

FREE

# Village Voice

Chris Smith - We Remember!

ISSUE 232 | JANUARY 2026



**HAPPY  
New Year**

Community magazine for Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley



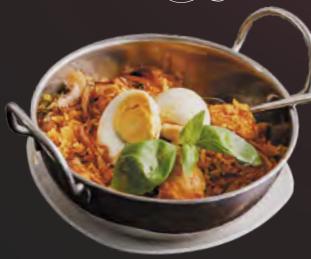
# ROYAL MASALA

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*



<b>ROYAL MASALA</b> 8 Charterfield Drive Kingswinford DY6 7SH	<b>OPENING HOURS</b> Sunday – Thursday (5:30pm – 10:30pm) Friday – Saturday (5:00pm – 11:30pm) <b>OPEN BANK HOLIDAY MONDAYS</b>	<b>CONTACT US</b> <a href="http://www.myroyalmasala.co.uk">www.myroyalmasala.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:info@myroyalmasala.co.uk">info@myroyalmasala.co.uk</a> 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](http://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 2026



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



For Village Voice, 2025 was a great year and we are determined to make 2026 even better! There are exciting plans ahead for the magazines. Over the last six months we have begun venturing into new areas in which to deliver the magazines and this has generated a lot of interest. Don't worry, we are still going to all the places that we have in the past, but it never hurts to raise the bar a little.

We have also joined forces with a PR man! Sounds grand but it will be his job to ensure that the magazine is going in the right direction. Those that were acquainted with Chris will know that he was a PR man through and through and it is one of his ex-colleagues who will now be working alongside us. All that is left to say is 'watch this space'!

## Gail



## IN THIS ISSUE



- 6,26,37,56** It's A Fact!
- 10** Brainteasers
- 29** An amusing article about a company manufacturing square golf balls!
- 46** One of our extremely popular 'Sentence of the Court' articles.
- 51** A list of those Gone but definitely not forgotten in 2025.
- 58-60** It is usually after Christmas that we all go into 'decluttering' mode. One of our features this month is by Katherine Blackler of Sort My Space. We hope you enjoy reading it.
- 62-63** An update from Wall Heath in Bloom.
- 68** Brainteasers answers
- 72-73** An interesting article about George Lovatt who was known as the Brierley Hill Giant.
- 74-77** 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2026. 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 3 8 9 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 - KINGSWINFORD  
- 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 **FEBRUARY 2026** edition of **VILLAGE VOICE** is **THURSDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2026**. Please book your space early to avoid disappointment.

WIN  
**TWO**  
TICKETS TO



IN BILSTON

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](mailto: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 **Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026** – GOOD LUCK!

Congratulations to **KEVIN PHILLIPS** of **LOWER GORNAL** who was the lucky winner of the two tickets on offer in the **DECEMBER 2025** 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.

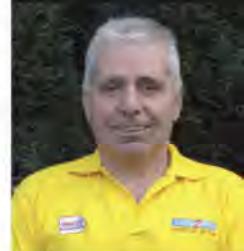
Your friendly local Cloudy2Clear specialist is Brian Stanley and he services Kingswinford, and Wordsley.

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](http://www.cloudy2clear.com)

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



★ On 23rd October 1851 the court at Kingswinford found John Beddard guilty of riding his cart without reins. He was fined 5 shillings and costs with the alternative of 14 days imprisonment with hard labour if the fine was not paid.



In September 1931 it was announced that the Olympia Cinema in Wordsley (seen left) had just installed the latest projection system—a Morrison Model F4. This new projector was available at a purchase price of £260 (or £2 weekly) and was said to provide a standard of reproduction that was equivalent to systems costing twice as much.

★ In the 1920s and early 1930s the Bridge Inn at Dawley Brook, Kingswinford was owned by brothers Henry and Benjamin Woodhouse who ran the very successful Alma Brewery in Dudley. In total they owned some 15 pubs and brewed for a number of other outlets as well.

★ Greensforge was originally named Mr Green's Forge one of four experimental forges built in the 1620s by Dud Dudley, the illegitimate son of the Earl of Dudley. It later became a mill.

★ Wordsley FC played for two unsuccessful seasons in the Worcestershire Combination league in 1948/49 and 1949/50. They won only seven of their 84 league games and scored just 88 goals against 274 conceded.

## 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](mailto:contact@shawfitinteriors.com)



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



**shawfit**  
Interiors

[shawfitinteriors.com](http://shawfitinteriors.com)

# 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



## 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



# TREE & LANDSCAPES

## *Specialists*

*We are a trusted professional company  
with a great reputation to uphold.*

*Over 20 years experience*

*No job too big or  
too small*

- Tree Work
- Paths
- Fencing
- Turf
- Artificial  
Grass

**\*\*Call within 48 hours to  
receive a 20% discount\*\***

Contact us today on  
**01384 848344**



# TREE & LANDSCAPES

## *Specialists*



- Driveways
- Block paving
  - Tarmac
  - Ground works
- Drainage
- Gates and gateways
- Patios

*All year round service  
Fully insured*

Contact us today on  
**E: [info@treeandlandscapespecialist.co.uk](mailto:info@treeandlandscapespecialist.co.uk)**  
**[www.treeandlandscapespecialist.co.uk](http://www.treeandlandscapespecialist.co.uk)**

# BRAINTEASERS

We are starting off 2026 with a mixture of puzzles, all of which are on the easy side (so no excuses!). If, however, they do get the better of you, then the answers can be found on page 68.

1. Which of the four statements below are correct and which are false. No catches...but be careful!

- A. The number of false statements in this box is one.
- B. The number of false statements in this box is two.
- C. The number of false statements in this box is three.
- D. The number of false statements in this box is four.

2. A man walked into a bar, put £1 on the counter and asked for half of lager. The barmaid asked him if he wanted Kronenberg or Fosters. He

asked for Kronenberg. A little later another man (who was a stranger) came in, put £1 on the counter and asked for a half pint of lager. She immediately pulled him half a pint of Kronenberg. Why didn't she offer him a choice?

3. What is the next letter in the sequence?

O T T F F S ?

4. Dave ran halfway into the forest in half an hour. Steve claimed that he could have gone three-quarters of the way into the forest in the same time. Dave, however, said that this was impossible. Why?

A slightly more difficult one now:

PETS A



# 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**

# BLAZE HAIR



## NEW YEAR, *New Look*



Transform your look with premium tape, micro ring, nano ring or micro ring weft extensions. Each method offers its own benefits and Faye will help you choose the one that best suits your hair type, lifestyle and the look you are wanting to achieve. Start with a free consultation to chat through your goals, ask questions and find the perfect match. We also offer a professional colour-matching service and can order high-quality hair through our trusted supplier.

**Book your free consultation and take the first step towards the hair you've always wanted!**

*We wish everyone a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year  
Best wishes from all the staff at Blaze*



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



37 LAPWOOD AVENUE, KINGSWINFORD DY6 8RP



01384 70048

# AFLAT 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



## 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



[www.fix4uroofingandbuilding.co.uk](http://www.fix4uroofingandbuilding.co.uk)

# A NEW YEAR..OR IS IT?

**Historically, New Year combines both pagan and religious beliefs and is the oldest celebration regularly undertaken by most of the world's population. However, that celebration does not always take place on 1st January with over half of the world celebrating on various other dates.**

The first New Year celebrations came from the Babylonians about 4000 years ago when they celebrated the re-birth of the land at the beginning of Spring. The significance of 1st January was set by the Romans in 153 BC although it would seem that the date chosen was purely arbitrary. Despite the fact that this was a pagan festival the Christian church accepted this date as being a time to celebrate the start of a New Year and throughout the Western world this became the norm. However, other religions celebrate it on a very different dates.

Much of the Eastern Orthodox Church, for example, celebrates the New Year on 14th January when it also celebrates the circumcision of the infant Jesus. For members of the Coptic Orthodox Church the significant date is much later on in the year—11th September to be precise—when they celebrate Neyrouz. The Hebrew new Year (Rosh Hashanah) occurs any time between 6th September and 5th October with it falling on Saturday, 12th September this year.

The Chinese will celebrate the start of the Year of the Horse on 17th February whilst the Bengali New Year (Pohela Baisakh) is celebrated on Wednesday, 15th April.

The Islamic New Year commences on 17th June. Because the Muslim calendar is based on a 354 day lunar year the dates move forward about 11 days each year.

However, one of the most fascinating celebrations is in Sri Lanka where the Sinhala and Tamil New Year fall on Tuesday, 14th April. The actual end of the old year is determined by the state astrologer who also says when the New Year (Aluth Avurudhu) should commence. The two are not necessarily immediately after each other and the period between the two is known as Nona Gathe (the neutral period) when normal work is abandoned in favour of religious devotion.

Finally, of course, New Year would not be the same without resolutions being made. Even the Babylonians 4000 years ago are reported to have made promises to be better at various things—the most common resolution being to return borrowed farm equipment!

A recent survey showed that in the UK the five most popular resolutions are to lose weight, to quit smoking, to get out of debt, to get fit and to spend more time with the family. Unfortunately the same survey also showed that most people were only repeating the same resolution from the previous year as they had broken it within ten days of the New Year starting. Perhaps the most appropriate resolution is to stop making New Year's resolutions!

***A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL***



## The Jinja 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](mailto:thejinjabeercompany@gmail.com)**

## 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**



## 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**



# DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD RFC

# HIRE our venue

## A venue for every occasion

Whether it's a wedding, corporate meeting or party, birthday celebration, or anything in between, Dudley Kingswinford RFC offers the perfect setting to bring your vision to life.

### Our Services

- Friendly, flexible team
- Large On-Site Car Park
- Licensed Bar
- Flexible Event Space Hire
- On-Site Event Co-ordinator
- Catering Packages Available
- Room Dressing Available

### Booking Now



Contact Abbie Croydon | Events Manager  
Email: [hospitality@dk-rfc.co.uk](mailto:hospitality@dk-rfc.co.uk)

HERTHBROOK | SWINDON ROAD | WALL HEATH | KINGSWINFORD | WEST MIDLANDS | DY6 0RW



DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD RFC



@dkrugbyclub



[www.dkrugby.rfu.club](http://www.dkrugby.rfu.club)



YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RUN COMPANY

For a brochure or to book **01299 402989**

✉ 46 Sandbourne Drive, Bewdley, DY12 1BN

✉ info@phillipstravel.co.uk

✉ www.phillipstravel.co.uk

## UPCOMING BREAKS AND HOLIDAYS



### CHESTER

Sun 1st—Mon 2nd Feb 2026

2 days £190 DBB

Single Room Supplement £65

An opportunity to immerse yourself in one of Britain's ancient cities, showcasing architecture from many eras over the last 2,000 years. Staying Crowne Plaza Hotel, a short walk from the pedestrianised city centre.



### BOURNEMOUTH

Mon 16th—Fri 20th Feb 2026

5 days £400 DBB

Single Room Supplement £100

Bournemouth makes the perfect base to explore the beautiful scenery Dorset has to offer. Staying at the luxurious Cumberland Hotel which has a commanding position on East Cliff.

**EXCURSIONS:** Wimborne Minster & Swanage; Lymington & Christchurch via New Forest

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



## BEHIND THE SCENES OF A COACH COMPANY

Firstly, can I wish all readers of Village Voice a happy and peaceful 2026. I have been asked by Gail to write a brief article about our work as a coach operator. The new year provides an opportunity for all people, families and businesses to plan new adventures for the forthcoming 12 months. However, for our business we start making firm plans for 2028!

"Why so early?" readers may ask. Having only one coach, supported by one minibus, we are amongst the smallest coach firms in the UK and in order to compete, and earn our family's living, we strive to keep our programme fresh each year. We need to reserve hotel allocations before larger tour companies do, and in most cases, hotels are booked and contracted two years in advance. By extension, some tours also require ferries and attractions to be booked well in advance.

We will not say what is planned for 2028 as that is currently top secret! All will be revealed in 2027, just as our tours for next year will be published later this year. As the saying goes, the early bird catches the worm.

**Julian Phillips, Director, Phillips International Travel**



01384 929 140



rob@cycraxis.co.uk



cycraxis.co.uk



# Stay Secure with Managed Antivirus

- Protect business devices
- Keep your files and data safe
- Block harmful websites

First Month FREE

From  
£3.99



Per Device Per Month

Cycraxis provides managed IT services to small businesses and sole traders in the West Midlands.

## FLYING HIGH AT BOBBINGTON

Wolverhampton business Airport at Bobbington near Wombourne was originally an RAF station opened in March 1941. It was primarily used for training and air observation duties and at its height some 66 Avro Anson aircraft were based there and over 1000 personnel were assigned to the base.

For some years there was confusion between this base and RAF Bovingdon near Watford, resulting in supplies (and servicemen) often being sent to the wrong base. Legend has it that several American planes landed at Bobbington rather than in Hertfordshire and the crews were less than enchanted with having to spend the evening in Wolverhampton rather than London! To resolve the problem Bobbington was renamed RAF Halfpenny Green.

After the War the station continued to see service as a training establishment before being 'downgraded' to a maintenance depot. It again saw some activity during the Korean War in the 1950s but in 1961 it was briefly leased to Ted Gibson, a distinguished local wartime bomber pilot who had won the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC). The site, however, quickly passed to Bobbington Estates Ltd.

Since then military aircraft have still visited the airfield on a regular basis—the annual airshow held until the 1980s often had RAF display teams and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight have made a number of "flypasts".

## 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



Nationwide  
Emergency Cover

24 Hours  
365 Days a year



Call us for a free quotation 01384 394600  
[www.ringssecurityshutters.co.uk](http://www.ringssecurityshutters.co.uk)



# RICHARD ALLEN-ZOARDER

POWERED BY  
**exp<sup>®</sup> UK**

BESPOKE ESTATE AGENT

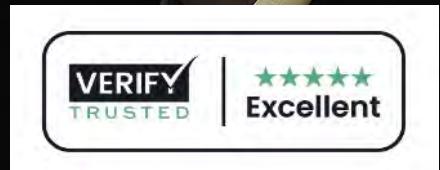
Nikon



## YOUR LOCAL PROPERTY EXPERT

SALES  
LETTINGS  
MANAGEMENT  
SURVEYS

0800 112 3677



**BUY FLOORS DIRECT**  
FREE UNDERLAY ON ALL CARPETS OVER £17.99 SQ/MT

**SALE NOW ON**



**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](http://www.buysofasdirect.co.uk)

# BUY SOFAS DIRECT

All Sofas Handmade in the Black Country

## SALE NOW ON

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

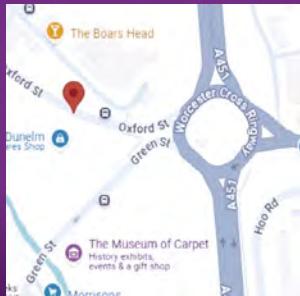
**Merry Hill Opening hours**

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](http://www.buysofasdirect.co.uk)



# GORNAL TREE & GARDEN SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL TREE SURGEONS

**Tel: 01384 830384**

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

**CALL TODAY  
FOR A FREE  
QUOTATION**



## DID YOU KNOW?

Prior to Victorian times most houses were built with chimneys but without pots on top. This was because the fires were mainly wood rather than coal burning. In Victorian times the more wealthy started to burn coal in their fires and chimney pots had to be added to vent the excess sulphur fumes. Another clue to the standing of householders in the social scale was whether or not they had a front garden. Houses with even a very small space between the front door and the pavement were thought considerably more prestigious than those with no garden at all.

Working for the Post Office in 1829 involved long hours—Mary Martin, the postmistress at Stourbridge had to be up at 5.30am to receive the post from Bristol and wait until 4.15pm for the post to be sent to London.

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.

In 1952 clubs and societies in the Brierley Hill area included the “Brierley Hill & Brockmoor Brighter Old Age Committee”, the “Brierley Hill Junior Ballet Circle”, “Marsh & Baxter’s Male Voice Choir” and the intriguingly entitled “Mrs D. Price’s Party”.

A bride who made her own wedding dress was said to be running the risk of her future husband committing adultery within five years of the marriage.

The Vicar of Wollaston, Rev Reg Bamber, served in the Second World War as a chaplain in the Gloucestershire Regiment. He was posted to France where, in 1940, he was taken prisoner by the Germans. He spent almost five years in a POW camp, returning in April 1945. A special day of celebration was held on his return to Wollaston.

# 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**

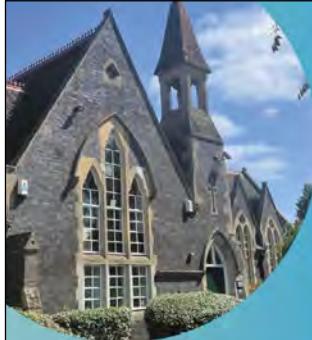
MOBILITY SCOOTERS  
(NEW & PRE-OWNED)  
FROM

£350



FULL RANGE  
OF MOBILITY  
AIDS AVAILABLE  
INCLUDING

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



## 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](http://www.stjamesdentalcentre.co.uk)

 Bridgnorth Road,  
Wollaston, Stourbridge  
DY8 3QG

### OUR SERVICE:

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

# 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

it's a fact!

- ★ In June 1901 Zacahariah Cartwright, a farmer from Wall Heath, was awakened in the middle of the night after hearing cries of pain from his cattle. He rushed outside without even pausing to get dressed and chased a man that he saw by his cowshed. He failed to catch the intruder but discovered that two animals had been horribly maimed. Two days later a Wall Heath resident—Charles Holmes – was arrested and charged with inflicting the injuries on the cattle.
- ★ There was an astounding review of the work of the Richardson Glassworks at Wordsley in the October 1849 issue of the prestigious magazine Art Journal: “The glass of Messrs Richardson of Stourbridge (*the ‘Wordsley Works’*) is confessedly surpassed for brilliancy and purity by that of any manufacturers in the kingdom; it is not too much to say that it may compete with the best produce of the continent; certainly we saw nothing at the Exposition in Paris superior to the crystal produced at these works.”
- ★ A local vicar proved to be a matchwinner for Wordsley Sports Club in a cricket match in July 1924. The team was playing Stourbridge Brotherhood and they scored 154 for 5 declared. Of these Rev. R.H. Fowler (who had only recently joined the club) scored 95 of these runs. He then went on to take seven Stourbridge wickets for 25 runs as they were skittled out for just 68, a total of 27 runs less than the number that Rev. Fowler had scored by himself.
- ★ The Rev. Charles Girdlestone became Rector of Wordsley in 1847. He was related to Admiral Lord Nelson and allegedly Charlemagne, King of the Franks.



f @wilfselectrical

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

Wilf's Mobile:  
07572 613414

Email:  
wilfredo123@hotmail.co.uk



# 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](http://www.jandbpavinglandscapes.co.uk)

**Email:** [jandbpavingandlandscapes@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:deltaposts@outlook.com) [www.deltasecurityposts.co.uk](http://www.deltasecurityposts.co.uk)**



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

**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



Bridging Connections  
with Somfy's

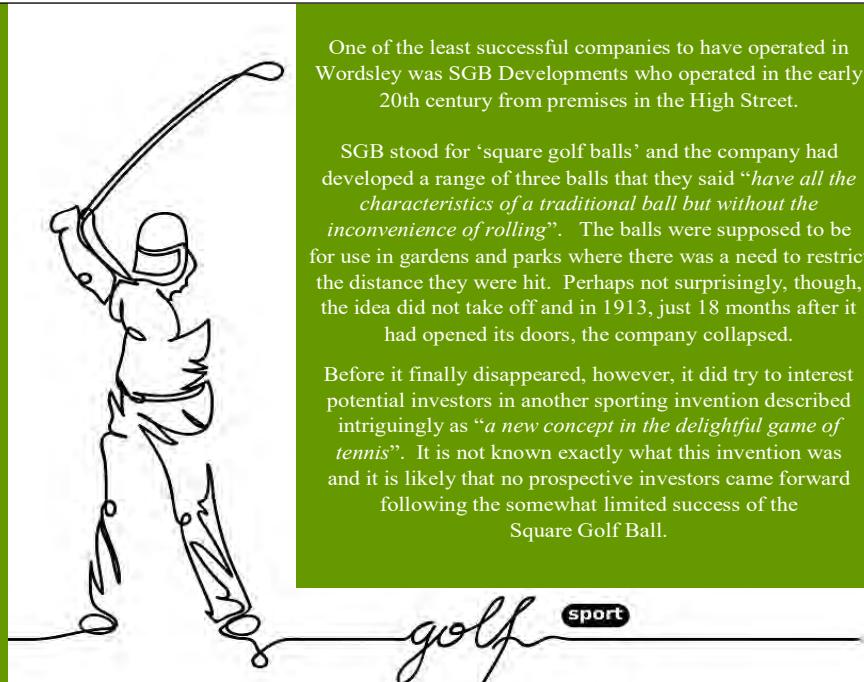
 **zigbee**  
Compatible Solutions

*Free Parking  
That's a promise!*

LOOK AT US ONLINE

[WWW.CASTLEBLINDS.CO.UK](http://WWW.CASTLEBLINDS.CO.UK)

[EMAILSALES@CASTLEBLINDS.CO.UK](mailto:EMAILSALES@CASTLEBLINDS.CO.UK)



One of the least successful companies to have operated in Wordsley was SGB Developments who operated in the early 20th century from premises in the High Street.

SGB stood for 'square golf balls' and the company had developed a range of three balls that they said "*have all the characteristics of a traditional ball but without the inconvenience of rolling*". The balls were supposed to be for use in gardens and parks where there was a need to restrict the distance they were hit. Perhaps not surprisingly, though, the idea did not take off and in 1913, just 18 months after it had opened its doors, the company collapsed.

Before it finally disappeared, however, it did try to interest potential investors in another sporting invention described intriguingly as "*a new concept in the delightful game of tennis*". It is not known exactly what this invention was and it is likely that no prospective investors came forward following the somewhat limited success of the Square Golf Ball.



## Spotterless Cleaning Services

**Tel: Suzanne - 07975 954435**

Domestic, Commercial, End of Tenancy, Weekly, Fortnightly, Monthly, Quarterly - Loading Appliances, Bed Change & Ironing  
All Equipment & Products Supplied & Pet Friendly



**We're in your area - 10% OFF YOUR FIRST CLEAN**

# 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

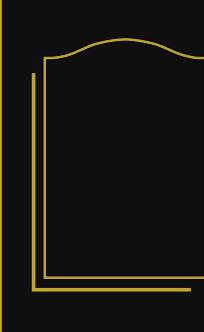
Tel: 0121 520 6091

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



LOCAL FAMILY  
BUSINESS TRADING  
SINCE 1984

REMOVAL AND  
DISPOSAL OF EXISTING  
FLOORING &  
MATTRESSES AVAILABLE



# BATES MEMORIALS

Family Run Business

## BRAND NEW SHOWROOM



- New Grave Stones • Pet Memorials
- Garden Memorials • Grave Stone Maintenance

Unit 4 Holloway Street West, Gornal DY3 2DZ

Telephone: **01384 985923**

Mobile: **07956 872130**

Website: **[www.bates-memorials.com](http://www.bates-memorials.com)**

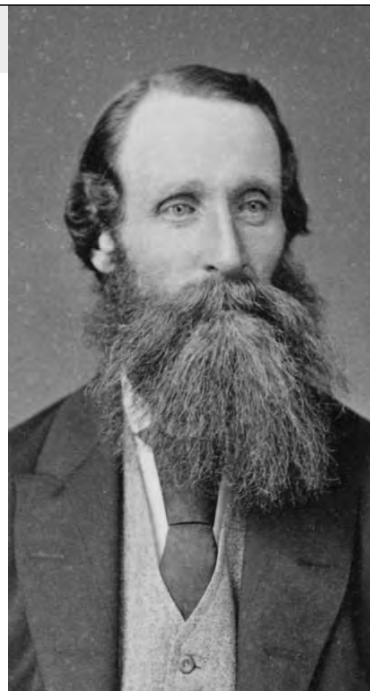
Green Powered Enterprise  
100% Solar Powered Showroom and Workshop

## READ ALL ABOUT IT!

**Born in Birmingham during 1830, the story of John Howard Clark is quite remarkable and has local connections.**

The son of Francis Clark, an accountant, and his wife Caroline (who happened to be Rowland Hill's sister), John became one of the leading citizens of South Australia—and all because he went to work in Kingswinford. After finishing school and college in Birmingham, John Clark got a job at Corbyn's Hall colliery and ironworks between Pensnett and Kingswinford. Whilst working at the colliery his health deteriorated and in 1850 he emigrated to South Australia with his parents, looking for a better climate. Initially he worked as a chemist and then joined with his father to form an accountancy practice. Later he was to purchase the South Australia Register newspaper and became a major business figure in Adelaide.

Although active in local politics he turned down the chance to become an MP and concentrated on developing the artistic opportunities in the city. This included founding the State Library. In 1878, however, the ill health that had dogged him finally claimed his life.



---

**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**



# JANUARY AT THE ROBIN



SATURDAY 17TH JANUARY

SATURDAY 3RD JANUARY  
**THE CUREHEADS**  
TRIBUTE TO THE CURE

FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY  
**THE ED SHEERAN EXPERIENCE**  
TRIBUTE TO ED SHEERAN

SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY  
**MALINA MOYE & DANIELLE NICOLE**

SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY  
**ROD STUART**  
TRIBUTE TO ROD STEWART

THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY  
**DEFINITELY GREENDAY**  
TRIBUTE TO GREENDAY

FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY  
**GUNS 2 ROSES**  
TRIBUTE TO GUNS N ROSES

SATURDAY 17TH JANUARY  
**A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY**  
TRIBUTE TO FOREIGNER AND JOURNEY

SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY  
**FOREVER BILLY JOEL**  
TRIBUTE TO BILLY JOEL

THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY  
**FONTAINES Y.C**  
TRIBUTE TO FONTAINES D.C

FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY  
**SOUNDS OF SEATTLE**  
TRIBUTE TO GRUNGE

SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY  
**JEAN GENIE**  
TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE

SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY  
**HEARTBREAK - THE TOM PETTY SHOW**  
TRIBUTE TO TOM PETTY

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY  
**MARDY BUMS**  
TRIBUTE TO ARCTIC MONKEYS

SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY  
**RAMMLIED**  
TRIBUTE TO RAMMSTEIN



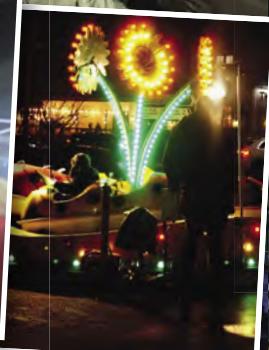
**RAMMLIED**

[THEROBIN.CO.UK](http://therobin.co.uk)

01902 401 211

# Kingswinford LIGHTS

Switch On  
Thank you for being there!







We all know that after the expense of Christmas budgets are always at full stretch. We have been "gifted" by one of our lovely advertisers, 2 x £50.00 'Dining Out' gift cards which we are now offering to two lucky winners. The card can be redeemed at a selection of restaurants. But remember...you need to get your entry in before the closing date.

All you have to do is search out the square below for the 16 words associated with **VILLAGE VOICE** 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](mailto: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, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**. Good luck!

B	M	U	P	C	O	P	I	E	S	H
N	R	Y	Y	E	L	G	D	E	S	S
G	T	A	T	V	C	I	T	I	Z	I
N	S	E	N	I	Z	A	G	A	M	R
I	R	O	T	L	N	E	U	Z	A	A
N	E	Y	A	L		U	P	M	U	P
I	S	O	N	A	L	I	M	I	T	S
D	A	N	O	G	O	P	C	M	O	S
O	E	T	L	E	C	E	C	I	O	V
P	T	U	N	I	A	R	B	L	Y	C
T	C	O	A	W	L	E	E	R	H	T

#### HIDDEN WORDS

1. VILLAGE
2. COPIES
3. VOICE
4. SEDGLEY
5. OUT
6. THREE
7. PENN
8. DINING
9. COMMUNITY
10. TEASERS
11. MAGAZINES
12. BRAIN
13. LOCAL
14. PUMP
15. HISTORY
16. PARISH

MISSING WORD: ..... NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

POSTCODE: ..... TEL NO: .....

EMAIL ADDRESS: .....

**SEND TO: 'DINING OUT' COMPETITION, 50 REDHALL ROAD, DUDLEY DY3 2NL**



## 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](http://www.maryhermansmithcatering.co.uk) Can also be found on 

it's a fact!

- ★ In 1838 the Gibbons Blast Furnace at Ketley in Kingswinford had a weekly yield of 236 tons of pig iron, the greatest yield of any single furnace in the country. This was achieved following the introduction of a new method of using the waste heat of the furnace to raise the temperature even higher than normal.
- ★ The popular 'Katie Fitzgerald's' pub on the Wollaston/Stourbridge border was originally called Washing Pool House and stood next to the Washing Pool which was used by local residents not only to wash their clothes but also to water their livestock. However, as it was on the boundary of the two districts there were frequently disputes about who had the right to use it.
- ★ Colour Sergeant Anthony Booth from Brierley Hill was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest honour on the field of battle for his part in the Battle of Intombi Drift during the Zulu War. He led a small party of soldiers who gave covering fire for 50 comrades who were retreating after being ambushed. The announcement of his decoration was, however, delayed as the only surviving officer from the action was court marshalled for cowardice. Booth was a member of the 80th Staffordshire Volunteer Regiment and when he died in 1899 he was buried with full military honours in the churchyard of St Michael's Church in Brierley Hill. His medal is on display at the Staffordshire Regiment's museum in Lichfield.



## MYSTERY OF PUB NAME

One of the biggest mysteries of the area is how the Stewponey got its name.

For some years it was suggested that it came from the licensee of the pub (which was originally called the Green Man) who had served in the Peninsular War in Spain and had met and married a Spanish girl whilst there. When the couple returned to England it was said that he changed the name of the pub to Estepona, the Spanish town where they had met. Over time, however, that became corrupted into Stewponey. The only problem with this theory is that there are records of the name Stewponey being used some 34 years before the Peninsular War!

Several other suggestions about the possible derivation of the name have also been put forward. These include that it is a corruption of the Latin 'Stour ponte' which means the bridge of the River Stour or even possibly that it was named after Epona, the Roman goddess of horses and donkeys. Whilst certainly there is evidence that the Romans did occupy land close by (and that, therefore, a Latin connection may be possible) the most likely explanation is that it comes from 'stew pones', the name given to fish ponds in the Middle Ages. These would have been close to the River Stour and would have belonged to the nearby Stourton Castle.



*The Stewponey was so famous that a series of postcards featuring the pub were produced and sold in the area.*

## DO YOU WANT YOUR BUSINESS TO GROW?



## THEN TALK TO US AT VILLAGE VOICE

ABOUT COST EFFECTIVE  
ADVERTISING THAT WORKS.

**0781 790 4477**

# gornal accounting

accounts  
self assessment  
corporation tax  
payroll & bookkeeping  
VAT  
business start ups  
forecasts & tax planning

richard hall house, bridgnorth road,  
wombourne, west midlands wv5 0af  
tel: 01384 233221  
email: admin@gornalaccounting.co.uk

# Divorce can be difficult We make it easier

Our family law solicitors  
will help you move  
forward with clarity and  
confidence

**Call us on:**

**01384 888 771**

for expert advice



813 High Street  
Kingswinford | DY6 8AD  
[waldrons.co.uk](http://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



# MT SKIPS U Fill em with

**A range of skips at quality prices!**

**If ur talking rubbish...  
talk to MT Skip hire!**

**From a 2 yard to a 40 yard roll on roll off,  
all ready for immediate delivery at prices  
yo cor beat!... starting from just £150!**

**It's dead easy,  
yo fill em they MT um....**

**They will even wait while yo load it!**



**Dudley Central Trading Estate, Shaw Road, Dudley, West Midlands**

# PS LTD ive MT um



MT Skips is a family business with 20 years' experience in the Waste Management industry. Our success is built on three core principles:

**Affordability** – Reliability and a first-rate customer service.

**Recycling** – MT Skips takes recycling extremely seriously and we aim to be one of the most green and environmentally friendly skip hire providers in the UK.

**We offer** – Wide choice of skips in different sizes. Our aim is for 100% satisfaction. Leading the way on skip hire and customer service.

Additional equipment and services provided. Peace of mind with our licencing and insurance certification. Experts who will help you every step of the way

It's easy to find a great value deal, as thanks to our range of different skip sizes we can help you save time and money. Also, our experts have created comprehensive guides packed with tips about the dos and don'ts of booking a skip.



**Spot the yellow car, send us a photo and get £10.00 off (offer ends 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026)**



ing, sheds and concrete posts available  
m The Shed Shop, Brierley Hill DY5 4AH

**Open 7 days a week closed Sundays!**

Midlands DY2 8QX. Tel: 01384 240956 | 07920 885774



it's a fact!

- ★ In April 1961 Wordsley resident Joe Heath became a director of Aston Villa FC. A well-known fruit merchant with farms in Bobbington and associated businesses in Bilston, Willenhall and Sedgley, he had been a fervent Villa supporter for over 50 years travelling around the world watching them.
- ★ In April 1849 at Staffordshire Assizes Thomas Lewis pleaded guilty to stealing a wheelbarrow, the property of Joseph Woodcock of Kingswinford, for which he was sentenced to two months imprisonment. Whilst in court, however, an extra charge of stealing a wheelbarrow from James Noakes of Wombourne was put to him. Again he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a further two months in prison.
- ★ In April 1947 a fire broke out at Himley Hall during conversion work in the south wing. The work was being carried out on behalf of the National Coal Board which had purchased the Hall three months earlier.
- ★ There was a sad story reported in many newspapers in March 1904 about a young girl called Rosannah Hanworth who had been missing from her home in Wordsley for nine days. Her body was found buried in snow in a field near Kinver.
- ★ In August 1887 the 60 employees at glass manufacturers Mills, Walker & Co, of Wordsley had their annual outing to Worcester. After lunch at the Golden Lion the group spent time in the city centre before returning back to Wordsley at 5.00am the following morning.
- ★ The first church in Kingswinford was probably built before the Norman Conquest in 1066.l

## AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

We are **specialist small animal practices**  
dealing with all your pets' veterinary  
requirements. Friendly help and advice is  
just a phone call away.



**RECOMMEND A FRIEND  
AND YOU BOTH RECEIVE £10**

- ✓ Consultations
- ✓ Repeat prescription check ups
- ✓ Diabetic check ups
- ✓ Repeat prescriptions
- ✓ Vaccinations
- ✓ Neutering
- ✓ Dentistry
- ✓ Hip and Elbow scoring
- ✓ Pet travel
- ✓ Blood and urine testing

**24 hour Emergency Service  
available (please telephone  
prior to visiting)**

**WOMBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE**  
56 Rookery Road, Wombourne 01902 324551  
Monday-Friday 8.30 am -6.30 pm  
Saturday 9.00 am-4.00 pm

**GORNAL VETERINARY CENTRE**  
6 Bank Road, Gornal 01384 212000  
(By the Bus Station)  
Monday-Friday 8.30 am- 6.30 pm

**BOTH CLINICS ARE IN A CENTRAL LOCATION SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

## 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.



### HAPPY NEW YEAR

The old year's gone, its stories told,  
A new one dawns, bright, fresh, and bold.  
Let worries fade, let kindness bloom,  
Chasing away the winter gloom.  
With open hearts and hopeful sight,  
May your New Year shine ever so bright!

### Over 250 toys donated to Russell's Hall Hospital Children's Ward

I was honoured to join community groups led by The Saleem Foundation as we donated over 250 toys to the children and staff at the Children's Ward, Russell's Hall Hospital.

Christmas is one festival that unites everyone, and it is so important that we are there for one another. No-one has seen tomorrow, so it's so important we create priceless memories and enjoy today. My granddad, who was a teacher, was very passionate about supporting youngsters, and it's that legacy I wish to continue.



### Busy December!!

It was a busy December with multiple community events. The 3rd annual Santa Trail was a massive success with hundreds of youngsters taking part. £500 was raised to support the local community.

The 10th annual Santa truck run was an epic experience with 1000s of people lining the streets from Bilston to the DK Rugby club. A huge thank you to Andrew and the team for organising this incredible event.



Over 550 chocolate selection boxes were donated by the Saleem Foundation to schools, nursing homes and other community groups. A huge thank you to Prem from The Old Courthouse Kingswinford for sponsoring us and a special thank you to Sarah from Tesco in Stream Road for donating 100 chocolate boxes.

We also held special thank you drinks for the Kingswinford & Wall Heath Litter Pick Group who have collected over 225 bags of litter and thousands of items. Thank you to Gail and the team.



### Upcoming community events

9<sup>th</sup> January - Kuppa Club - 9.15am to 11am at Wall Heath Tavern • 11<sup>th</sup> January - Kingswinford & Wall Heath Litter Pick - 10am • 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Kuppa Club - 9.15am to 11am at Wall Heath Tavern  
• 25<sup>th</sup> January - Kingswinford & Wall Heath Litter Pick - 10am • Kingswinford in Bloom meet every Saturday and Sunday 10am by the library.

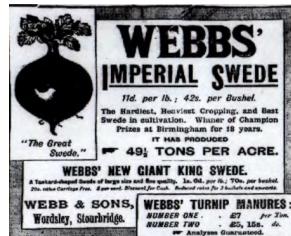
### Contact me

07786 196666 [askshaz@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:askshaz@hotmail.co.uk) [@shazsaleem001](https://www.facebook.com/shazsaleem001)

# THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WEBBS

Without a doubt one of the best known companies to have been based in Wordsley were the Royal seedsmen Webb & Sons. Here are a few facts about the company.

- ★ Much of Webbs initial reputation was based on its range of root vegetables. In 1902 'Smithfield' mangolds were adjudged the heaviest cropping by several tons per acre whilst its 'Imperial Swede' was capable of producing almost 50 tons per acre (according to the advertisement (right).
- ★ At its height the company had over 15,000 acres of land under cultivation stretching from Wordsley almost to Kinver.
- ★ In 1884 the company introduced the 'Wordsley Wonder' pea which proved to be one of its most successful products over a period of almost 20 years.
- ★ Many of the Webbs products were given names associated with the local area—as well as 'Wordsley Wonder' peas there was 'Kinver Chevalier' barley and 'Stourbridge' marrows.
- ★ They also sold boxes of 'Floral Gems' containing "seeds of beautiful flowers, easy of cultivation for the Gardens of Ladies and Amateurs".
- ★ As well as growing vegetables and flowers, the company ran an artificial manure works at Saltney near Chester.



A poster for an ABBA tribute show. The background features a large yellow circle on a blue gradient background. The word 'ABBA' is written in large, white, block letters with a yellow shadow. Below it, the text 'THE ABBA TRIBUTE BY ABSOLUTE' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the top right, the text 'CALLING ALL DANCING QUEENS' is written in a white, diagonal font. Below the title, there is a black and white photograph of four people dressed as ABBA members. From left to right: a man with dark hair and a mustache, a woman with dark hair and a headband, a woman with blonde hair and a headband, and a man with dark hair and a mustache. Below the photo, the text 'WOMBOURNE CIVIC CENTRE' is in large, bold, black letters. Below that, 'FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2026 AT 7PM' is in red, bold letters. Below that, 'DOORS OPEN AT 6.30PM' is in smaller red letters. At the bottom, 'WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/TRIBUTES' is in large, bold, red letters. At the very bottom, 'BOX OFFICE: 07809287543 Gravel Hill, Wombourne, Wolverhampton WV5 9HA' is in small black text.

# 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](http://taxassist.co.uk/kingswinford)

Find us at our new shop:

1-3 Moss Grove,  
Kingswinford, DY6 9HS



Excellent  Trustpilot

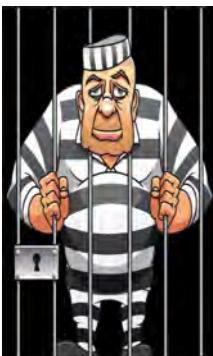
Based on 2,000+ reviews



# COURT MATTERS

Almost two hundred years ago courts never bothered with 'community sentences' or 'conditional discharges'. Criminals convicted of theft, for example, were much more likely to—at best—be deported to Australia or often sentenced to death.

For example, in July 1804 **Enoch Bunn** was found

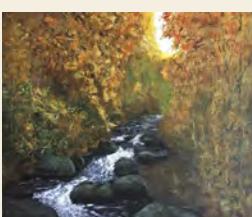


guilty of breaking open the stable belonging to John Addenbrooke at Oldswinford

and stealing two horses. He was sentenced to death and executed within a week. More frequently after the death sentence was pronounced the prisoner was reprieved. This happened in the case of **William Stokes** in 1813 when he was found guilty of breaking into the houses of John Yardley, also of Oldswinford. Similarly two years later **John Foxall** and **Benjamin Troman** who pleaded guilty to killing and stealing a sheep, the property of Thomas Page of Lutley were given the death sentence but were later given a reprieve.

Even more common, though, was transportation to Australia, even for seemingly minor offences. In 1833, for instance, **Richard Yeadon** aged 17 was found guilty of stealing 5 pairs of stays (corsets) from the shop of Samuel Hallam of Stourbridge. He was transported for 14 years. Six years later **John Buffery**, a 42 year old sailor was sentenced to 7 years transportation for stealing a kettle at Stourbridge (although he did have previous convictions).

Between 1787 and 1868 (when transportation finished) well over 162,000 men, women and children had been taken to Australia. Until 1842 most went to New South Wales whilst for the following 10 years they were sent to Van Diemens Land (Tasmania). After this they were taken to Western Australia.



## MEMORIES IN BRUSHSTROKES

Unique acrylic scenic paintings, incorporating a loved one's ashes if required.

[memoriesinbrushstrokes@yahoo.com](mailto:memoriesinbrushstrokes@yahoo.com)

01384 837567

Facebook

\*Property Maintenance & Repairs  
\*Plumbing  
\*Bathrooms & Kitchens  
\*Tiling  
\*Garden Maintenance  
\*High Pressure Cleaning  
\*Welding and fabrication  
Plus much, much, more

No Job Too Small!



**A.L.F**  
**HANDYMAN**  
HIGH QUALITY SERVICE  
07703 190098  
OR  
07751 669760  
Free No Obligation Quote  
OAP Discount  
[a.l.f.handyman@qualityservice.com](http://a.l.f.handyman@qualityservice.com)

# Your Local Councillor Update

Dear Residents,

As we step into 2026, we wanted to take a moment to wish all residents across Kingswinford and Wall Heath a very Happy New Year and to say a heartfelt thank you for the support, conversations and community spirit we've seen over the past year.



December was packed with fantastic festive events, and we were proud to attend so many of them. The Christmas light switch-on's in both Kingswinford and Wall Heath brought families and neighbours together for magical evenings filled with music, laughter and cheer. Huge thanks to the volunteers, schools, businesses and community groups who helped make both events such a success.

We were also delighted to attend the beautiful Community Carol Service at the Church of the Ascension—a warm (not the weather) and thoughtful celebration that really captured the true spirit of Christmas. Across the ward, local schools, churches and organisations hosted a range of festive performances, fairs and gatherings. It was uplifting to see so many people come together to celebrate and support one another at the end of a busy year.

Of course, elections are on the horizon this May, and no doubt the months ahead will bring plenty of debate and political discussion. But for now, we simply want to thank you for the continued trust you place in us to represent our area. We'll always strive to be accessible, visible, and dedicated to getting things done.

Whether your New Year's resolution is to get more exercise, see the world, or finally fix that squeaky gate, we hope 2026 brings you health, happiness and a bit of sunshine between the showers. As always, we're here if you need us.

Here's to a peaceful, healthy, and hopeful 2026.

Phil, Ed & Mark

## CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TEAM BELOW



Cllr Phil Atkins  
Tel: 07929 662888  
Email: [cllr.phil.atkins@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.phil.atkins@dudley.gov.uk)

Cllr Ed Lawrence  
Tel: 01384 818007  
Email: [cllr.ed.lawrence@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ed.lawrence@dudley.gov.uk)

Cllr Mark Webb  
Tel: 07801 802227  
Email: [cllr.mark.webb@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mark.webb@dudley.gov.uk)

# Slimming World

## MAZ GIBBS

Before I joined Slimming World, I was at rock bottom – I had struggled with my weight for most of my adult life. At my heaviest, I was 23st 10lbs, and at just 5'2, the impact on my health was enormous. I couldn't walk far without losing my breath, relied on a mobility scooter to get around, and was unable to even be considered for an essential knee operation because of my weight. As a consequence of this my confidence was extremely low, and I felt limited in every aspect of life – even simple hobbies felt out of reach.



**MAZ GIBBS – Age: 54 – Height: 5'2**  
**Starting Weight: 19st 10lb – Target weight: 10st 10lb**

The turning point came when I realised how much I was missing out. I wanted to enjoy life, but my weight was holding me back. At this point I joined Slimming World and made changes, with over 350 foods that can be freely eaten without going hungry, I didn't feel like I was on a diet. As the pounds came off, I noticed a huge difference. I went from feeling trapped in my own body to rediscovering freedom. Walking became easier, my breathing improved, and I started to feel like myself again. The more progress I made, the more determined I became to keep going.

When I got to my target of 10st 10lbs, I felt like a completely different person. My confidence has grown in ways I never thought possible. Since becoming a Slimming World consultant, I can now help others find that confidence and the joy that losing weight brings. So, if you are looking to lose weight then come and join me on Mondays at New Life Church in Wall Heath from 5.30pm to 6.40pm or give me a call on 07779127548 if you would like some more information.

**Contact Maz on 07779 127 548 – New Life Church, Wall Heath – Mondays 5:30-6:40pm**

## ABBY KINLEY

My weight had yo-yoed over the pandemic as I ate comfort junk food then I tried quick fix diets, though my weight steadily crept up. When my little girl arrived in November 2021 my weight increased drastically. As a new Mom, I really struggled with my identity – I was tired and overwhelmed and I quickly turned back to comfort food and takeaways, telling myself I just needed to 'survive'. I would hide myself away in my maternity clothes because I was not confident shopping for clothes because my body had changed and I gained yet more weight. I felt embarrassed about my appearance which made the problem even worse. I stopped taking care of myself, even stopped washing my hair – I felt invisible so why would I make any effort for myself? As my weight spiralled, I withdrew from friends that had known me before my weight gain, because I was so ashamed that they wouldn't recognise me.

In January 2024, whilst getting ready to celebrate my husband Mike's 40<sup>th</sup> surprise birthday party, I was dressing in a size 16 skirt and the button ripped off, tearing the material. I had no alternate outfits as I'd stopped buying clothes for myself, stopped looking after myself and lived in dark jeans and oversized jumpers, so I had to just tie the damaged skirt together as best I could. I felt panicked and trapped, as I couldn't cancel plans because it was a surprise party. This was the point where I knew I had to take control – my daughter was just gone two by now and I knew I was making excuses and compromising my health, both physically and mentally.

When I joined Slimming World, I confess I was sceptical. I thought I would be out of place, not knowing anyone in the group and feeling very self-conscious but the members were very warm and friendly, with all sorts of different people there. I was worried that I would be the youngest in the room and wouldn't have anything in common with anyone, but I was really surprised to find a bustling group, with men and women of all ages, all chatting and laughing together.

I lost 6lbs in my first week by following the Food Optimising Plan. The flexible eating plan is rooted in the science and psychology of food and eating habits, putting members in control. Food Optimising is non-restrictive, with members encouraged to eat unlimited amounts of 'free-foods' including meat, fish, pasta, fruit and vegetables. Members are also supported to get active in ways that they love, putting the member in control in a non-prescriptive way.

I have lost 3 stone and I feel so much better. I feel healthier with lots more energy, which in turn is making me a better Mom. Without a doubt, Slimming World saved me from more than declining physical health – my mental health also improved drastically through fabulous new friendships that I'll treasure forever. I still enjoy the 'me-time' at my group, dedicating just 90 minutes in total to my health and wellbeing. It puts me back in the driver's seat when life gets busy! Whilst I can't bottle the feeling to pass on to others, I can pay it back in another way – which is why I became a Consultant and relaunched the Wall Heath Saturday group.

Every Saturday at 8.00am we meet at the Church of the Ascension church hall and we have a great time! We deal with serious topics, though we don't take ourselves too seriously – we always laugh our way through our weight-loss journey and we would love to welcome you to our fabulous group too!



**ABBY KINLEY – Age: 34 – Height: 5'11**

**Starting Weight: 15st 11lb – Target weight: 12st 11lb**

**Contact Abby on 07539 865 553 – Church of the Ascension, Wall Heath – Saturdays 8.00am**

# *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](mailto:benb@nicholasbarwell.co.uk) Website: [www.nicholasbarwell.co.uk](http://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](mailto:benb@nicholasbarwell.co.uk).

## **INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT JANUARY**

**The Anglo-Saxons called January “Wulfmonath” meaning “wolf month”.**

**In Tudor England, January 1st gifts were called “handsel” which refers to a gift given to mark a first occasion or a new beginning.**

**Many cultures have developed unique traditions and superstitions associated with January, often centred around good luck for the coming year. In Scotland “first-footing” is practiced on New Year’s Day where the first person to enter a home brings gifts for luck. In Japan, people eat *toshikoshi soba* (year-crossing noodles) on New Year’s Even for good luck. In some parts of the United States, eating *black-eyed peas* on New Year’s Day is thought to bring prosperity. A Spanish tradition is to eat *12 grapes at midnight* on New Year’s Eve which is believed to bring good luck.**

**January has inspired many song titles in music including David Bowie’s “January Man” and Elton John’s “January”. Pilot reached No. 1 in the UK Singles Chart with “January” in 1975. The 2006 film “The Holiday” features a house swap that takes place in January. The popular New Year’s song “Auld Lang Syne” was adapted and partially written by Robert Burns from traditional Scottish folk songs in 1788.**

**January is National Soup Month in the United States.**

**Despite the cold in many parts of the world, January sees interesting natural phenomena and wildlife activity. Many animals, including bears and bats hibernate during January in colder climates.**

**The wolf moon, the first full moon of the year, typically occurs in January.**

# GONE...BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

2025 has seen the death of a number of well known and respected entertainers across television, films, music and more. The list seems endless but here are just a few:

Actor **Robert Redford**; actress **Diane Keaton**; Cosby Show star **Malcolm Jamal Warner**; Black Sabbath frontman **Ozzy Osbourne**; Twin Peaks co-creator **David Lynch**; Oscar winner **Gene Hackman**; Gossip Girl star **Michelle Trachtenberg**; Buck Rogers star **Gil Gerard**; and popular author **Sophie Kinsella** (of 'Confessions of a Shopaholic' fame).

There was also legendary playwright and screenwriter **Tom Stoppard**; Reggae pioneer **Jimmy Cliff**; and the always amusing and highly talented drummer **Jellybean Johnson**. He originally drummed for Flyte Tyme from which Prince later recruited members for his new funk-pop group the Time—the band released three albums in the 80s for Prince on multiple tours in the early 80s and also appeared in his 1984 film, Purple Rain.

**Prunella Scales**, an actress who became a household name playing the long-suffering Sybil Fawlty (Fawlty Towers) alongside John Cleese; **John Lodge**, singer and bassist for The Moody Blues who he joined in 1966.

**RIP one and all.**

## OUR SERVICES

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

## BOOK NOW



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO:  
**07876 612785**



**LOCKS & MAINTENANCE LTD**  
**07876 612785**

**FREE QUOTES**  
**FULLY INSURED**



# DRINKS: In the Spirit—Abingdon Distillery

A review by Trevor Langley



The Abingdon Distillery (Est. 2018) is located at Abingdon-on-Thames and has won numerous awards for their exceptional productions of spirits. The copper stills, which are utilised to a great advantage, were handmade in Portugal. No artificial colours, concentrates or flavourings are included in the production processes of the small batch delectations. The botanicals and casks used are from worldwide origins. The bottles are 100% recyclable and packaging is free of plastic, as the company is committed and dedicated to reducing their carbon footprint and the distillery has now become part of a global sustainability programme.

Abingdon London Dry Gin (40% vol) utilises eight botanicals in its make-up, to bring this hugely popular gin to fruition. Juniper forward, plus citrus and sweet spices are amongst the inclusions for this production. I found this gin to be outstanding, from the enticing bouquet, through the mouth's pleasure, for flavour and taste, to the palate's delight, which appreciates the long, extended finish. Perfect with an Indian tonic water and garnish.



Wild Oxon Rum (40% vol) from the Abingdon Distillery is a premium spiced rum production that has many devotees. White rum is fermented from cane sugar and the process which follows involves



maceration with orange peel, plus toasted coconut chips, nutmeg, ginger and other spices, to produce this excellent pleaser. Nasal senses, taste buds, and palate are all 'tuned in' to this grand production. Great for cocktails or for adding a mixer to.

Other spirits include several Gins, Pure White Rum, Chocolate Rum and more. Tastings, tours, private events, occasions and corporate functions can also be booked. The Rum Blending Experiences and Whisky Master Classes have become a welcome 'surprise gift' for loved ones, or someone special – plus connoisseurs too. The Discovery Club and the Founders Club offer exclusive benefits and have also grown in popularity. Corporate gifting, with customised labels, plus bespoke productions, can be developed and launched. Gift boxes and gift vouchers are also available. Their very informative website has all details and information, including stockists.

Online ordering is available and easy.

Abingdon Distillery, Coxeter House, 21 – 27 Ock Street, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 5AJ. E-mail: [hello@abingdondistillery.com](mailto:hello@abingdondistillery.com) Web: [www.abingdondistillery.com](http://www.abingdondistillery.com)



As always,  
Enjoy!

*Trevor Langley*

**COMING UP IN THE  
FEBRUARY EDITION:**  
***"For the love of—Cider"***

Imagine

# Dry Carpet Cleaning

*"no soggy carpets or wet dog smell".*

zero dry time<sup>TM</sup>

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

Get Main Room Cleaned  
save 50%  
on all further rooms  
+ Free Stain Guard



Leather Cleaning  
Specialists  
Restoration & Recolouring



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

# 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](mailto:patrickbellew@ymail.com)

[www.local-painter-decorator.com](http://www.local-painter-decorator.com)



# Financial planning for you, your family and your business

- Pension planning
- Savings and investments
- Illness & life cover
- Wills, trusts & estate planning

## contact us

JPA Financial Services Ltd

Cross Offices

Summerhill

Kingswinford

West Midlands

DY6 9JE

T - 01384 918 158

*Helping you  
to create a  
financially  
secure future*

**JPA**

Financial Services Ltd

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



✓ 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](mailto:paul.mansell@chipsaway.co.uk)

[www.chipsaway.co.uk/paulmansell](http://www.chipsaway.co.uk/paulmansell)

**ChipsAway repairs are:**

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

it's a fact!

★ The General Election of January 1910 resulted in a great deal of excitement across the Black Country, especially it seems in Wordsley. During the final two hours of polling large crowds gathered outside the polling station at the Church School and gangs of youngsters dressed in the colours of the different parties marched up and down beating tin cans. A van with a poster prominently displayed toured the local streets—the message on the poster read: “We want work for our father that we may have food. Think of us, not the foreigner. Vote for tariff reforms and Staveley-Hill”.

★ When he died in 1917 Sir Charles Holcroft (who lived at the Shrubbery, Kingswinford) left a fortune worth £1,599,677 (today worth almost £97 million). He was a retired ironmaster and colliery owner whose enterprises included the Portfield Ironworks in Tipton. Amongst the bequests in his will was a donation of £5,000 to set up the Charles Holcroft Research Fund at the University of Birmingham.



There was good news for Joseph Eveson of Wall Heath in May 1871 when he heard that, after spending three months of a five year sentence in Stafford Prison, he was given a free pardon. He had been found guilty of a criminal assault on a concert room singer called Emma Clifford but there was some doubt about whether there had been a certain amount of provocation. The Home Secretary agreed and put his name forward for a Royal Pardon which was granted.

# 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](http://www.totalsewing.co.uk)**

# Creating an Intentional Life for 2026

## How Simplifying and Decluttering Your Life Can Make You Happier

In a world that encourages us to upgrade, accumulate and say yes to everything, more people are discovering the powerful emotional and psychological benefits of owning less and creating intentional spaces.

For the past 10 years, **Katherine Blackler**, Certified Professional Organizer (CPO®) and founder of SortMySpace Ltd has helped individuals transform overwhelmed homes and workplaces into more supportive, calming environments.

### The Invisible Weight of “Too Much”

Clutter usually enters our lives quietly, a special-offer purchase here, a sentimental item there, a box we never quite get around to sorting.

“People underestimate the invisible weight that unnecessary belongings carry,” Katherine told us. “Every item you own needs storage, cleaning, maintaining, or replacing. Reducing what surrounds you, also decreases the number of demands placed on your brain, time and energy.”

Simplifying, she explains, isn’t about stark minimalism or living in a characterless ‘show home’. It’s about finding your unique ‘sweet spot’ as to the volume of things you want and need around you. An intentional space reflects the life you’re actually living now, not the one you used to live, or one that you feel obligated to maintain.



**SORT MY  
SPACE** CO  
UK

Professional Organising,  
Decluttering & Interior Redesign



## Stepping Away from Social Media Pressure

"So many people try to replicate what they see online," she said. "But Instagram-ready perfection isn't real life, it's a heavily curated version of life. Often the content creators don't sustain what you see in their images either".

She encourages clients to unfollow accounts that evoke comparison or pressure. This makes it easier to recognise what genuinely brings us joy (not what we feel we *ought* to want).

## Reclaiming Space, And Emotional Freedom

When you let go of what no longer serves you, you gain room, physically and mentally, for what truly matters. Simplifying your life doesn't require sweeping changes or perfectly labelled boxes. Katherine encourages starting small: one drawer, one shelf, one habit. Momentum builds slowly. She also cautions that "New behaviours or processes can take time to adjust to so be gentle with yourself if you fall back into old ways."

In a culture that celebrates consumption and busyness, simplifying is more than a lifestyle choice; it's an act of self-care. Decluttering can offer a path to a happier, more intentional life, one clear surface and one conscious choice at a time.



Quote VILLAGE VOICE  
for a **50% discount** on your  
consultation until 31 March '26

Contact Katherine  
[katherine@sortmyspace.co.uk](mailto:katherine@sortmyspace.co.uk)  
**07914 612531**  
[sortmyspace.co.uk](http://sortmyspace.co.uk)

# Making space for 2026?

**I can help.**

[katherine@sortmyspace.co.uk](mailto:katherine@sortmyspace.co.uk)

07914 612531

[sortmyspace.co.uk](http://sortmyspace.co.uk)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/sortmyspaceuk) [X](https://www.instagram.com/sortmyspaceuk) [@sortmyspaceuk](https://www.twitter.com/sortmyspaceuk)

SORT MY  
SPACE.CO.UK

Professional Organising,  
Decluttering & Interior Redesign

# 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**

# Wall Heath in Bloom

What a summer 2025 was and what an amazing team we have at Wall Heath in Bloom! We may be small, but we are mighty! It was "all hands on deck" for non-stop watering from early spring right through till autumn! We had some incredibly dedicated additional watering volunteers who worked tirelessly alongside our regulars to keep the village blooming. We were stretched and a hose pipe ban looked likely at one point but we did it! Almost everything (and everybody) not only survived but thrived!

Despite the heat we got stuck into some new projects too, creating new borders and a rockery at Church of the Ascension. The rockery has proved a hit, especially with a small, secretive creature which has begun excavation there! We can't thank Sandiacre and its staff enough for their donation of time, rocks and plants and Virgin Media for their team of diggers and movers!

Work towards being more sustainable began at The Gables where the team planted more perennials and shrubs, many donated, and created new wildlife friendly beds.

Our sustainable gardening hit new highs too with tens of tonne bags of leaves, green waste and spent compost being constantly worked on to create mulch and planting medium. The number of water butts we have has been increased ready for next summer! One can never have too many water butts!

The team enjoyed some great social events in 2025 - a barbecue, meals out, visits to garden centres and the Malvern Shows and a garden party at Church of the Ascension. It can't be all work and no play!

2026 is going to be another busy and exciting year for Wall Heath in Bloom. We will be working with residents, young and old, in a number of village locations, to embrace and encourage wildlife and wildflowers AND we will, once again, be entering the RHS Britain in Bloom competition! We will be pulling out all the stops and going for gold!

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to each and everyone of you who has supported us in 2025 and look forward to working with you again in 2026. We extend a warm welcome to all the wonderful, new volunteers who joined us in 2025 too.

If you would like to be part of our lovely team and really make a difference to the village, please get in touch. It's going to be a good year!

Happy New Year from Wall Heath in Bloom!





# 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@stuarthandymanservices.co.uk](mailto:stuart@stuarthandymanservices.co.uk)

Mobile 07818 883757 Website:[www.stuarthandymanservices.co.uk](http://www.stuarthandymanservices.co.uk)

**Looking for a reliable, affordable multi-skilled builder?**

**Then look no further!**

Whether you need a repair, maintenance or refurbishment job undertaking 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](http://www.morganrepairs.co.uk) – [lloyd@morganrepairs.co.uk](mailto:lloyd@morganrepairs.co.uk)

## 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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE  
YOUR BUSINESS HERE?  
THE COST?

**JUST £10 + VAT  
PER MONTH**

**CALL GAIL ON 0781 790 4477  
TO BOOK YOUR SPACE**

## 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**



## ovenblitz midlands



**Local oven cleaning specialists**

Ovens, Hobs, Extractors, Microwaves, BBQs

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

**0800 773 4870 / 07757 099529**

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



WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE  
YOUR BUSINESS HERE?  
THE COST?

**JUST £10 + VAT  
PER MONTH**

**CALL GAIL ON 0781 790 4477  
TO BOOK YOUR SPACE**

## ORION SECURITY SYSTEMS

MOB: 07958 500386

KEITH MIDDLEBROOK

Email: [orionsecuritysystems@outlook.com](mailto:orionsecuritysystems@outlook.com)

INTRUDER ALARMS—SMOKE ALARMS

DOOR & WINDOW LOCKS

SAFES—SECURITY LIGHTS—INTERCOMS

ACCESS CONTROL—CCTV

**INTRUDER ALARM SPECIALISTS**

NEW SYSTEMS INSTALLED—EXISTING SYSTEMS MAINTAINED

FREE QUOTATIONS—FULLY INSURED

ALL WORK GUARANTEED

Want your business  
to look professional  
and eye-catching?

*I can help!*



Logo design. Business cards. Stationery. Leaflets. Posters. Adverts. Brochures. Social media graphics. And much more!



I'm Lou – a friendly face from the Black Country and the graphic designer behind Studio74 Design. With over 35 years' experience, I help businesses stand out with logos, signage, flyers, menus, packaging, social media graphics, and much more!

Whether you're just starting out or giving your business a fresh new look, I'll make sure it looks its absolute best.



"Lou at Studio74 Design was great to work with. She took my ideas and turned them into exactly what I needed. The whole process was easy, professional, and I'm really happy with the result. I've already asked her to help with another job – highly recommend!"

**LUCY TALBOT, THE DECORIUM, TETTENHALL**

*Let's have a chat,  
I'd love to help.*

**m 0791 012 6745**

**e hello@studio74design.co.uk**

**studio74design.co.uk**

/studio74design



|| 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](mailto:DENSONGARETH@YMAIL.COM)



# BRAINTEASERS ANSWERS

1. The answer to this is very simple. The only statement that can be correct is C.
2. Kronenberg was 90p a half pint and Fosters was £1.00. The first man put down a £1 coin and so he could have wanted either brand. The second man put down a 50p, two 20p pieces and a 10p piece—so he obviously wanted the £1 drink (Fosters).
3. The next letter in the sequence is 'S'. They are all the initial letters of numbers—One, Two, Three etc.
4. This is all a question of word semantics. You can only run half-way into a wood—after that you are running out of it!
5. It's easy if you say what you see! The answer is A STEP BACKWARDS.

## COMPETITION WINNERS

The answer to our Wordsearch Competition in the **DECEMBER** edition was **FAMILY** which was mispelt. The two lucky winners who each receive a **FAMILY PASS to the ODEON CINEMA, MERRY HILL, DUDLEY** are:

**MRS CAROL CURRIEN** of **SEDGLEY** and  
**NORMA HURST** of **SEDGLEY**

You can find this month's competition on page 36.

**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.



Coming in March 2026...

## Come & Sing!

A rare opportunity to sing FAURE'S REQUIEM with WDCS Singers

**Saturday 14th March 2026 at Springdale Methodist Church, Penn WV4 4LT**

Rehearsal: 12.45 pm to 4.30 pm - Performance: 4.45 pm to 5.45 pm

For tickets go to our online Booking Office or call Candy on 07772 511325

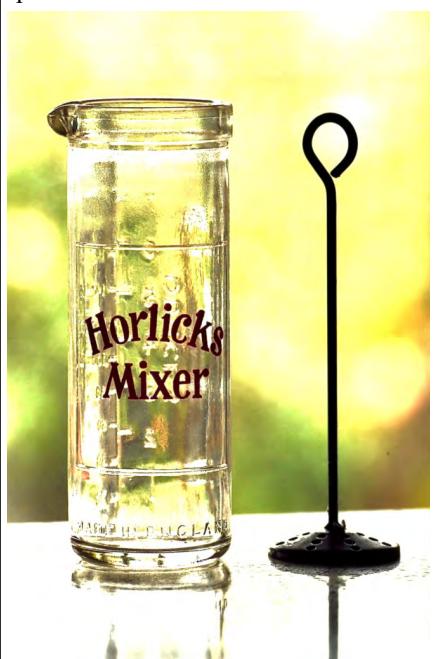
**Wombourne and District Choral Society**

[www.wombournechoralsociety.org](http://www.wombournechoralsociety.org)

# OR WHATEVER by John Sparry

## *“Thinks, thanks to Horlicks!”*

On the 257, heading for another day at the desk—or even worse, dithering on the Amblecote sports field—what were those adverts along the bus interior? Oh, clever, that! ‘OOZ



*Photo by Graham Beckley of a family heirloom.*

later recorded TV's 'Six Five Special' theme.

It is possible that by many a fireside there are folk who can still spell Bristol's Keynsham, after hearing, night after night, the rather plodding voice of Mr Horace Batchelor advising us to try his Infra-Draw Method of football pool selection. His style became an institution—just like 'RADIO LUXEMBOURG, 208 METRES, MEDIUM WAVE—The Station of the Stars.

GOING TO THE ZOO?' Dudley, of course. But what was '208 Metres'? Luxembourg? Wireless! Better try that particularly when Dick Barton had gone from the BBC. Ah, but wait a jiff—Noel Johnson, the first of 3 Bartons, was on Luxembourg as Dan Dare! Sponsored by HORLICKS, remembers friend, Dave.

Courtesy of a gift of a complimentary ticket I went to the Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, to see the excellent Ken Mackintosh and his Orchestra making two recordings for broadcasting on Radio Luxembourg.

The legendary Geoffrey Everitt introduced the shows—no doubt improving the purchase of LYONS RED LABEL TEA no end.

Interestingly, although I was not to know it then, saxophonist Ken's trombone section probably included Stourbridge's Bobby Johnson, and also Gordon Langhorne, who as Don Lang and his Frantic Five



*The hugely popular Gene Crowley famous for 'Music in the Morning' on pre-War Radio Luxembourg also sponsored by Horlicks.*

**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!)*

# GIVE YOUR BUSINESS A BOOST!



and advertise locally using  
**Village Voice**  
— MAGAZINES —

Call today  
**01384 866688**  
**07817 904477**  
**villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk**

**BRAND NEW WEBSITE**

**[www.villagevoice-online.co.uk](http://www.villagevoice-online.co.uk)**



# 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](mailto:jtbk@nedowning.co.uk) | [www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

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

# THE BRIERLEY HILL GIANT

Through the 1920s and early 1930s George Lovatt was known as “The Brierley Hill Giant” - with very good reason. Not only did he stand over 7 feet tall but he also weighed more than 42 stone, making him at that time the heaviest man in the country.

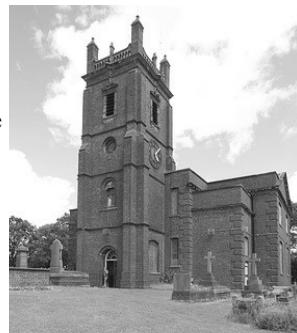
Born in 1869 near Chester, George Lovatt came from a family that, in polite company, may have been called “big boned”. Both his parents weighed over 20 stone each and his uncle—John Carter—was almost 30 stone. Initially George worked in the Cheshire chainmaking trade before moving to Tipton to work for his uncle in part of the Earl of Dudley’s Round Oak Works. He lived at ‘Milestone House’, just around the corner from his workplace. By now, however, his weight had ballooned to over 30 stone and he was forced to give up his work as a chainmaker. Instead he went into business with his younger brother, Thomas, a haulage contractor (even though he had to have a specially reinforced wagon to take his weight).

In 1910 George decided to take part in a national competition to find England’s heaviest man. By then George was tipping the scales at over 34 stone and he won the contest easily. Afterwards George’s weight continued to increase and soon he had to give up work completely. He had a number of hobbies to keep him occupied—pigeon flying, boxing and horse racing were his favourites—and occasionally his friends would transport him to his ‘local’ (the Miner’s Arms) for a drink. George Lovatt died in March 1933 at the age of 64 and his funeral—held on 16th March—was described as “an unprecedented spectacle” by the Rector of Brierley Hill with thousands of

people lining the route along the High Street from Round Oak to the parish Church.

At the time of his death it was estimated that his weight was in excess of 42 stone. The coffin had to be specially made

and was 7'4" long, 3'6" wide and 2'2" deep. Workmen had to remove the railing in front of George Lovatt’s house in order to take the coffin through the front window onto one of the Lovatt brothers’ own haulage wagons. Once the coffin had reached the church it took 20 men almost half an hour to manoeuvre the coffin into the church. After a short service it was then taken to the grave which had been dug alongside those of George Lovatt’s parents. A derrick had to be erected over the grave and a block and tackle were employed to lower the coffin into the grave. George Lovatt was not only remembered as a giant of a man but also for his charm and good humour. One of his friends was recorded as saying *“An evening sitting with George chatting about this and that was never an evening wasted. He was a larger than life character—in more than just his physical presence”*.



St Michael's, Brierley Hill where George Lovatt was buried in 1933.

# AND THERE'S MORE...



**George Lovatt** was by no means the heaviest man either in the world, or even in the UK. One of the most famous was Daniel Lambert from Leicester who, in the early 1800s, set himself up in the Kings Head Hotel in Norwich and charged visitors a shilling a time to sit on his knee. It is reputed that he weighed over 52 stone. **Martin Ruane** (better known as “Giant Haystacks”) (left) was generally accepted as the heaviest man in England. He achieved substantial fame as a wrestler in the 1970s and 1980s when he was reputed to weigh 48 stone. He died of cancer in 1998. **Paul Mason** once tipped the scales at over 70 stone but lost it after gastric bypass surgery. **Jon Brower Minnoch** from the United States, at one time weighed over 100 stone (the equivalent of four baby elephants). At the age of 37 in 1978 he suffered a major heart attack and—under strict medical supervision—started a crash diet that saw him lose over half his body weight in 19 months. However, once he had been discharged from hospital he started putting on weight again and died as a result in 1983. As of 2025 **Khalid bin Mohsen Shaari** is recognised as the heaviest man alive, weighing just over 102 stone.

## Primrose

### GARDENING & HEDGE TRIMMING SERVICE

*Keeping your garden prim and proper*

- Border maintenance
- Garden clearance/makeover
- Grass cutting
- Planting
- Pruning/training
- Hedge trimming/reduction

**Tel: 07548 206126**

**Email:**

primrosegardeninghedgetrimming@gmail.com

Fully insured public liability  
NPTC City & Guilds qualified



## BEACON NURSERIES & PLANT CENTRE

**Wishing all customers  
a very Happy New Year**

**Good selection of  
shrubs available**

**ROWAN ROAD, SEDGLEY DY3 1LH**

**Tel: 01902 882933**



# 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 METHODIST CHURCH**  
*Stream Road, Kingswinford DY6 9NP*  
[www.kingswinfordmethodist.co.uk](http://www.kingswinfordmethodist.co.uk)  
[kmc.enquiries66@gmail.com](mailto:kmc.enquiries66@gmail.com)

Do you need a warm space and a friendly face, then why not pop along and try any of the following, which guarantee you both! For more details, please see our website at <https://www.kingswinfordmethodist.co.uk/>

### **The Friendship Group:**

Thursday, 8th January @ 2.15pm in the Church Parlour

### **AMAZING ANSWERS TO PRAYER**

Thursday, 22nd January

### **LUNCH OUT at the Swan**

### **The Men's Group:**

Wednesday, 4th February—Fish and Chip Supper and Games evening will be held at the church.

### **Coffee and Craft:**

The group will meet on 3rd January and 7th February—bring along your craft project and enjoy a natter whilst you knit or sew, stick or stitch!

### **Coffee, Cake, Conversation and Friendship:**

6th and 20th January—10.00am-12.00 noon.



# The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley PARISH PUMP



*Huge congratulations must go to John and his excellent team at the Royal British Legion for making Santa Clause feel very much at home. The extremely successful Grotto was held at the Legion on the Lights Switch on night and was given the seal of approval by every single child that visited (and, we hear, some adults too!).*



## 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](mailto:mjkeay@btinternet.com)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
to all our wonderful readers,  
advertisers, designers,  
printers and distributors—  
without you we would  
not be here!  
Have a very happy, healthy  
and prosperous 2026.



# The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley PARISH PUMP



**Do you want to  
make a difference  
in your community?**



Explore our  
opportunities



[comptoncare.org.uk](http://comptoncare.org.uk)



**Volunteer with us at  
our Kingswinford store!**

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

**Compton  
Care**

specialist  
palliative and  
bereavement  
support

Registered Charity Number: 512387

## WALL HEATH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Envile Road, Wall Heath DY6 0JT

Telephone: 01384 273744 : Email: [wallheathcommunityassoc@gmail.com](mailto:wallheathcommunityassoc@gmail.com)

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.



# The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley PARISH PUMP



## 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.

18th February: **Crime Prevention.** Richard Gwynne and Sarah Nixon from Brierley Hill Police, advise the group on crime prevention.

4th March: **Across the World on a Tea Towel.** Fiona Lucas will recall her adventures and misadventures throughout her worldwide travels, with her vast collection of tea towels.

18th March: John Hamer Optician. Nicci will talk to us about **DVLA requirements for older drivers.**

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



**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 NEXT PARISH PUMP WILL BE IN THE FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION AND THE COPY DEADLINE IS Thursday, 22nd January 2026.**

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](mailto:villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk)

# ADVERTISERS' INDEX

<b>ACCOUNTANTS</b>		<b>FURNITURE</b>	<b>RESTAURANTS / PUBLIC HOUSES</b>
Nicholas Barwell & Co	<b>50</b>	Dreamworld Furniture	Royal Masala
TaxAssist Accountants	<b>45</b>	Buy Sofas Direct (Merry Hill)	IFC
Gornal Accounting	<b>38</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>ANIMAL SERVICES</b>		<b>GARAGE DOORS &amp; SECURITY SHUTTERS</b>	<b>ROOFERS</b>
The Island Vets	<b>42</b>	Rings Security, Shutters & Gates	GMD Roofing & UPVC
			Fix4u Roofing & Building Services
			Shayne Orme Roofing
<b>BEER COMPANIES</b>		<b>GARDENING SERVICES</b>	<b>SECURITY POSTS</b>
The Jinja Beer Company Ltd	<b>15</b>	Primrose Garden & Hedge Trimming Services	Delta Security Posts
<b>BLINDS &amp; AWNINGS</b>		Beacon Nurseries & Plant Centre	<b>27</b>
Castle Blinds & Awnings	<b>28</b>		<b>SHOPPING CENTRES</b>
<b>BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCTION</b>		<b>GAS, PLUMBING &amp; HEATING</b>	Townsend Place Shopping Centre
Fix4u Roofing Services	<b>12-13</b>	Rightio Plumbing & Heating	<b>34-35</b>
		Wheelers Gas, Plumbing & Heating	
<b>CAR REPAIRS &amp; BODYWORK</b>		<b>GRAPHIC DESIGNERS</b>	<b>SKIPS</b>
Chips Away	<b>56</b>	Studio 74	M T Skips
<b>CARPETS</b>		<b>HAIR SALONS</b>	<b>SOLICITORS</b>
Trinity Carpets	<b>30</b>	Blaze Hair Salon	Waldrons Solicitors
<b>CARPET CLEANING</b>		<b>HOME CLEANING SERVICES</b>	<b>TRAVEL COMPANIES</b>
Zero Dry Time	<b>53</b>	Lisa's Cleaning Services	Phillips International Travel
		Spotterless Cleaning Services	
<b>CATERERS</b>		<b>HOME &amp; DÉCOR</b>	<b>TREE &amp; LANDSCAPE SERVICES</b>
Mary Herman-Smith	<b>37</b>	Total Sewing	Tree & Landscaping Specialists
<b>CLUBS &amp; COMMUNITY CENTRES</b>		<b>JEWELLERS</b>	J&B Tree & Landscaping
The Robin, Bilston	<b>4&amp;33</b>	Arthur's Jewellers	<b>8-9</b>
<b>COMMUNITY UPDATES</b>		<b>KITCHENS &amp; BATHROOM INTERIORS</b>	<b>16</b>
Cllr Phil Atkins	<b>47</b>	Shawfit Interiors	<b>29</b>
Mr Shaz Saleem	<b>43</b>		
<b>DECORATORS</b>		<b>KITCHEN DOORS</b>	<b>VENUES FOR HIRE</b>
Patrick J Bellew	<b>54</b>	Dream Doors	Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Football Club
<b>DENTAL SERVICES</b>		<b>LOCKS &amp; SAFES</b>	<b>17</b>
St James Dental and Facial Aesthetics	<b>25</b>	Adams Locks & Maintenance Ltd	
<b>DOUBLE GLAZING</b>		<b>MANAGED IT SERVICES</b>	<b>WEIGHT LOSS CLASSES</b>
Cloudy 2 Clear Windows	<b>5</b>	Cycraxsis Managed IT Services	Slimming World
<b>ELECTRICIANS</b>		<b>MEMORIALS</b>	<b>48-49</b>
Wilf's Electrical	<b>26</b>	Bates Memorials	
<b>ESTATE AGENTS</b>		<b>MOBILITY</b>	<b>PLEASE MENTION</b>
Richard Allen-Zoorder	<b>21</b>	Power Link	<i>Village Voice</i>
<b>EVENTS</b>		<b>MUSIC VENUES</b>	<b>WHEN USING THE SERVICES</b>
Abba Tribute by Abbsolute	<b>44</b>	The Robin Club, Bilston	<b>OF OUR ADVERTISERS</b>
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>		<b>ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>THANK YOU.</b>
JPA Financial Services	<b>55</b>	Sort My Space	
<b>FOOTCARE</b>		<b>PAVING &amp; LANDSCAPING</b>	<b>ON THE HOME FRONT</b>
Step Ahead	<b>16</b>	J&B Paving & Landscaping	<b>PAGE 64</b>
<b>FUNERAL SERVICES</b>			● OvenBlitz
J.T. Brookes & Co	<b>71</b>		● Morgan Repairs
			● Sam's Exterior Cleaning Services
			● Arrow Building Services
			● Stuart's Handyman Services
			● Shaggy Dog
			● Orion Security Systems

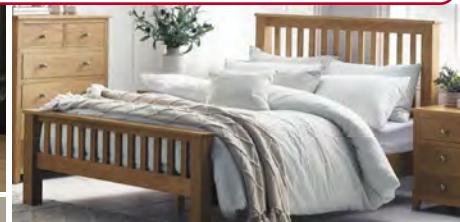
To Advertise in Village Voice call Gail on **01384 866688** or **0781 790 4477**  
It's cheaper than you thought – Prices start at just £10 (+VAT) per month!

**CALL TODAY!**

VILLAGE VOICE is published by Village Voice Magazines © 2026

# Massive Showroom Clearance and Winter Sale NOW ON!

CAN'T GET OUT? WE CAN COME TO YOU! WE WILL MEASURE AND HELP YOU MAKE THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR YOUR HOME...



FREE  
LEATHER  
UPGRADE  
AND COLOURS  
OF YOUR  
CHOICE!

FREE  
REMOVAL  
OF YOUR  
OLD BED  
AND  
FURNITURE  
AND  
DELIVERY  
TO A ROOM  
OF YOUR  
CHOICE!



ODD CHAIRS &  
SOFAS STARTING  
FROM £195  
TO CLEAR!

Lift an Rise  
furniture all at  
**AMAZING  
PRICES**



Improved  
Circulation  
Heart



MORE COLOURS AVAILABLE!

**WE WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE!**

- ✓ Relief from aches and pains
- ✓ Single and double beds
- ✓ Premium mattresses

Odd bed  
bases  
starting  
from £99

Sale now on  
all mobility  
furniture

**WIDE RANGE OF DINING  
AND BEDROOM FURNITURE  
AVAILABLE**

**PART EXCHANGE AVAILABLE UP TO £1,000**

**Dreamworld**  
Furniture



VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

**8 STALLINGS LANE, KINGSWINFORD DY6 7HU**

TEL: 01384 295660



**IF YOU CAN'T GET TO US WE CAN COME TO YOU**

**www.dreamworld.furniture**

# DREAM DOORS®

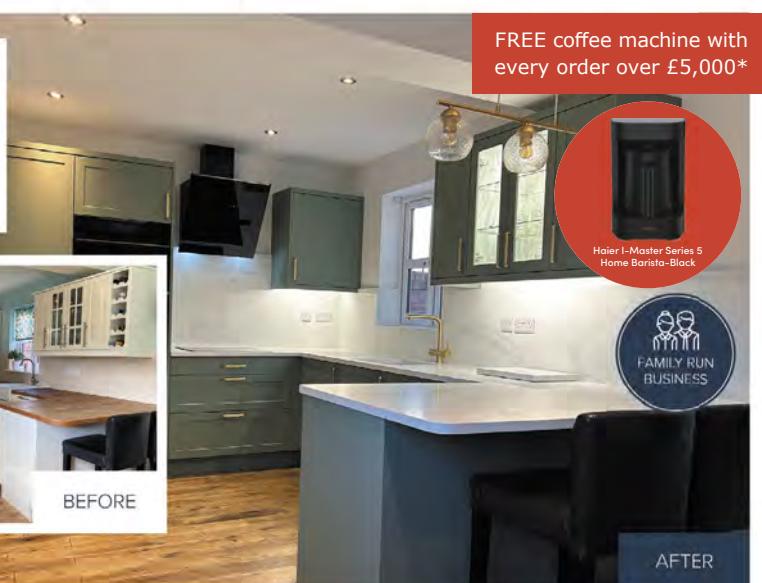
NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS

## QUALITY KITCHEN MAKEOVERS

by simply replacing the doors and worktops



BEFORE



AFTER

MODERN

CLASSIC

TRADITIONAL

CONTEMPORARY

- Up to 50% less than a 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  
[dudley@dreamdoors.co.uk](mailto:dudley@dreamdoors.co.uk)

Call us now for a free estimate:

**01384 956119**  
**01562 541208**

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

[dreamdoors.co.uk](http://dreamdoors.co.uk)

THE UK'S #1 KITCHEN MAKEOVER COMPANY

\* T&C apply. See in store for more details.