foundation and be part of a moving ceremony that took place honouring and remembering those fallen for us led by Fr. Chris Smith.



Santa Truck Convoy 2025!!

The Santa truck run is getting closer – it will be taking place on the 20th December at 5pm starting in Bilston at Pallants Transport in Withy Road and we will finish at Dudley Kingswinford RFC. There will be food and a drinks bar available at the DK rugby club. We encourage everyone to attend and support, there will be a live feed on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/shazsaleem001). Huge thank you to Andrew and the team for organising this incredible event, this will be the 10th annual Santa Truck Convoy!!

Susan Bolton & Graham Roberts win the November TSF Award for Heroes

The incredible Susan and Graham from Wall Heath in Bloom have won this month's #TsfAwardForHeroes. Sue and Graham were nominated by Louise Vale. The Award was presented by our community champion Lydia Longville from The Bonsai Black Belt Academy, Kingswinford. If you know anyone who lives or works in Kingswinford, Wall Heath, and the surrounding area and deserves to be recognised, please nominate them by emailing me on askshaz@hotmail.co.uk.

Upcoming community events

12th December – Kappa Club – 9.15am to 11am at Wall Heath Tavern • 13th December – Jingle the Wall Heath – Santa Trail – Wall Heath Tavern • 14th December – Kingswinford & Wall Heath Litter Pick – 10am • Kingswinford in Bloom meet every Saturday and Sunday 10am by the library.

Contact me



07786 196666



askshaz@hotmail.co.uk



[@shazsaleem001](https://www.facebook.com/shazsaleem001)

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!

I know we have a few weeks to go but we thought it our duty to break you all in gently with some amusing cracker jokes....



For many people, Christmas lunch just wouldn't be the same without crackers and without the groans that come from the jokes. Here are just a few to get you in training for the big day:

What is Santa's favourite pizza? One that's deep pan, crisp and even.

Why would you invite a mushroom to a party? He's a fun guy to be with.

What never eats Christmas dinner? The turkey, it's stuffed!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsilitis!

What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum, you just can't beat it.

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!

How do snowmen get around? They ride an icicle!

Why did the Christmas tree go to the barber? It needed a trim.

What is it called when Santa takes a break? A Santa pause.

What would you give your dog for Christmas? A mobile bone!

Why has Santa been banned from sooty chimneys? Carbon footprints!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

— POEMS FROM — A BLACK COUNTRY BLOKE



JOHN HOMER

For many years John Homer has been involved with West Bromwich Albion, the Albion Foundation and the Black Country

Living Museum, and is also a founder-member of the 'ME, MYSELF AND I' group which is a dementia support group for carers.

He is a speaker on everything and anything to do with the Black Country and local football.

He has now put pen to paper to produce a book of poetry '**Poems from a Black Country Bloke**' which is dedicated to all things Black Country—a wonderful collection of poems about his youth and life in general.

The book is available to buy at £9.99 (plus postage)—please contact John on 07818 291578 or 01384 236827 or email him at johnhomerwba@hotmail.co.uk

DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD RUGBY CLUB PRESENT

BACK TO THE
NEW YEAR'S
EVE

80s

Party



WED DEC 31

DOORS OPEN: 7PM

EVENT INFO

TICKETS



SCAN ME

DAY TOURS

Tue 16 Dec Broadway Festive Lights £24
 Sat 20 Dec Worcester Christmas Tree Trail £17
 Thu 1 Jan New Year Tour & Lunch £51
 Sat 3 Jan Lichfield & MacArthur Glen £20
 Sat 10 Jan Banbury & Stratford-Upon-Avon £23
 Sun 25 Jan Stamford & Peterborough £25

Sat 31 Jan Welshpool & Oswestry £24
 Sat 7 Feb Liverpool £26
 Sat 14 Feb Snowdrops at Rode Hall £30
 Sat 21 Feb Leighton Buzzard & Aylesbury £25
 Tue 24 Feb Abergavenny & Monmouth £20
 Sun 1 Mar Llangollen & Betws-y-Coed £24



YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RUN COMPANY

**PICKING UP THROUGHOUT DUDLEY,
HALESOWEN, KINGSWINFORD,
STOURBRIDGE, WALL HEATH etc.**

QUALITY HOLIDAYS 2026

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|--------|------|
| 16 Jan | WINTER WARMER IN TORQUAY | 4 days | £375 |
| 1 Feb | CHESTER | 2 days | £190 |
| 16 Feb | EARLY SPRING IN BOURNEMOUTH | 5 days | £400 |
| 8 Mar | VICTORIAN LUXURY—ISLE OF WIGHT | 5 days | £690 |
| 17 Mar | SIDMOUTH IN SPRINGTIME | 5 days | £520 |
| 30 Mar | ISLES OF SCILLY | 5 days | £980 |
| 9 Apr | DUTCH FLOWERS & WINDMILLS | 5 days | £875 |
| 20 Apr | HARROGATE & YORKSHIRE DALES | 5 days | £590 |
| 11 May | KENTISH GOLD | 5 days | £600 |
| 7 June | HEXHAM & NORTHERN MAGIC | 5 days | £600 |

Price includes dinner, bed & breakfast and excursions.

INTERESTING FACTS!

Identical twins do not have the same fingerprints. You can't blame your crimes on your twin, after all. This is because environmental factors during development in the womb (umbilical cord length, position in the womb and the rate of finger growth) all affect your fingerprint.

Earth's rotation is changing speed—it is actually slowing down. This means that, on average, the length of a day increases by around 1.8 seconds per century. 600 million years ago a day lasted just 21 hours.

Earlobes have no biological purpose. Whilst they are rich in nerve endings and may play a role in social bonding, many scientists argue that earlobes do not have any true biological purpose.

Most people stroke cats the wrong way. Research shows that they often just tolerate it for the food and attention. But just what are the safest spots? Under the chin, cheeks and base of the ears. The worst place is their belly and the base of their tail—touch there and you're more than likely to annoy them than bond with them!

Ants do not have lungs—instead they breathe through spiracles. These are nine or ten tiny openings, depending on the species.

You don't actually lose most of your heat through your head. Your face, head and chest are more sensitive to temperature changes but this myth is not entirely true. In reality, covering any part of the body helps prevent heat loss in the same way.

BLAZE HAIR



From everyone at Blaze we wish you all
a very Happy Christmas and a
Peaceful and Prosperous New Year ❤

Christmas Opening Times

Monday 22nd December – 9.00am-5.00pm

Tuesday 23rd December – 9.00am-5.00pm

Wednesday 24th December – CLOSED

Thursday 25th December – CLOSED

Friday 26th December – CLOSED

Saturday 27th December – CLOSED

Monday 29th December – 9.00am-5.00pm

Tuesday 30th December – 9.00am-5.00pm

Wednesday 31st December – CLOSED

Thursday 1st January 2026 – CLOSED

Friday 2nd January – Normal opening

hours



www.blazehairkingswinford.co.uk



FREE
PARKING



01384 70048

J.T. BROOKES & Co.

KINGSWINFORD



Independent Family Funeral Directors

PART OF N.E. DOWNING (BLACKHEATH) LTD



Independent family-run business for over 100 years

Home visits available by appointment

Pre-paid funeral plans through Golden Charter

24hr service 365 days a year

FOR IMMEDIATE HELP AND ADVICE CONTACT US ON

01384 296683

OR FIND US AT: 62 Market Street, Kingswinford DY6 9LH

jtbk@nedowning.co.uk | www.nedowning.co.uk

J.T. Brookes & Co, Brierley Hill, Kingswinford & Hagley



We would like to wish all of our customers old and new a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**



We are now taking orders for Christmas. Make sure you get your Christmas bread and cake ordered to avoid disappointment.

**The Village Bakery, Albion Parade,
Wall Heath DY6 0NP 01384 403680**

Follow us on Facebook @ the Village Bakery Wall Heath

We are open
Monday-Friday – 8.00am-3.00pm
Saturday – 7.30am-2.00pm



*A very Happy Christmas and a peaceful
and prosperous New Year
to all our Advertisers, Readers,
Designers, Printers and Distributors.*

Gail

Townsend Place and



MARKET

Thursday/Friday/Saturday prior to Christmas – 9am-3pm

22nd & 23rd December – 9am-3pm

The market then re-opens Thursday 8th January 2026 – 9am-3pm

Lathams



Tuesday 23rd December will be the last chance to pick up pre-orders.

Wall Heath Bookworms



Any 3 Christmas books for £10.00.

Bostin Pickles



Selection of pickles, fresh bread and sweets for your Christmas enjoyment.

Claireabelle's



Pop down to see Claire to get your Christmas outfit sorted.

The Pet Stall



Everything you need for your pet this Christmas including wild bird food.

Bric-a-Brac

Come and see us for some Christmas gift inspiration. Week prior to Christmas – normal hours. The market will return on 8 January 2026.

Look out
for Pet Beds
returning to
Townsend Place
in the
New Year.

JSE Celebrations



Due to changes in family circumstances and work commitments it has become more and more difficult to be able to run the stall as I have done in the past. The stall will be open on the usual market days and will be finishing on Tuesday 23 December. Up until then everything is for sale and we are open to offers.

Market

Kenchington Ltd wishes its trusted shops, market traders and their valued customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2026.

GREGGS

Open 24 December
7am-4pm

Then re-open
27 December
normal hours
31 December
7am-4pm

1 January - 9am-3pm

DAISY CHAIN YOUR LOCAL FLORIST

22 December
8.30-6pm
23 December
8.30-6pm
24 December
8.30-12 noon
Reopen 2 January

GEEVES and THE GLOW HAUS

24 December
open until 4pm
27-30 December
normal hours
31 December
open until 4pm
Re-open 2 January
normal hours

Superdrug

24 December
9am-5pm

Then re-open
26 December
10am-4pm

27 December onwards
normal hours
1 January
10am-4pm

Something Special Cards and Gifts for all occasions

Sunday 14 & 21
10am-3pm

24 December
9am-3pm

Open New Year's Eve
9am-5pm
Re-open
2 January

Specsavers

24 December
8.30am-4pm;
27 December
normal hours;
31 December
8.30am-4pm.

Re-open 2 January
normal hours

No 12 Townsend Place

Available to let
Enquiries:
please ring
07891 603640

2 COOL AC SERVICES

Please pop in and
see us some time.
We would be
delighted to meet you.

dudley building society

24 December
9.00-12 noon

31 December
9.00am-12 noon

Re-open 2 January
normal hours

R NEWEY

21 December - Closed
22 December - 6am-6pm
23 December - 6am-6pm
24 December - 6am-2pm
25-29 December - CLOSED
30 December - 9am-3pm

31 December -
7.30am-2pm
1 January - CLOSED
Re-open 2 January
normal hours

ZAKS HAIRDRESSING

22 & 23 December
open 9am-8pm
24 December - Closed
Re-open 2 January
normal hours

ROBBY'S INDIAN DINING

24 December - 9.30-5pm
27 December
normal hours
29 & 30 December
normal hours
31 December
9.30am-5pm
Re-open 2 January
normal hours

VILLAGE CAFE

Coffee * Breakfast * Lunch
22-24 December -
normal hours
27-31 December -
normal hours
Re-open 2 January -
normal hours

FITTED KITCHENS, WARDROBES & STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Master craftsmen carpentry
with full design & planning service

KITCHENS Fully fitted kitchens, full kitchen refurbishments, replacement kitchen doors & worktops, and worktop jointing & fitting.

WARDROBES Bespoke fitted wardrobes for bedrooms, dressing rooms and unique spaces

STORAGE SOLUTIONS Bespoke media units & bookcases, bespoke fitted home office & studies, bespoke fitted bathroom cabinetry, and bespoke storage solutions

Contact Andy for a free quotation

MOBILE: 07930 643723 EMAIL: contact@shawfitinteriors.com



f **i** **g** Take a look at our social media for examples of our work.
Search 'Shawfit Interiors'.



shawfit
Interiors

shawfitinteriors.com

it's a fact!

- ★ In December the Wordsley Dramatic Society put on a performance of a comedy called "Heroes" and a farce entitled "Borrowed Plumes" at the Drill Hall (now Richardson) Hall in Wordsley. The subsequent review of the play said that the standard of acting was very good but there were problems encountered because of the small stage. Another concern was the meagre attendance on the night meaning that the society made a sizeable financial loss.
- ★ In May 1857 John Mills, a miner from Wordsley, was charged with brutality towards his wife. He did not appear at Wordsley when summoned and so had to be arrested on a warrant and brought before the court. He was committed to hard labour for two months.
- ★ One of the most popular outings for many people from Kingswinford was a day at the Annual Wakes at Brierley Hill. In 1935 the crowds were able to witness animals at either end of the size spectrum. "Jimmy", the world's smallest racehorse, was on show alongside "Billy", a pig weighing half a ton. "Jimmy" was the size of a small dog and at the age of 5½ weighed only 37lbs. At the age of just over a year, however, "Billy" was over 8 foot in length and had a daily intake of four cases of apples, 16 large cabbages, six or seven buckets of milk and two bushels of bran and crushed grain.
- ★ The good people of Wordsley were generous contributors to the fund to help the sick and wounded in the war in France and Prussia of 1870. Over £65 was sent to the national appeal.

Christmas Services

Midweek Carol Service - Weds 10th Dec, 2.00pm

Children's Nativity Service - Sun 14th Dec, 10.30am

Traditional Carol Service - Sun 21st Dec, 4.00pm

Christmas Day, 10.30am

A Warm Welcome



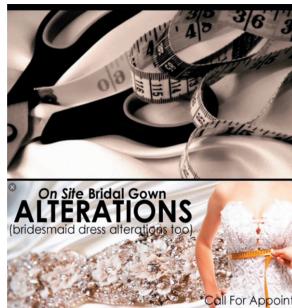
info@nlcwh.uk

www.nlcwh.uk

81 Envile Road
Wall Heath, DY6 0JX

TOTAL SEWING SERVICE

Curtains & Blinds : Haberdashery : Alterations



On Site Bridal Gown
ALTERATIONS
(bridesmaid dress alterations too)

Call For Appoint

Advice, Measure, Make, Fit

Bespoke curtains and blinds, all made to measure, with 100's of fabrics to choose from.

- Huge range of poles and tracks
- Homeware and Interiors
- Haberdashery
- Wool and knitting patterns
- Dressmaking fabrics and patterns
- Clothing alterations, specialising in bridal and prom wear, with tailoress on site
- On site Bridal Gown Alterations

Open:

9am - 5pm Monday to Friday | 10am - 3pm Saturday
01384 295960 | 7 The Cross, Kingswinford, DY6 9JA

www.totalsewing.co.uk

Wall Heath

NATURES PAWZ

Pet Supplies



**Raw Food –
all natural**

Chews

Pig's Ears

Pig's feet

Chews

Dog accessories

BIRDS

Bird seed

Hearts

Fat Balls

Suet blocks

Coconut halves

Peanuts

Small animal feed

**AND MUCH
MORE....**

**Local delivery
service
available**

Don't forget your pet this Christmas. Nature's Pawz is an Aladdin's cave of everything you will need to make your pet feel special on the big day – from that must have toy to food and treats – NATURE'S PAWZ has it all!



WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU WILL NEED FOR YOUR PET ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

31 High St, Wall Heath, Kingswinford DY6 0HB

www.naturespawz.co.uk



01384 274985

07795 217374

**WIN
TICKETS
TO THE
ODEON
CINEMA**

Our friends at the Odeon Cinema complex on Merry Hill have very kindly sent us 2 x family passes to give away to the two lucky winners of this month's competition. So, pen at the ready and get finding those hidden words and, who knows, you could be a winner of our competition this month.

All you have to do is search out the square below for the 16 words associated with **ODEON CINEMA** on our list. Fifteen of them are hidden in the square (spelt forwards, backwards, up or down or diagonally) **whilst one is not there at all – or it may be misspelt!** Once you have identified which one is missing just fill in the form below and send it to us.

Alternatively send us an email at villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk (remember to include your name, address, postcode, telephone number and email address).

The winners will be the first two correct entries drawn at random after the closing date of **Friday, 19th December 2025**. Good luck!

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | N | E | V | E | M | E | R | R | E |
| T | S | O | C | N | O | E | D | O | S | S |
| A | T | N | E | E | W | R | W | D | C | E |
| E | N | Y | V | P | M | R | E | I | R | S |
| S | L | L | I | H | N | Y | N | O | E | A |
| E | V | V | L | L | | E | C | N | E | E |
| T | E | F | I | L | M | T | E | A | N | L |
| S | F | A | C | A | M | A | M | T | S | E |
| O | L | P | S | M | L | I | F | S | C | R |
| C | O | F | E | E | E | F | F | O | C | S |
| P | O | P | C | O | R | N | O | C | O | P |

HIDDEN WORDS

1. ODEON
2. CINEMA
3. RELEASES
4. NEW
5. MERRY
6. POPCORN
7. HILL
8. COSTA
9. FILMS
10. VIP
11. FAMILY
12. EVENTS
13. SCREENS
14. SEATS
15. LIVE
16. COFFEE

MISSING WORD: NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE: TEL NO:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

SEND TO: ODEON CINEMA COMPETITION, 50 REDHALL ROAD, DUDLEY DY3 2NL

MEMBER MONDAYS

All movies, all day from

£7

*

Exclusive to members
Download the app today



my ODEON

*Price shown is exclusive to myODEON members when booking online, which includes a booking fee of £1 per ticket. Additional upgrade costs apply for seat and screen upgrades. Price does not apply to special screenings and events.

Available at select ODEON cinemas only. Prices at other ODEON cinemas may vary.
For more details, see www.odeon.co.uk/privacy-and-legal/myodeon-member-monday-and-saver-terms/

Account. Ability.

Your local, expert advisors. Here to help Kingswinford businesses thrive.

For the right accountancy services delivered at the right price, contact TaxAssist Accountants today.

Free consultations available by telephone and online:

Call 01384 913 888

taxassist.co.uk/kingswinford

Find us at our new shop:

1-3 Moss Grove,
Kingswinford, DY6 9HS



Excellent  Trustpilot

Based on 2,000+ reviews



Over 35 Years Experience



Patrick J Bellew

- Interior Painting
- Wallpapering
- Exterior Painting
- Domestic
- Commercial
- Fully insured
- Reliable and trusted
- Competitive Rates
- NVQ Level 3
- Based in Wordsley

FOR A FREE CONSULTATION CALL:
01384 271038 or 07793 589984
patrickbellew@ymail.com
www.local-painter-decorator.com



Brierley Hill Samaritans are as vital as ever in supporting the Black Country. For 52 years the Samaritans at Brierley Hill has supported some of the most vulnerable people in our community. The core Samaritans service is the telephone-based national helpline, available 24/7 every day of the year (free to call on 116 123). Whatever people are going through in life, if they're having a tough time, they can call that number to talk to someone. All Samaritans are trained volunteers – none are paid for their time – and they are there to listen, focus on thoughts and give people space to explore their feelings.



of other locations, attended Pride events, handed out leaflets and mental health tips at local Supermarkets and given talks to a variety of groups.

As with all charities around the country, regular funding is a major cause for concern to the Samaritans. Brierley Hill is an affiliated branch of the National Samaritans Charity, but it is also an independent charity in itself (registered Charity Number 1168020) and is entirely self-funded. Through a generous bequest some years ago, the branch is fortunate to operate from a purpose-built building, Beryl Hill, on Albion Street just off Brierley Hill High Street. However, in order to continue to operate they must cover their own annual branch running costs which are now approximately £25,000 a year. Volunteers specifically for the Fundraising and Outreach teams are therefore always a vital part of the branch.

The 80 volunteers at Brierley Hill Samaritans are also keen to make a difference out in the local community, attending outreach and awareness events throughout the year. In the last year, they have attended post-incident prevention work at railway stations following suicides on the railways locally), held awareness events at Merry Hill and a number

It is interesting to note that 80% of people who contact the Samaritans do not express suicidal feelings at the time they are calling. However, by calling when they are having a tough time, they may have taken an important first step in allaying further despair by accessing a service where they are listened to in confidence, and they can talk freely without being judged.

Samaritans support and empower callers by helping them to explore their emotions and clarify what is causing their distress.

Hopefully by doing so they can then make

sense of their situation and see a way forward. Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy and it is the vision of all who work for the Samaritans that fewer people die by suicide. Between 2021-2023 Dudley registered 8.8 suicides per 100,000 people, the highest rise in deaths for decades. Every death by suicide creates a ripple in our communities too, on average it is



estimated that 135 people are affected every time someone takes their life. This includes family, friends, work colleagues and the wider community. It is clear that the need for the Samaritans service is as vital today as it was in 1973, when a dedicated group of local people first came together to form the Brierley Hill branch. If you need emotional support please call the Samaritans free of charge on 116 123. If you are interested in volunteering at Brierley Hill Samaritans or making a donation to help with the running costs of the branch, please visit their website: at www.samaritans.org/branches/brierleyhill or follow them on Twitter: @BrierleyHillSam

Brierley Hill Samaritans. The Samaritans can be reached around the clock, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and respond every 10 seconds to a call from anyone who is struggling to cope and who needs someone to listen to them without judgement or pressure. If a caller needs an immediate response it is best to call on the phone using the **freephone number 116 123** or by emailing jo@samaritans.org

Although Brierley Hill Branch is not always open, they are linked with other branches in such a way so that anyone who calls, whatever the time of day or night, is able to speak to a volunteer.



OUR SERVICES

- PAINTING & DECORATING
- HOUSEHOLD REPAIRS
- LOCKS & SAFE FITTING
- GENERAL MAINTENANCE
- FENCING & GARDENING

BOOK NOW



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO:
07876 612785



FREE QUOTES
FULLY INSURED



IN THIS MONTH

Over the years, December has been a busy month for interesting events and here is what we have come up with...

1791—The *Observer*, the oldest Sunday newspaper in the world, was first published (4th)

1903—Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered airplane flight near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina (17th)

1911—Roald Amundsen became the first person to reach the South Pole (14th)

1919—Lady Nancy Astor became the first woman in the House of Commons (1st)

1939—The film *Gone with the Wind* starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable had its world premiere in Atlanta (15th)

1967—The first successful heart transplant was performed by Dr Christiaan Barnard in Cape Town, South Africa (3rd)

1980—John Lennon was assassinated in New York City (8th).

2004—An estimated 230,000 people died and 1.5 million were left homeless by the tsunami that hit South Africa (26th)

2005—The Civil Partnership Act came into force in the UK with singer Elton John and David Furnish one of the first couples to form a same-sex civil union (21st)

2020—AT&T Inc's Warner Bros Studio announced all its 2021 movies would stream online the same day they appeared in theatres because of the pandemic (3rd)



ROUND OAK INTERIORS



Your Dream Bathroom Awaits

At Round Oak Interiors, we're a family-run business with over 20 years of experience creating stunning bathrooms, bedrooms, and kitchens. Visit our showroom, meet the team, and see how we can bring your dream bathroom to life. From budget-friendly options to luxurious suites, we have styles to suit every price point, without ever compromising on quality.

Visit Us At
141 Dudley Road,
DY5 1HG

Call - 01384 837527
Email - Roundoakinteriors@gmail.com
Web - www.roundoakinteriors.co.uk

STRANGE BRIDES OF WORDSLEY

We came across this story on a small leaflet produced in 1951 that highlighted some pretty strange weddings that apparently took place in Wordsley in the 18th and 19th centuries. We have no way of knowing whether the stories are true—but they make interesting reading anyway.

The first story concerns a local farmer, Paulus Jones, who wanted to marry his favourite pig! Not surprisingly local churchmen refused and so a “friend” of his arranged for a preacher from Bromsgrove to perform the ceremony. When the pig died Jones wanted it buried in consecrated ground but this was not allowed and—eventually—he was persuaded that no legal marriage had taken place. He promptly started legal action against his friend for the return of the £50 (a very considerable sum in those days) that he had paid for the preacher’s services.

The next story relates to a lady called Mary Ann Smith who caused something of a problem when she regularly turned up at various local churches in full bridalwear despite not having a wedding booked. Indeed on at least two occasions she even gate-crashed existing weddings and once actually walked down the aisle only for the bemused groom to say that it was not her to whom he was expecting to get married! Worse still, it was later found that she was already married...bigamously to two men!



GARAGE DOORS ROLLER SHUTTERS TRELLIS GATES

Rings Security Shutters & Gates Limited

Why Choose Rings Security Shutters and Gates Ltd?

- Full Range of Products
- Aesthetically Pleasing, Mechanically Efficient
- Fully Trained Staff
- Adding Protection and Value
- Compliant to industry Standards
- Colours, Sizes and Operation
- Flexible to Customer



Call us for a free quotation 01384 394600
www.ringssecurityshutters.co.uk

Nationwide
Emergency Cover
24 Hours
365 Days a year

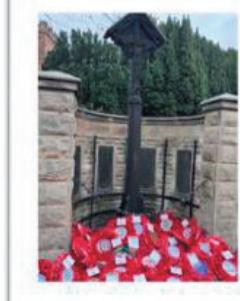


Your Local Councillor Update

Dear Residents

It's been a busy and rewarding few weeks since our last update, with a range of community events and civic duties that truly reflect the spirit of our area.

At the end of October, Wall Heath was once again transformed into a spooky spectacle as the annual Halloween Trail returned—bigger and better than ever. It was fantastic to see the village bustling with families, laughter, and some incredible costumes. Our thanks go to the Wall Heath Village People who did a *spooktacular* job organising the event. Local shops and businesses really got into the spirit of it, decorating their windows and joining in the fun, which made the whole village feel alive with autumn energy.



Arguably our most important civic duty of the year took place in November, as we proudly joined the Remembrance Parades in both Wall Heath and Kingswinford. It was deeply humbling to see so many residents attend, and particularly moving to witness so many young people participating in the parade and services. We'd like to thank everyone involved in organising both events, including the British Legion branches, church volunteers, community groups, and of course the public for turning out to line the streets. It is the greatest honour to represent the community at these services and to lay wreaths in memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Alongside all this, we've remained busy with our usual casework—responding to resident concerns, chasing up highways repairs, supporting local groups, and working closely with council officers across a wide range of issues. If there's anything you'd like to raise, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Phil, Ed & Mark

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TEAM BELOW



Cllr Phil Atkins
Tel: 07929 662888
Email: cllr.phil.atkins@dudley.gov.uk

Cllr Ed Lawrence
Tel: 01384 818007
Email: cllr.ed.lawrence@dudley.gov.uk

Cllr Mark Webb
Tel: 07801 802227
Email: cllr.mark.webb@dudley.gov.uk

DRINKS: Wines—some sparkling sensations

A review by Trevor Langley

Exton Park Vineyard is located in Hampshire and was commenced during 2003, with vines being very well suited to the climate and soil conditions. Exton Hall boasts a premium events space and venue. Exton Park's award-winning sparkling wines have many devotees and their production of wines continues to expand, complementing the core range and are now available and served in top hotels, plus restaurants and can be found in leading retailers and wine merchants. The prestigious Vault Wine Club offers exclusive discounts, plus member-only events. Wine Club membership can be purchased as a gift voucher – perhaps as a surprise for someone special?



Certainly, some of the company's wording states 'Wines That Satisfy The Imagination' – and I have to agree. I decided to try the Exton Park Discovery Pack.

Exton Park Brut (11.5% vol) Reserve Blend is produced utilising Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grape varieties (60% and 40% respectively) to a great advantage. Bottle-aged, for at least three years, this production has countless devotees. A fruity freshness is most evident, for this very popular wine.

Exton Park Blanc De Noirs (11.5% vol) Reserve Blend uses 100% Pinot Noir grapes in its production. With tropical fruits on the bouquet and mouthfeel, the palate's delight continues through, for a most impressive finish.

Exton Park Rosé (11.5% vol) Reserve Blend has 70% Pinot Noir and 30% Pinot Meunier grapes in its make-up.

An excellent pink rose colour, plus flavour, give this wine the recognition and respect that are justifiably deserved. Delicately balanced and with tropical fruit overtones, this delectation adds colour to any dining occasion too.

These are just some of the impressive wines from Exton Park Vineyard. Fine perlaces, plus huge enjoyment are further delights of these wines. Perfect for pre-dining, on their own and for accompanying foods, I found these Exton Park Vineyard productions to be attractively presented and a most enjoyable introduction to their wines. I look forward, absolutely, to furthering my tastes and desires. Please visit the very informative website for all details and information. Highly recommended.

Exton Park Vineyard, Allens Farm Lane, Southampton SO32 3NW. Tel: 01489 878788.
E-mail: enquiries@extonparkvineyard.com Website: www.extonparkvineyard.com

**COMING UP IN THE
JANUARY EDITION:**
*"In the Spirit:
Abingdon Distillery"*



As always,
Enjoy!

Trevor Langley

Imagine

Dry Carpet Cleaning

"no soggy carpets or wet dog smell".



Dry Carpet, Upholstery & Hard Floor Cleaners

- ✓ Spills & spots - gone
- ✓ Smells & odours - removed
- ✓ Deep cleans & lifts carpet pile - like new

4 great solutions for
your home

- ✓ Dry carpet cleaning
- ✓ Upholstery cleaning
- ✓ Hard floor cleaning
- ✓ Wooden floor cleaning



Leather Cleaning
Specialists
Restoration & Recolouring



Locally based
You can call us for FREE on
0800 180 49 81

it's a fact!

- ★ For some reason Baldwin's steelworks in Swindon seemed to attract real characters. Teddy Price, who lived in Kingswinford and cycled to work every day, was known to one and all as 'Glass Eye'. He enjoyed a drink (or two) with his mates in 'The Old Bush' and they regularly took a swig from his beer whenever they were on his blind side. To stop his beer disappearing completely when he answered the call of nature he would—to the consternation of other visitors—drop his glass eye into the drink saying "*keep an eye on that, will you?*" Another employee at Baldwin's was Noah Whale who also was known to like a drink...or two...or three. One day, so the story goes, the vicar of Kingswinford was walking to church when he saw Noah come staggering out of "The Courthouse" in the Village. "*Drunk again, Mr Whale*" said the clergyman with a certain amount of distaste. "*And me, vicar*" replied Noah with a smile on his face!
- ★ In 1846 John Gibbons of Corbyn's Hall on the border of Pensnett and Kingswinford was found dead in a pond on his estate. The water was so shallow, however, that his shoulders and the back of his head were not immersed and rather than suicide it was thought that he had taken a wrong turn and tripped, banging his head and drowning. However, the verdict at the inquest said that he was "*found drowned but how or by what means he came there, there is no evidence to show*".
- ★ For many years in the middle of the 19th century the most popular newspaper in the area was the interestingly titled "*Worcestershire Chronicle and Provincial Railway Gazette*".



GORNAL
TREE & GARDEN
SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL TREE SURGEONS

- TREE FELLING
- CROWN REDUCTIONS
- HEDGE TRIMMING
- STUMP GRINDING
- JUNGLES CLEARED
- FENCING

CALL TODAY
FOR A FREE
QUOTATION



Tel: 01384 830384

Mob: 07860 851017

ON THE HOME FRONT

YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL TRADESMEN FOR THOSE JOBS AROUND THE HOME & GARDEN

Stuart's Handyman Services

Carpentry

"A handy man to know!"

Household DIY

Kitchen and Bathroom fitting

Plumbing and ground-works

Tiling walls and floors...



Experienced kitchen & bathroom fitter. Jobs small or large, reliable and good quality work carried out. For free quotes call Stuart Phillips on Phone 01746 768840 Email: stuart@stuartshandymanservices.co.uk Mobile 07818 883757 Website: www.stuartshandymanservices.co.uk

ARROW
BUILDING SERVICES
AWARDED WINNER THE BUILDING

07504 305361

Sedgley, Dudley

Looking for a reliable, affordable
multi-skilled builder?

Then look no further!

Whether you need a repair, maintenance or refurbishment job undertaken or something more substantial including construction, all lines of work are covered.



Get in touch for a free, no obligation quote.
OAP discounts offered.

MORGAN REPAIRS

FAMILY RUN – OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

SUPPLIERS & REPAIRS
OF DOMESTIC
APPLIANCES

DYSON SPECIALISTS



- COOKER REPAIRS
- TUMBLE DRYER REPAIRS
- VACUUM REPAIRS
- WASHING MACHINE REPAIRS

A LOCAL COMPANY WHO CARES ABOUT THEIR CUSTOMERS

CALL THE PROFESSIONALS TODAY

Tel: 01384 443 399 – 07794 541 498
www.morganrepairs.co.uk – lloyd@morganrepairs.co.uk

ovenblitz
midlands



Local oven cleaning specialists

Ovens, Hobs, Extractors, Microwaves, BBQs

Website - www.ovenblitzmidlands.co.uk

0800 773 4870 / 07757 099529

Give us a try - we do the job you love to hate!!

Follow Us On
facebook

fsb[®]

Find us on
Yell.com

THE SHAGGY DOG

Pet Grooming for Cats & Dogs

A complete range of Grooming Services for
all sizes of Dogs & Cats :

- Pick - up & Drop - off Service
- Home Visits
- We also have a great range of gifts at our three shops



SELDLEY
Bilston Street
DY3 1JA

GARDEN VILLAGE
Bridgnorth Road,
Shipley WV6 7EZ

PLAZA MALL
Dudley Market
Place

Call: 01902 661377 or 07848 039795

Sam's Exterior Cleaning Services

DIGITAL VOUCHER

Please send a photo of this advertisement by WhatsApp to redeem offer.

**Top front and back
gutters cleared £45.00**

T & C's Apply.

Prepare your home for winter – blocked gutters can cause damp and mould and expensive repairs to internal walls.

We also offer repairs to guttering at affordable costs.

07879 073702

Find us on
Facebook

**DO YOU WANT YOUR
BUSINESS TO GROW?**



SCAN ME

**THEN TALK TO US AT
VILLAGE VOICE**

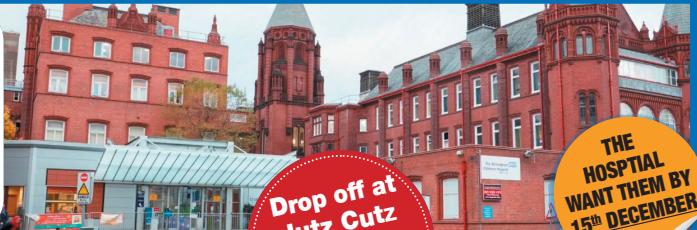
ABOUT COST EFFECTIVE
ADVERTISING THAT WORKS.

0781 790 4477



SANTA DROP 2025

This Christmas we're collecting gifts to spread joy for Children on Ward 12 at Birmingham Children's Hospital, and also Ward 23 at The Freemans Hospital, Newcastle, we know just how much every gift big or small will make some festive cheer for the kids!



Jutz Cutz Barbers

LTD.

Wombourne



01902 893840



📍 Jutz Cutz Barbers LTD.



FOLLOW US ON



JUTZ CUTZ BARBERS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOURS

MONDAY 22nd 8.30am - 6pm

TUESDAY 23rd 8.30am - 6pm

XMAS EVE 7.30am - 2pm

REOPEN

MONDAY 29th 8.30am - 6pm

TUESDAY 30th 8.30am - 6pm

NEW YEAR'S EVE 8.30am - 4pm

REOPEN

FRIDAY 2nd AS NORMAL

**WE WISH YOU A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW**

GENTS CUT
BACK & SIDES
WITH BEARD
OAP CUT
GRADE ALL OVER
TWO GRADES
UNDER 7YRS
OVER 7YRS
KIDS SKIN FADE

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-----|
| £12 | MENS GROOMING | |
| £10 | SKIN FADE | £14 |
| £15 | SKIN FADE+BEARD | £17 |
| £7-£8 | SKIN FADE BACK & SIDES | £10 |
| £5 | SKIN FADE BACK & SIDES + | |
| £10 | BEARD TRIM | £14 |
| £7.50 | BEARD TRIM | £6 |
| £9 | BEARD TRIM WITH STEAMER | £10 |
| £10 | SKIN FADE/BEARD/STEAMER | £20 |
| | FULL PACKAGE | £23 |
| | FOILS ALL OVER | £11 |

OR WHATEVER by John Sparry

David Humphries...Enthusiast

My friend, David Humphries, a fellow pupil at Stourbridge King Edward VI, was a wealth of knowledge on local history and technical subjects. When doing National Service, I recall him telling me of all the masses of wireless apparatus of which he was in charge when on expedition with his officer—who also came from the local Midlands. ‘Come on Humph, get all the gear on the truck and let’s get going!’

David was fascinated by all the science behind the making of coal gas—when at Tipton Gasworks. After, David had a spell with his father’s Ocker Hill milk business which led to superviseship with Midland Counties Dairies.

Later on when he was Manager at Littlewoods Stores there was a week when he worked nearly 130 hours, “we had ladies dresses retailing at £1.99.”

David, in one of our phone chats told me all that there was to know about the Oystermouth Horse Drawn Rail Service. David worked in managerial roles for a scaffolding firm and the West Midlands County Council’s Highways Department—accidents to highways road furniture sometimes demanded very sensitive dealings with folk who had suffered injury or personal loss.



At the installation of the restored Sundial in Mary Steven's Park, (l to r) Bryn Williams, Alan Cutler, John Sparry, John Farmer and

David Humphries

Humph also dedicated himself over many years to the discovery and reinstallation of the Sundial presented to Stourbridge by King Edward’s in celebration of the School’s Charter of 1552.

It was when managing departments of the West Midlands County Council’s Highway Authority—the offices were in an ancient building, David reckoned he had seen a ghost. Still, it was all part of the job.

A very courteous and kind man—he nursed his wife through her final illness—and above all, an enthusiast. It was a pleasure to have known David Humphries.

I still have a few copies of my first King Edward’s book available in which the article about David is included, and

have just brought out the third—which features stage and screen alumni. Each volume is £12.50 including P&P or £9.99 at Hayes Cycles, Wall Heath. Actual phone calls only, sorry, I can’t cope with texts or voice messages—or carrier pigeons, for that matter!

By John Sparry, Ridge Cot, 15 Enville Road, Wall Heath

Mobile: 07831 342209

(Sorry folks, no texts or voicemails accepted—I just can’t cope with that!)



An exterior shot of Tipton Gasworks from the scrapbook of David Humphries.

GOT A ROOF LEAK?



SCAN ME

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE.

*IT'S EASIER TO STOP SOMETHING HAPPENING
IN THE FIRST PLACE THAN TO REPAIR
THE DAMAGE AFTER IT HAS HAPPENED.*

*KEEP YOUR ROOF PROTECTED AGAINST
THE CURRENT EXTREME WEATHER.*

T: 07714 899321

E: DENSONGARETH@YMAIL.COM

Kingswinford in Bloom

Meet THE Team

Part 2



TRISH

Age: Old!!!

Occupation: Vape Sticker Remover!!!!

Any previous gardening experience:

Love making my pots in my own garden look great in the summer.

What, in your opinion has gone well for Kingswinford in Bloom?

Working together and making friends whilst having a laugh and giving back to the community.

What is your favourite planter in the village, and why?

The one outside Emotions.

If money was no obstacle, what else could the Bloomers do for Kingswinford? A magic automated watering system, it's so hard in the hot weather keeping them all watered sufficiently even with our trusty bowser Thomas. We use around 200 litres on average per day!!!

What have you gained personally from volunteering for Kingswinford in Bloom? Love seeing the village looking beautiful for everyone who uses it. Have learnt a lot about which plants suit which location, and we will be able to use this to take forward for our future plans.



THOMAS

Age: unknown

Occupation:

Thomas the Water Bowser.

Any previous gardening experience:

No, luckily I don't have to get my wheels dirty.

What in your opinion has gone really well for Kingswinford in Bloom:

With my help, they have managed to keep the plants alive during the really hot Summer in 2025.

What is your favourite planter in the village and why:

The tiered planter by Tax Assist, it's the first one we get to for watering, so I can get rid of some of the weight of water on my back.



PAMMY

Age: 66

Occupation: Retired School Pastoral Support Officer/Kford in Bloom Social Secretary.

Any previous gardening experience: Only mow the lawns at home so gaining a lot of gardening knowledge as well.

What, in your opinion has gone well for Kingswinford in Bloom?

Kingswinford in Bloom rely entirely on donations and fundraising however the generosity of the people and businesses of Kingswinford have been exceptional.

What is your favourite planter in the village, and why?

avourite planter? I love them all, on mass I think they look very impressive.

Why did you decide to volunteer for Kingswinford in Bloom?

I joined the Bloomers as wanted to give something back to the community now I'm retired.

What have you gained personally from volunteering for Kingswinford in Bloom?

It's so rewarding in so many ways and enjoy working with some lovely people of all ages to make a difference.



DEB

Age: 65

Occupation: Market stall trader.

Any previous gardening experience:

Limited knowledge at the beginning but have loved the chance to learn and help out.

What, in your opinion has gone well for Kingswinford in Bloom?

Kingswinford had planters, but they had been neglected and were an eyesore, KIB has been a brilliant opportunity to bring pride back to the village.

What is your favourite planter in the village, and why?

The wooden ones sponsored by local businesses.

What have you gained personally from volunteering for Kingswinford in Bloom?

It's lovely to see all the colour back in the village and I'm proud to be a Bloomer.



JO

Age: 54

Occupation: Customer Experience Manager/Chairperson Kford in Bloom.

Any previous gardening experience:

I have no previous gardening experience, but my Dad was a landscape gardener and my Mom is still a keen gardener, maybe I have absorbed some basic knowledge by osmosis.

What, in your opinion has gone well for Kingswinford in Bloom?

The support we have had from local residents and retailers has been phenomenal. We have a great team of volunteers and the planters actually look much better than we could ever have imagined.

If money was no obstacle, what else could the Bloomers do for Kingswinford? I would love to create areas for local primary school children to get involved, where it could be visible for everyone in the village!!!

What is your favourite planter in the village, and why?

I love the planters by the library, they have looked stunning all Summer, because of their position.

What have you gained personally from volunteering for Kingswinford in Bloom?

I have gained a great sense of achievement in just one year since the group was formed. It's been great to be able to put skills learnt at work into a community project. I have made friends with people that I would never have had the chance to meet and love the sense of community that we seem to have created.



LISA

Age: 58

Occupation: Funeral Plan Arranger/Outgoing Treasurer of Kford in Bloom

Any previous gardening experience:

All the gear, no idea

What, in your opinion has gone well for Kingswinford in Bloom?

The improved community spirit and wonderful feedback we get from people.

What is your favourite planter in the village, and why?

All the wooden planters probably. They just look great, and it's been a lovely way of working with businesses and helping them to participate in how the village looks.

If money was no obstacle, what else could the Bloomers do for Kingswinford? I'd like to put hanging baskets or planters on all of the streetlights.

What have you gained personally from volunteering for Kingswinford in Bloom?

I have gained enormously from volunteering with Kingswinford in Bloom. Everyone is so positive and it's lovely to get so many happy smiling faces thanking you for the work that you do. It makes it all worthwhile. I think often people believe that volunteering is serious work but we have such fun and I've made such great friendships. I would certainly recommend it.

PEDDLING THEIR WARES 1933 STYLE

In 1933 Kingswinford Parish Church (Wordsley's Holy Trinity Church was

the official parish church at the time) celebrated its centenary and as part of the celebrations a booklet detailing the church's history was published.

Whilst details of the first 100 years of its life are interesting what is perhaps more fascinating are the advertisements that were included in order to offset some of the production costs.

Alfred Yeates & Sons, DISPENSING CHEMISTS OF Wordsley and Stourbridge were advertising their 'Stomach and liver mixture' (trial size 1/3d) and their 'Neuralgic Mixture' (2/- a bottle) whilst the **Brierley Hill & Stourbridge Building Society** was publicising 'Liberal advances at 5 per cent'. They also boasted that they had assets of £271,800 and a reserve of £15,000.

One of the many coal merchants in the area was **Thomas Fletcher** of Amblecote who took an advertisement extolling the virtues of his 'best Cannock coal' and the availability of 'cobbles and range nuts'. He also announced that Miss P. Fletcher of North View, Mount Pleasant was his agent for Wordsley and Kingswinford.

Darby's Quality Bread of Brettell Lane left readers in no doubt about why their bread was so good—"because it is MADE CLEAN in the best equipped bakery in the district, BAKED CLEAN in steam, dust-proof ovens and DELIVERED CLEAN by courteous men in spotless vans.

Other advertisements were included from the **Midland Radio-Gram & Electric Supply Co.**, **Fred Webb High Class Family Butcher**, **Bells Café**, coffin makers **Farmer & Son**, and **Matty & Charrinton** who claimed to sell the best underwear and frocks in the area. The booklet was a great success and the initial print run of 200 copies quickly sold out and a reprint was then ordered which was also quickly snapped up by locals. Copies today in excellent condition can still fetch in excess of £50 on some internet sites.

TOTAL MOBILITY

by POWERLINK, Unit 17, Market Centre, Blackheath
(Open Monday, Friday, Saturday)

TEL: 01384 255019 or 07831 246292 anytime

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.POWERLINKMOBILITY.CO.UK

MOBILITY SCOOTERS
(NEW & PRE-OWNED)

FROM

£350



FULL RANGE
OF MOBILITY
AIDS AVAILABLE
INCLUDING

- ★ ROLLATORS
- ★ TRI WALKERS
- ★ STAIRLIFTS
- ★ WHEELCHAIRS
- ★ ADJUSTABLE BEDS
- ★ RISE & RECLINER CHAIRS

GENUINE SAVINGS

Huge Selection!

LOW PRICES
GREAT SERVICE

LAMINATES & VINYLS



FROM
£7.95
SQ MTR

ROLL ENDS & REMNANTS



UP TO
75% OFF

CARPETS



FROM
£5.95
SQ MTR



Karndean
Design flooring

BEDS & MATTRESSES



FROM
£69

FREE ESTIMATING SERVICE
Plus

FREE
DELIVERY
ON ALL ORDERS



Unit 4 Coneygre
Industrial Estate
Birmingham New Road
Tipton DY4 8XP

Tel: 0121 520 6091

www.trinitycarpets.co.uk



LOCAL FAMILY
BUSINESS TRADING
SINCE 1984

REMOVAL AND
DISPOSAL OF EXISTING
FLOORING &
MATTRESSES AVAILABLE

BRAINTEASERS ANSWERS

As water freezes at 32°F, the cricket ball would not reach the bottom of Barrel B!

As five lines are required the cost per mile is £2500, making the total cost £15,000 for the six miles.

The answer is ONE WORD

16 years, 12 years and 8 years.

The Wordbat was a bit more tricky. The answer is **UP TO NO GOOD**

So another year comes to an end. We are always on the lookout for new Brainteasers so be sure to look out for more coming your way in the January edition.

COMPETITION WINNERS

The answer to our Wordsearch Competition in the **NOVEMBER** edition was **HISTORY** (which was mispelt). The two lucky winners who each receive a £50 **SHOPPING VOUCHER** are:

MR H. HANS of **WORDSLY** and

APRIL MORGAN of **SEDGLEY**

You can find this month's competition on page 46.

PLEASE NOTE: Only one entry per person per month is allowed – multiple entries will be disqualified. Winners are chosen at random from all correct entries received by the closing date.

Wombourne & District Choral Society

Christmas Oratorio and other festive classics

Conducted by Edward Caine

Saturday 20th December 2025 at 7.30pm - Beckminster Methodist Church, Wolverhampton WV3 7BQ

Tickets £15 (under 16 Free) available online from website, Box Office 01902 590974 or on the door

PRESTWOOD CAVE NURSERY

Your local independent nursery – As we grow... grow with us!

*SPARKLE THIS
CHRISTMAS
WITH A
HANDMADE
CHRISTMAS
WREATH.
ORDERS NOW
BEING TAKEN*



Winter nursery hours – Open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 10am to 3pm and other times by appointment only. The Nursery will close on Saturday, 20th December and will re-open early March 2026.



**ALSO
AVAILABLE
GORGEOUS
HOLLY BALLS
from
£20.00
each**



**WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

07703 529004 cave.carter@yahoo.com

A449, Wolverhampton Road, Prestwood, near Kingswinford DY7 5AN

Keep up to date by following our Facebook page  PRESTWOODCAVENURSERY



The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley PARISH PUMP



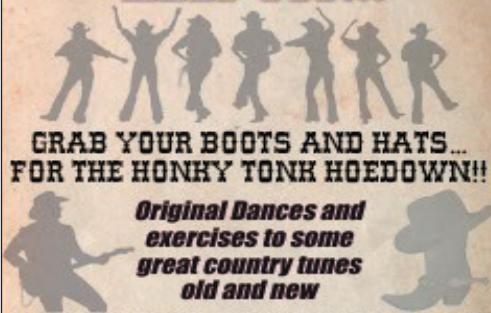
DUDLEY SENIOR RAMBLERS

Dudley Senior Ramblers are an active rambling group for the over 50s which meets every second Wednesday of the month from different start points within a 10-15 mile radius of Dudley. The walks are approximately 5-7 miles long.

The group usually conclude the walks towards the end of November and will resume again in February 2026. As such they are actively recruiting new members for 2026.

If this is of interest to you, please contact Jayne Keay (Members' Secretary) at mjkeay@btinternet.com

KEEP DANCING AND KEEP FIT...



**FUN, FRIENDS AND LAUGHTER ALL THE WAY!!
ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME**

Every Tuesday 7-8pm

Only £3 first lesson

£6.50 Thereafter or £20 per month upfront

For details contact: Sue Smith 07305 065245

**Wordsley Community Centre, Wordsley Green,
Wordsley, Stourbridge DY8 5BN**

ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Foundry Road, Wall Heath DY6 9BA



On the run up to Christmas there are various events planned at St Andrews, as follows:

**Monday, 8th December: 6.15pm—
Christingle Service**

**Sunday, 21st December: 4.00pm—
Blue Christmas led by Rev Alison Smith**

**Wednesday, 24th December: 6.30pm—
Christmas Eve Carol Service led by
Rev Andrew Mann-Ray**

**Thursday, 25th December: 9.30am—
Christmas morning service led by
Bernard Peters.**

**For further information please contact
Daphne Darby on 0753 0071 068**

**THE NEXT PARISH PUMP
WILL BE IN THE JANUARY 2026
EDITION AND THE COPY
DEADLINE IS Thursday, 18th
December 2025.**

Don't forget that insertions are free if you run a Group or Association that is non-profit making. Please send your details via email to Gail at villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk



Kingswinford Methodist Church Christmas Services

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| All-Age Sheep Trail Service | 14th December | From 10am (formal start at 10.30am) |
| Carol Service | 21st December | 4pm |
| Holy Communion | Christmas Eve | 11.30pm |
| All-Age Service | Christmas Day | 10am |

**Stream Road, Kingswinford DY6 9NP
www.kingswinfordmethodist.co.uk : kmc.enquiries66@gmail.com**

MEN'S BOWLS AT WORDSLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE—YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

If you have time on a Friday afternoon, why not pop along to see us between 1.00pm and 4.00pm and join this highly popular group for Short Mat Indoor Bowls, Cards and Dominoes. There is always lots of laughter and jollity with this group and it is the perfect way to meet new friends and enjoy a nice cup of tea/coffee and, of course, cakes and biscuits! All equipment is supplied. If you have never played before that is not a problem as the group welcome all abilities. There are subsidised subscriptions.

If this is of interest to you, please give Bob a call on 07572 321401 and leave a message with your name and telephone number or contact the Community Centre on 01384 273186.



The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley PARISH PUMP



Do you want to
make a difference
in your community?



Volunteer with us at
our Kingswinford store!

- ✓ Share your skills and learn new ones
- ✓ Meet new people
- ✓ Give something back
- ✓ Support your community

Explore our
opportunities



comptoncare.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 512387

**Compton
Care**

specialist
palliative and
bereavement
support

WORDSLEY TEAM PARISH Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Wordsley.

You are invited to:

Carols at the Lawnswood Pub, Lawnswood Road
Thursday, 18 December at 7.00pm. Donations to Mary
Stevens Hospice.

Crib Service, Christmas Eve
Wednesday, 24th December at 4.00pm
First Holy Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass)
Wednesday, 24th December at 11.30pm
Christmas Morning Service with Holy Communion at
9.30am.

ALL ARE WELCOME



The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley PARISH PUMP



Wordsley Bridge Club

Come and play, or learn to play, bridge at Wordsley Bridge Club.

We meet in the upstairs room at Wordsley Community Centre on Wednesday Evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, and on Friday afternoons from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

We are a small friendly group and welcome all, whether experienced or wanting to learn the game. There is a small charge which includes a cup of tea or coffee and you will be guaranteed a game.

Contact Trevor Mansell on
01384 395110 or the
Community Centre on
01384 273186.



Kingswinford Concert Band

proudly presents:

‘Christmas Showtime’

Wednesday 17th December 2025

7pm until approx. 9.30pm

Kingswinford Methodist Church,
Stream Road, Kingswinford

Admission by ticket £6

Available on line at: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FMIJ>
Or use QR code





The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley PARISH PUMP



CHRISTMAS MARKET - CHURCH OF ASCENSION
 SANTA'S GROTTO - WALL HEATH COMMUNITY CENTRE
 FESTIVE ACTIVITIES - WALL HEATH PARK
 FAIRGROUND RIDES - WALL HEATH TAVERN
 SANTA TRAIL - AROUND WALL HEATH BUSINESSES

TICKETS INFORMATION CONTACT BELOW

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
 SHAZ SALEEM 07786 196 666
 THE SALEEM FOUNDATION



MERRY CHRISTMAS

To all our Groups and Associations who have kept us informed of their events throughout 2025. We look forward to hearing from you all throughout 2026.

Gail

WEDNESDAY SENIORS GROUP 50+

invite you to enjoy afternoons of speakers and entertainment on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at 2.00pm at Wordsley Green Community Centre, Wordsley DY8 5BN

21st January 2026 : The group are holding an 'Open House' which is a free afternoon with entertainment by U3A Singing for Fun group. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served and a run through of the forthcoming 6 month programme, with any other future events, will be announced.

Visitors are most welcome to come along and hear how we organise this very friendly group. Open to Ladies and Gents.



The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley PARISH PUMP



WALL HEATH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Envile Road, Wall Heath DY6 0JT

Telephone: 01384 273744 : Email: wallheathcommunityassoc@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Wednesday Club meetings in December.

15th January—Thursday at2 Club—2.00pm: Pamela Manning will be giving a talk “Meet the Wise Women”. A historically funny and factual very adult themed talk. Pamela presents her talk dressed in medieval costume. *((Risque content. Not for those easily offended.)*

28th January—Wednesday Club—2.00pm—Chris O’Grady, “ Travelling around Japan on a couch” Chris’s small contribution to world peace. A personal story of couch surfing, hitchhiking and unexpected kindness from around the world.

5th February—Thursday at2 Club—2.00pm: David Bartley, comedian will be making us laugh the winter away with his wonderful entertaining jokes and humour.

11th February—Wednesday Club—2.00pm: Alan Peace, “Never Work with Children or Animals (by the man who has done both and survived). An anecdotal and light-hearted look at some of the comical situations Alan has found himself in during the 40 years of working with children and animals.

19th February—Thursday at2 Club—2.00pm: Michelle Birch talks to the group about Food and Mood and how the food we eat can alter our state of mind and make us feel good.

25th February—Wednesday Club—2.00pm: Kate Round, “Meet the Designers” The talk describes how art and design developed in glassware. The elements of good design are functional, practical, ergonomic, aesthetically pleasing and affordable. Good designers lead fashion, making objects that are both desirable and collectable. Spanning from 2500 years BC to the 20th Century the talk follows the development of fashion in glassware into the modern era focusing on the designers who made sure that Stuart Crystal products were so successful.

5th March—Thursday at2 Club—Careena Fenton “Now you see it, now you don’t!”. Enjoy an afternoon’s performance of magic and illusion from the hands of this very talented lady who is a Member of the Magic Circle and PhD Candidate of University Birmingham (Drama and Theatre Arts). Please note there is a £5.00 admission fee to this talk.

11th March—Wednesday Club—2.00pm: John Homer, “Why Black Country?” John is very well known for his work at the Black Country Living Museum and has appeared on television. His vast knowledge of the Black Country and its history will be showcased in this talk about the area.

19th March—Thursday at2 Club—Andy Casserley gives his talk entitled Musical History. Andy will be talking about 800 years of music and he will be displaying some interesting instruments.

WHEN HEADLINES MAKE THE STORY!

Occasionally the headline for a news story is far more interesting than the story itself so we thought that we would share a few of our favourite ones:

PLANES FORCED
TO LAND AT
AIRPORTS

FRUIT LORRY
CRASHES
CAUSING JAM

TORTOISE THEFT
LEFT OWNER SHELL
SHOCKED!

MAN'S LEGS
STOLEN—WEDDING
DREAM SHATTERED

KITTEN CHOKES
ON
MOUSE

HOMICIDE VICTIMS
RARELY TALK TO
POLICE

CORPSE
CONFIRMED TO BE
DEAD!

WEAPONS FOUND IN
POLICE RAID ON
GUN SHOP

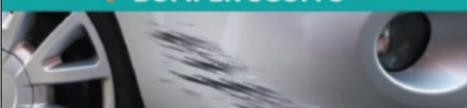
KIDS MAKE
NUTRITIOUS
SNACKS

OVER £100M!

Is this the rail price? Is this just fantasy?
Caught up in land buys
No escape from bureaucracy

Woman in sumo wrestler suit
assaulted her ex-girlfriend
in gay pub after she waved at
a man dressed as a Snickers bar!

✓ BUMPER SCUFFS



✓ PAINTWORK SCRATCHES



✓ KERBED ALLOYS



✓ MINOR DENTS



ChipsAway

Scratches and scuffs won't dent your pocket

Save up to 50% on conventional
body shop repair costs -
call us now to discover how
much you could save!

For a free estimate call Paul Mansell

0800 028 7878

07964 688614

paul.mansell@chipsaway.co.uk

www.chipsaway.co.uk/paulmansell

ChipsAway repairs are:

- Professional quality
- Cost-effective
- Convenient
- Completed same day



AFC WOLVES CIC: Football, Community and a Vision for Wolverhampton



AFC Wolves CIC is more than just a football club. Based in Wolverhampton, we're a community interest company with a simple but powerful vision: to use football as a force for good, bringing people together, creating opportunities, and giving back to the city we call home. Since starting with just one player, we've grown to over 300 participants, running teams from juniors through to men's and women's football, alongside Development Centres for boys, girls, toddlers, and players with disabilities. Our work goes beyond the pitch — we run after-school clubs, holiday camps, and community sessions, all designed to make football accessible to everyone, regardless of background or ability.

But AFC Wolves is about more than the game itself. At the heart of everything we do is a commitment to supporting people. For some, that means a place to develop as a player or coach. For others, it's about finding confidence, making friends, or feeling part of

something bigger. We're proud to create pathways in football, but equally proud of the life skills, employability opportunities, and sense of belonging we help to build along the way.

AFC WOLVES CIC Winter Warm Clothes Appeal



Spread Warmth, Dignity, and Hope

Let's come together as a community to support the homeless in Wolverhampton. Please donate essential items like coats, gloves, socks, scarves, thermals, blankets, and sleeping bags to help those in need this winter.

contact@afc wolves.com
www.afcwolves.com



As a CIC, we reinvest everything back into our work and the communities we serve. That's why we're launching initiatives like our Winter Warm Clothing Collection. This November, we'll be collecting hats, scarves, gloves, socks, blankets, and thermals, which will be donated directly to Wolverhampton's homeless community. We know times are tough for many, and if the club can play a part in helping those most in need, then that's exactly what we'll do.

Looking ahead, our vision is to continue growing AFC Wolves into a hub for football and community in Wolverhampton. That means strengthening our grassroots teams,

expanding our development programmes, building more partnerships, and ensuring that the benefits of football reach as many people as possible. Whether it's through football sessions, volunteering opportunities, or charitable projects like the clothing appeal, AFC Wolves CIC is committed to making a positive difference in the city. We're here to prove that football is more than just a game — it's a way of changing lives.

EMAIL: contact@afc wolves.com **WEBSITE:** www.afcwolves.com

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

| | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| ACCOUNTANTS Nicholas Barwell & Co TaxAssist Accountants | 16 48 | ELECTRICIANS Wilf's Electrical | 29 | NURSERIES & PLANT CENTRES Prestwood Cave Nursery | 69 |
| ANIMAL SERVICES Nature's Pawz | 45 | ESTATE AGENTS Richard Allen-Zoorder | 17 | PAVING & LANDSCAPING J&B Paving & Landscaping | 19 |
| BAKERIES The Village Bakery | 39 | EVENTS Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Football Club: New Year's Eve | 35 | RESTAURANTS/PUBLIC HOUSES Royal Masala The Five Ways Inn | IFC 24 |
| BARBERS Jutz Cutz Barbers | 60-61 | FOOTCARE Step Ahead | 26 | ROOFERS GMD Roofing & UPVC Fix4u Roofing & Building Services Shayne Orme Roofing | 30-31,63 8-9 22 |
| BEER COMPANIES The Jinja Beer Company Ltd | 7 | FUNERAL SERVICES J.T. Brookes & Co | 38 | SECURITY POSTS Delta Security Posts | 19 |
| BLINDS & AWNINGS Castle Blinds & Awnings | IBC | FURNITURE Dreamworld Furniture Buy Sofas Direct (Merry Hill) | 23 12-13 | SHOPPING CENTRES Townsend Place Shopping Centre | 40-41 |
| BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION Fix4u Roofing Services | 8-9 | GARAGE DOORS & SECURITY SHUTTERS Rings Security, Shutters & Gates | 54 | SOLICITORS Waldrons Solicitors | 11 |
| CAFES The Village Café | 20 | GAS, PLUMBING & HEATING Wheelers Gas, Plumbing & Heating Rightio Plumbing & Heating | 10 27 | TANNING SERVICES DreamTan | 25 |
| CAR REPAIRS & BODYWORK Chips Away | 76 | HAIR SALONS Blaze Hair Salon | 37 | TRAVEL COMPANIES Phillips International Travel | 36 |
| CARPETS Trinity Carpets | 67 | HOME CLEANING SERVICES Lisa's Cleaning Services | 26 | TREE & LANDSCAPE SERVICES J&B Tree & Landscaping Gornal Tree Services | 27 58 |
| CARPET CLEANING Zero Dry Time | 57 | HOME & DÉCOR Total Sewing | 44 | PLEASE MENTION Village Voice WHEN USING THE SERVICES OF OUR ADVERTISERS THANK YOU. | |
| CATERERS Mary Herman-Smith | 29 | HOME & GARDEN Decormar | 21 | | |
| CHURCHES New Life Church, Wall Heath | 43 | JEWELLERS Arthur's Jewellers | 29 | | |
| CINEMAS Odeon Cinema, Merry Hill | 47 | KITCHENS & BATHROOM INTERIORS Shawfit Interiors Round Oak Interiors | 42 53 | ON THE HOME FRONT PAGE 59 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OvenBlitz ● Morgan Repairs ● Sam's Exterior Cleaning Services ● Arrow Building Services ● Stuart's Handyman Services ● Shaggy Dog | |
| CLUBS & COMMUNITY CENTRES The Robin, Bilston | 4 | KITCHEN DOORS Dream Doors | OBC | | |
| COMMUNITY UPDATES Cllr Phil Atkins Mr Shaz Saleem | 55 33 | LOCKS & SAFES Adams Locks & Maintenance Ltd | 52 | | |
| DECORATORS Patrick J Bellew | 49 | MOBILITY Power Link | 66 | | |
| DENTAL SERVICES St James Dental and Facial Aesthetics | 6 | MUSIC VENUES The Robin Club, Bilston | 15 | | |
| DOUBLE GLAZING Cloudy 2 Clear Windows | 5 | | | | |

To Advertise in Village Voice call Gail on **01384 866688** or **0781 790 4477**
It's cheaper than you thought – Prices start at just £10 (+VAT) per month!

CALL TODAY!

VILLAGE VOICE is published by Village Voice Magazines © 2025



WE ARE YOUR LOCAL BLIND MAKERS
bespoke awnings | blinds | shutters

SALE NOW ON



ELEMENTS
RANGE



ELEMENTS
RANGE



FULL SHUTTER
RANGE



EXPRESSIONS
FAUX WOOD
RANGE



AUTOMATED BLIND RANGE



Bridging Connections
with Somfy's

 **zigbee**
Compatible Solutions

*Free Parking
That's a promise!*

30
Years
ANNIVERSARY
1993 | 2023

30 years of innovative, safe sun protection
30 years of happy and satisfied customers
And we are going to keep making you happy.

CALL US ON 01384 273769

VISIT US IN STORE STREAM ROAD, KINGSWINFORD DY6 9NT

LOOK AT US ONLINE
WWW.CASTLEBLINDS.CO.UK
EMAILSALES@CASTLEBLINDS.CO.UK

DREAM DOORS®
NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS



SAVE £600 WITH A FREE OVEN & HOB

Offer runs from 1st October to 31st December 2025.

Terms and Conditions apply. Offer only applies to selected ovens and hobs.

Participating showrooms only.

MODERN

CLASSIC

TRADITIONAL

CONTEMPORARY

- › Up to 50% less than a new fully fitted kitchen
- › Replacement kitchen doors
- › Cost effective made to measure solution
- › Worktops and appliances
- › Quick installation in 2-3 days by local professionals

86 Lawnswood Road,
Wordsley, DY8 5NA

Call us now for a free estimate:
01384 956119

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters **9.8/10**

dreamdoors.co.uk

THE UK'S #1 KITCHEN MAKEOVER COMPANY