

FREE

# Village Voice

Chris Smith - We Remember!

ISSUE 243 | FEBRUARY 2026

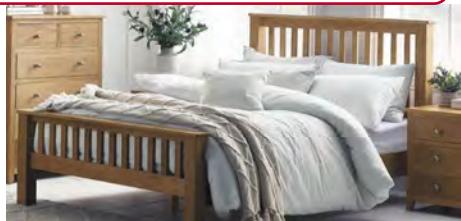


Community magazine for Sedgley, Gornal, Coseley & Tipton

# FINAL CLEARANCE

## Odd bases and mattresses to clear from ONLY £199

**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

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

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



MORE COLOURS AVAILABLE!



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**

**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  
Sedgley, Gornal, Coseley & Tipton**

## Cover story



February, of course, brings Valentine's Day when love is all around...at least that's the theory. It is the peak month for couples getting engaged – but coincidentally it is also the month when most divorces occur! Figures show that still over half of all marriage proposals are made with the male down on a bended knee. In essence, Valentine's Day serves as a reminder to all couples to celebrate love in all its forms, whether romantic, platonic or familial and to make it a day of connection and affection. There is of course a billion pound industry behind the day but sometimes the most simple ideas are by far the best approach – remember, not everyone is looking for that perfect diamond! Happy Valentine's Day.

## Gail



## IN THIS ISSUE

**6,11,34,52** It's A Fact!

**10** Brainteasers

**26-27** For our competition this month our good friends at West Midlands Safari Park have very kindly supplied us with 2 x family passes. Will you be a winner?

**28** The annual Holocaust Commemoration Ceremony took place at Dudley College. This year's special guest was Peter Lantos BEM who talked about his personal experience of the Holocaust.

**38** If you are intending to buy roses this year for your loved one you might want to read our article to ensure you are sending the right colour rose for the right reason!

**50** The return of "A Gardener's Work is Never Done". Back by popular demand each month we will be covering jobs that need to be done in the garden.

**56** Brainteasers answers and Competition Winners.

**56** Win 2 x tickets to the Robin Club in Bilston.

**58-61** The Parish Pump: Read about what is going on in your area.



Please note that the closing date for our competition this month is **MONDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS      01384 482929  
CARE & DISABILITY ADVICE LINE      08080 486 486  
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 - SEDGLEY      01384 812790  
                          GORNAL      01384 812755  
                          COSELEY      01384 812775

## DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR COPY

Each month over **2,200** copies of this edition of **Village Voice** are delivered throughout **Sedgley, Gornal, Coseley and Tipton**.

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 **MARCH 2026** edition of **VILLAGE VOICE** is **TUESDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**.

Please book your space early to avoid disappointment.

# northway

Auto Services “ For all your motoring needs”

## MOTs and Servicing for all makes

T : 01384 241140      F : 01384 212206

W : [www.northwayautos.co.uk](http://www.northwayautos.co.uk)

# Win £20,000 CASH when you replace your glass!

We're celebrating 20 years of excellence – and you could win £20,000 in our Anniversary competition! To enter, simply spend £500 or more with us between now and the end of August 2026.

For over 20 years, Cloudy2Clear, a trusted family-run business, has been the UK's leading domestic glass replacement specialists, serving as your One-Stop Shop for all your glazing requirements – and now we're marking this milestone with an exciting competition where one lucky customer will win £20,000! We take pride in generating our own leads, crafting tailored quotes, and manufacturing our own glass using only the highest-quality materials to ensure exceptional results. Unlike competitors, we never use subcontractors – our team consists entirely of skilled, in-house professionals, guaranteeing consistent quality and reliability. Every glass unit we fit comes with a 25-year guarantee, complemented by comprehensive after-sales care, providing you with lasting peace of mind.

Why opt for costly full window frame replacements that lead to unnecessary redecoration expenses? By replacing

only the failed glass unit, we save you money and minimise disruption – perfect for qualifying for our £20,000 prize draw while upgrading your home. Join over 344,000 satisfied customers who trust our ethical, affordable service. Failed double glazing can compromise your home's protection and energy efficiency, so check your windows today to avoid future costs.

Since 2005, Cloudy2Clear has been committed to saving customers money while supporting local communities. Manager James Stanley explains, "Our focus is on replacing just the glass, not the entire window, which reduces costs and upheaval. As a One-Stop Shop, we manage everything—from lead generation to crafting premium glass with a 25-year guarantee and dedicated after-sales support—making us the smart, cost-effective choice in any economy."

For a free quote (and your chance to enter the competition), call 0800 61 21 118 or visit [www.cloudy2clear.co.uk](http://www.cloudy2clear.co.uk) today!

(Prize draw 28/8/2026 - T's&C's apply. Visit [www.cloudy2clear.co.uk](http://www.cloudy2clear.co.uk) for more information)

“

*Ask me about our fantastic Energy Saving Glass.*

”



## Have Your Windows Steamed Up?

Replace the pane, not the frame!

All glazing backed by our

**25  
YEAR  
GUARANTEE**

**“I really liked the fact that they were a local community-run business”**

Janet Beard



We are a  
Checkatrade  
Member



Get a FREE Quote

Your trusted local expert

Faulty locks, handles or hinges?



Glass. it's better when it's clear!

Priority freephone

**0800 61 21 118**

[www.cloudy2clear.co.uk](http://www.cloudy2clear.co.uk)

**Glass, it's better when it's clear!**





# Rightio Plumbing & Heating

01902 690 936

We work in **Sedgley, Gornal, Coseley, Tipton** 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

it's a fact!

★ In 1920 Lt. Col. F.R. Law of the South Staffordshire Regiment unveiled at the Wesleyan Church at Himley Road, Lower Gornal, a memorial to the 14 men and boys from the congregation who had lost their lives in World War 1. They were Granville Bowen, Leonard Brookes, William Collins, Ernest Evans, Harry Greenway, Ewart Hall, John Jordan, William H. Parkes, William Powas, Benjamin Simmons, Arthur Smith, Jas Timmins, Chas Timmins and Fred Worton. Also included at the memorial was a plaque to the 134 men who served in the conflict and returned home safely.

★ Ladies Walk in Sedgley was so named because it was the area of Sedgley Priory where the nuns were allowed to take exercise by walking up and down an enclosed pathway.

★ In February 1890 the Divorce Courts heard an unpleasant case of cruelty and adultery involving a Gornal couple. Mary Shaw petitioned against her husband William, claiming that he had attacked her on a number of occasions over the previous five years. During one of these attacks he hit her around the face with a stick of rhubarb and as a result she left him. Shortly afterwards she found out that a young woman was living with him and she was pregnant. This turned out to be Ellen Jane Pearson, who was an assistant in William Shaw's bakery. She gave evidence at the divorce hearing that she had been seduced by Shaw and that the impending child was his. When confronted with this testimony Shaw decided to drop his objection to the petition and a decree nisi was issued.



## 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**

**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

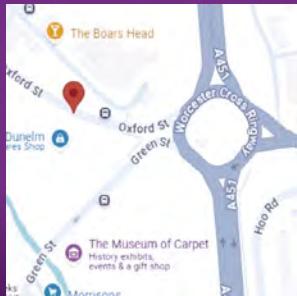
52-54 Oxford Street, Kidderminster DY10 1AR Tel: 01562 541473

**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)

# BRAINTEASERS

This month we are following George who throws up quite a few interesting Brainteasers all of his own! The answers can be found on page 56.

1. In his local pub George was given the chance to participate in a game of chance. For a £1 stake he was given the chance to throw three dice having first chosen a number from 1 to 6. If one of the dice shows his chosen number he gets £2 back, if two have his number he gets £4 and if all three show his number he gets £6. If none show his number he loses his stake. In the long run he wonders whether he is likely to win any money?
2. George writes out all the numbers from 1 to 100. How many times does he write the figure '9'?
3. George is set a strange mathematical sum by his friend Anthony. "When 4 is half of 9, 6 is half of 11 and 7 is half of 12, what is half of 13? he is asked.
4. To get his own back, George asks Anthony what mathematical symbol can you place between 4 and 9 to produce a number that is greater than 4 but less than 9?
5. Not to be beaten Anthony sets down another challenge for George. He lays out 21 matches and says that he and George can take it in turns to pick up a maximum of three matchsticks a time. The catch is that the person who picks up the last match has to pay the others £5. To give him the maximum chance to win Anthony kindly lets George go first. Why?
6. And finally, George left the pub after setting Anthony a simple question. "My granddaughter, Felicity is currently half her mother's age. Ten years ago, though, she was one-third of her mother's age. How old is Felicity?"

## *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).

# FIVE WAYS INN



## LOYALTY CARD

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

**BathamS**  
PRIZEWINNING ALES

## LIVE SPORT

sky sports  TNT SPORTS 

**BathamS**  
PRIZEWINNING ALES

**LIVE MUSIC &  
ENTERTAINMENT  
EVERY WEEK**

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

it's a fact!

- ★ In the 1820s one of the most popular excursions locally was a Day At The Races at Penn Racecourse. Situated on Penn Common, the racecourse attracted good crowds especially from the Sedgley and Tipton areas as well as many of the best horses from the Midlands and Wales.
- ★ It was reported in May 1880 that a woman—Eliza Wilkes—from Princes End appeared at Bilston Police Court accused of stealing a box of clothes from Mary Ann Evans of Great Bridge. Evans travelled by train from Dudley to Great Bridge, having put the box in the guard's van for the journey. When she left the train at Great Bridge, however, the box was missing. Enquiries were quickly instigated and the box was found at Princes End. Later Wilkes was apprehended when she went to claim the box. At her court appearance, though, the only evidence against Wilkes was that when stopped she had jokingly said that "*she might as well claim it*". The charge was therefore dismissed.
- ★ An unusual plea for justice was issued by Richard Veredie of Sedgley in 1594. He wrote to Sir Nicholas Barr saying "*Unto your Lordship that your orator Richard Veredie of Sedgley, Co. Staffs, labourer, being a very poor man having a wife and seven children made his living chiefly by letting out his horse worth 50 shillings to divers persons by the day. He let it out to Ann Gascon for four days to ride to Sturyche (Stourbridge) at 8d a day and borrowed a saddle worth 7 shillings. From Sturyche she went to Drytwche (Droitwich) many miles beyond to see James Moreland and his son and sold the said horse and stuff to them for 9 shillings. They refused to give them up*". No information is available as to the outcome of the case.



# 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*



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

- Tree Work • Paths • Fencing • Turf • Artificial Grass • Driveways • Block paving • Tarmac • Ground works • Drainage • Gates and gateways • Patios

Contact us today on **01384 848344**  
**E: [info@treeandlandscapespecialist.co.uk](mailto:info@treeandlandscapespecialist.co.uk)**  
**[www.treeandlandscapespecialist.co.uk](http://www.treeandlandscapespecialist.co.uk)**



# My Clean Gutters

100%  
SATISFACTION



GUTTERING  
FROM  
£39

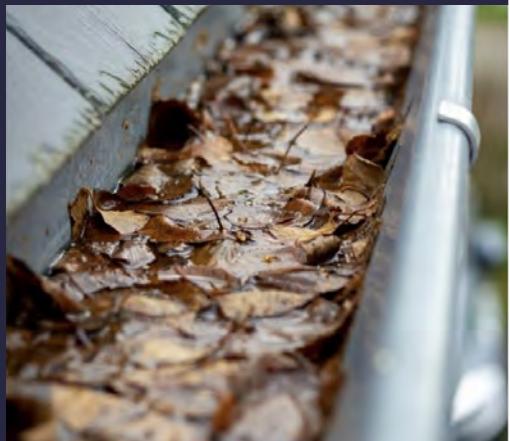
ALL ASPECTS OF ROOFING WORKS UNDERTAKEN



Freephone: **0800 0463373**

Birmingham: **0121 652 0374**

Mobile: **07376 915 527**



## My Clean Gutters

[www.my-cleangutters.co.uk](http://www.my-cleangutters.co.uk)  
[mycleangutters777@icloud.com](mailto:mycleangutters777@icloud.com)



**BEACON NURSERIES  
& PLANT CENTRE**

**Shrubs, Primroses,  
Perennial Plants**

**And Much More –  
ALL POT GROWN**

**WE ALSO STOCK COMPOST**

**Nursery will be open from  
mid February onwards**

**ROWAN ROAD, SEDGLEY DY3 1LH**

**Tel: 01902 882933**

# 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

## TRAM COMPANY'S CALL FOR CASH

**In 1881 the Dudley, Sedgley & Wolverhampton Tramways Co. Ltd. issued a prospectus to attract investors to their proposed tramline.**

It was advertised far and wide and the company quoted a number of statistics to try to persuade people to back it. They said that in recent times a total of £5,565,465 had been spent on installing tramways in Great Britain and that

113,007,103 passengers had been carried bringing in fares of £1,342,933—a return on capital employed of 23.59%. As a result, said the company, “*there is every reason, therefore to expect that the shares in the company will prove a highly profitable investment.*” The length of tramway proposed was six and a quarter miles and the company had calculated that there was an average 12,000 population per mile along the route. As Sedgley was one and a half miles from the nearest railway station the company believed that “*the tramways will supply a want long felt by the inhabitants especially by large numbers who, having business or employment in Dudley and Wolverhampton, are obliged to travel daily to and from those centres of commerce and manufactures and who are mainly of the class that readily avail themselves of a cheap and pleasant means of inter-communication.*”



*One of the company's trams in the Bullring in Sedgley.*



# ROUND OAK INTERIORS



## Your Dream Bathroom Awaits

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

Visit Us At  
141 Dudley Road,  
DY5 1HG

Call - 01384 837527  
Email - [Roundoakinteriors@gmail.com](mailto:Roundoakinteriors@gmail.com)  
Web - [www.roundoakinteriors.co.uk](http://www.roundoakinteriors.co.uk)

# THE BUCKET BRIGADE

In the early years of Village Voice we received regular correspondence from a neighbour, Arthur Hale who sadly is no longer with us. This photo of the motley crew known as the "Bucket Brigade" is one such item.

The Brigade were well known in the area and were famous for their sense of humour and practical jokes. The photograph must have been taken on a special occasion as they are obviously in their "Sunday best" and several of them are wearing buttonholes. As was usual at this time all were wearing hats (no self-respecting man would have been seen out and about without a hat or cap on his head)...and, not surprisingly, a couple of them have got glasses in their hands!

Almost certainly the photograph was taken in the courtyard of one of the local pubs.



*The Bucket Brigade—back row, from left to right: "Happy" Tom Hickman, Joe Cox, Billy Flavell, Bill Harvey and Tom Moss. Front row again from left to right: "Ike" Hale, Teddy Hale, Bertie Jones, "Cogger" Stevens and George Marsh. Unfortunately we do not know the names of the three dogs!*



## ABBEY ROAD TRADITIONAL BUTCHERS



### SPECIAL OFFERS

\* Mix & Match any 3 packs  
£10.00

Chicken Fillets, Pork Steaks,  
Lamb Chops, Rump Steaks

### HAND RAISED PORK & SPECIALITY PIES

### HOMEMADE TRADITIONAL FAGGOTS, PEAS & GRAVY

### PLUS SUPERIOR SAUSAGES & HOME CURED BACON



**LOOK OUT FOR WEEKLY SPECIALS**

**14 ABBEY ROAD, GORNAL WOOD DY3 2PQ**  
**Tel: 01384 214515**

# 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)

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



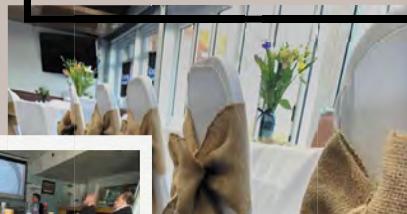
DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD RFC



@dkrugbyclub



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



WHAT'S ON AT DK HOSPITALITY



ENQUIRY FORM

# IN TIMES GONE BY

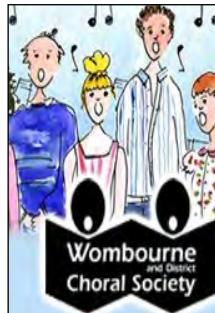
For many years in the 1950s and early 60s, Gornal had one of the best Carnivals around the Dudley area and folks from miles around would come for the day—usually Whit Monday.

In 1961, for example, over a 1000 people flocked to the village to see more than 30 decorated floats together with children taking part in the '**Wild West Fancy Dress Competition**' parade around the village. The parade finished at the football ground in those days known as The Timmins Stadium—where a range of entertainment was laid on. In the year in question that included **whippet racing** (organised by the **Cradley Heath Whippet Club**), a Jazz Band Competition involving the **Widnes All Girls**, the **Lincoln Greens**, **Boote Royal Ambassadors** and the **Brynmelyn Juniors** from Bridgend. Other attractions included the **Jones' Bros Funfair** plus a wide range of refreshment stalls run by various Committee members as well as ice cream and sweets from **Teddy Gray**.

The big attraction, however, were two performances by the '**Franollies Aquashow**', a troupe of "glamorous bathing beauties" whose show concluded with "the breathtaking **DIVE OF DEATH** by Roy Fransen (European and Fire Diving Champion) **ON FIRE – INTO FIRE!**"

The Dive of Death featured Fransen diving into burning petrol floating on the water's surface. The act was usually saved until after dark, allowing the flames to add greater drama. The "On Fire, Into Fire" dive was performed—on occasions up to three times in a day—Fransen would wear a full body costume - a silver painted cotton boiler suit. He would douse himself with petrol and the moment he was set alight, he would dive 70 feet into the water. The money raised from the Carnival was donated to the Lower Gornal Athletic Football Club both to help in the upkeep of the stadium but also to subsidise the team which played, in those days, in the Worcestershire Football Combination League.

Other fundraising events organised by the Committee in 1961 included an open air professional **All-In Wrestling Show** on Saturday 24th June. The price of ring-side seats was 5/- whilst unreserved standing room was just 2/-.



Coming in March 2026...

## Come & Sing!

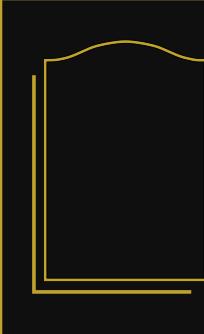
A rare opportunity to sing FAURE'S REQUIEM with WDCS Singers

**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

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



# 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

Simply Confident... Simply Natural...

Call us on 01902 664634

\*Free Consultations \*New Dentures  
\*Full & Partial Dentures \*Repairs \*Relines  
\*Additions \*Cleaning Service  
\*Implant Retained Dentures  
\*Call for an information brochure

# Simply Dentures

Creating beauty  
in every smile



### **Firm and Steadfast!**

Many denture wearers struggle with the issue of the teeth they have moving around in the mouth. This had been the problem for Nicola but then she had them secured in place with the use of dental implants. She came to us unhappy with the teeth that she had been given.

We took time to explore what her requirements were and discovered that she wanted to improve her aesthetics as well as have them secured firmly onto the implants she had.

It was a pleasure to see her beaming with delight when she saw the results we achieved for her. If you would like to find out if there are improvements that can be made to the denture you have please call for our free 30 minute denture health check on **01902 664634**.

New dentures can help with...

- ✓ Talking    ✓ Eating    ✓ Confidence
- ✓ Smiling    ✓ Happiness    ✓ Well Being

Follow us ...



**For our brochure call us on 01902 664634**

**Find us at Castle St, Coseley, WV14 9EP**

**Discover more at [www.simplydentures.net](http://www.simplydentures.net)**

*Clinical Dental Technician: Mr Peter Brookes DipCDT, GDC 124429*

# DUDLEY CAR BODYSHOP LTD



**Blackthorne Road**  
(rear of Gornal Tyres)  
**Dudley DY1 3TE**

**Tel: 07749 500562**

- ◆ All Bodywork Repairs Undertaken
- ◆ Classic Car Restoration
- ◆ Prep and Finish
- ◆ Bumper Scuffs
- ◆ Seat and Carpet
- ◆ Repairs
- ◆ Mopping and Polishing
- ◆ Dealer Approved
- ◆ Insurance claims undertaken

**Call in today for a FREE QUOTATION**



Find us on:  
**facebook**®



**dudleycarbodyshop@gmail.com**

# DID YOU KNOW?

That until about 1620 one of the main trades in the Sedgley and Coseley area was lock making, long before Willenhall became the country's centre for the manufacture of locks.

The last nailer in Lower Gornal was James Marsh who had his own nailshop in Hopyard Lane. He was born in 1825 into a family where his father and grandfather before him had followed the same occupation. He died in 1922.

**Tom Griffiths, licensee of The Fountain in Temple Street, Lower Gornal not only won the Amateur Boxing Championship of England in 1893 but also won a gold medal for entering a lion's cage at a Dudley fairground! He also reputedly sparred with World Champion Jack Johnson. He died in 1947.**

In the 13th century Sedgley was plagued by a band of thieves and bandits led by Robert de Dogmersfeid. In 1297, John de Sutton complained that Robert had “entered his park at Seggesleye and chased and killed forty bucks and does and cut down eight hundred and ninety nine oak trees”. At a subsequent court hearing Robert was found guilty of taking the deer but not of cutting down the trees. He was ordered to pay £20. Dogmersfeid and his men also attacked Dudley Priory and William, prior of Duddleye accused him of being “armed at the time taking two cloths of silver and gold, twelve silver spoons, twenty gold buckles, twelve gold rings, twelve carpet stands and twenty four other articles to the value of twenty marks”. For this Robert was fined £50—a punishment that did nothing to stop him going out and taking 40 sheep, 10 cows and 10 oxen from the Priory lands! History does not record what eventually became of Robert de Dogmersfeid, although there is some evidence of a warrant for his arrest on a charge of “grievous injury” eventually being issued.

## 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](http://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



This year at West Midlands Safari Park offers a living, breathing adventure waiting for guests young and old. From new events to adorable newborns and brand-new places to stay, 2026 is a year to make wild memories.

The fun begins over February Half Term with Character Week, where the children can meet their favourite TV stars, including Gabby's Dollhouse, SpongeBob SquarePants and Bluey. Paddington, Peppa Pig and Chase from PAW Patrol will also be making appearances and having their photo taken with guests.

Spring blossoms with Easter Eggstravaganza, an event where egg hunts meander through scenic landscapes for a chocolate treat at the end. Little 'eggsplorers' can go on a bug hunt, take part in some crafts, meet Bramble Bunny and Chirpy Chick and there are some more surprises in store!

May Half Term brings graceful giants into the spotlight with a brand-new event – Giraffe Jamboree. Tall, gentle and ever curious, the giraffes take centre stage with an amazing show, feeding opportunities and captivating talks from keepers.

June gets prehistoric for Jurassic June weekends. Watch out for claws, teeth and rustling ferns as dinosaurs are on the loose! But don't worry – they will be roaming around under the watchful eye of their keepers, so it might be safe enough to snap a photo or give them a pat.

Across some weekends guests will also have the chance to spot Eddie & Eliza, the park's beloved characters. They will be out and about, having fun, taking photos and meeting all the future conservationists.

Also new for 2026, will be the opening of brand-new Rhino and Giraffe Lodges, luxurious safari-style stays that bring you closer to the action than ever before. Wake up to the sights and sounds of rhinos having their breakfast just outside your balcony, or giraffes taking a gentle morning stroll.

Additionally there will be the chance to experience everything the Park has to offer, including spotting the two delightful giraffe calves have joined the herd – one born last October and the newest arrival in January – wobbling into the world and instantly stealing hearts.

West Midlands Safari Park opens daily for its summer season from 14 February 2026, including the Adventure Theme Park. More information and tickets can be found on the website: [wmsp.co.uk](http://wmsp.co.uk)



# GENUINE SAVINGS

## Huge Selection!

LOW PRICES  
GREAT SERVICE

### LAMINATES & VINYL



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



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

# SALE NOW ON



**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 top visitor attractions in the whole of the Midlands, the West Midland Safari & Leisure Park is a great day out for all the family – and we have 2 family tickets waiting for each of our two lucky winners this month. But, of course, you have got to be in it to win it – so get your entry in now!

All you have to do is search out the square below for the 16 words associated with **WEST MIDLANDS SAFARI PARK** 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 **Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**. Good luck!

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

#### HIDDEN WORDS

1. WEST
2. MIDLAND
3. SAFARI
4. LEISURE
5. PARK
6. BEWDLEY
7. ICE
8. AGE
9. DRIVE
10. THROUGH
11. RHINO
12. ZEBRA
13. LION
14. ELEPHANT
15. LIVING
16. DINOSAURS

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

ADDRESS: .....

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

EMAIL ADDRESS: .....

**SEND TO: WMSP COMPETITION, 50 REDHALL ROAD, DUDLEY DY3 2NL**

# CREATE WILD MEMORIES

FREE  
RETURN  
INCLUDED\*

T&Cs apply

UP-CLOSE ANIMAL  
ENCOUNTERS

4 - MILE SAFARI DRIVE

ADVENTURE THEME PARK



BOOK NOW: [WMSP.CO.UK](http://WMSP.CO.UK)

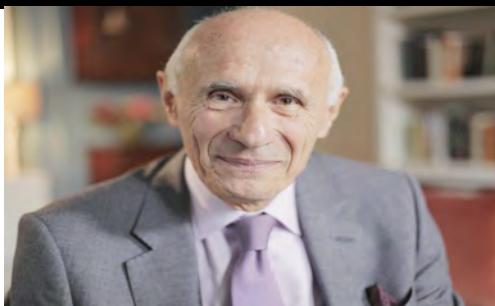
# HOLOCAUST—A LEGACY WE MUST NEVER FORGET

Dudley's annual Holocaust Commemoration Ceremony, organised by a committee which includes Dudley College Students Union, the Holocaust Education trust together with a small group of volunteers chaired by Councillor Keiran Casey, was held this year at the Assembly Hall at St James' Academy in Dudley on Friday, 23rd January.

The Organising Committee were proud to be able to introduce Peter Lantos BEM who was born in Hungary. He is a medical scientist who has made a huge contribution to scientific research in the UK and has written several books for adults and children about the Holocaust.

Peter was born on 22 October 1939 in Makó which is a provincial town in southeastern Hungary. His maternal family were owners of a timber yard which was managed by two uncles who lived in adjoining villas on the property. In contrast, Peter's immediate family resided in a modest annex at the back. Following the German occupation of Hungary in 1944, a wave of antisemitic laws was enacted and Peter's 18 year old brother was taken away for forced labour and sadly never returned. Shortly afterwards, the family was forced into the ghetto in Makó where they remained for several weeks. At the age of five in the summer of 1944, Peter was deported to Bergen-Belsen in northern Germany with his parents—simply because they were Jewish. Like many other children Peter's dreams were shattered by that action—he lost his toys, his home and his friends and found himself thrust into a world full of disease, hunger, cruelty and starvation and was to witness first hand the death of those around him.

On arrival Peter became Prisoner 8431 and he found himself and his mother cruelly separated from his father. Life was unbearable with starvation and disease all around him—there was no place for children to play or form any kind of friendship. Instead they were forced to witness



constant cruelty and death. Though Bergen-Belsen was not an extermination camp—there were no gas chambers—it became a 'hell on earth' through starvation, disease and relentless suffering. Peter's father died of starvation just four weeks before the British Army liberated Bergen-Belsen on 15 April 1945. After surviving the camp, Peter and his mother returned to Hungary but it was far from a joyful homecoming—21 members of his family had been murdered and his brother died of typhoid fever only a month before their return. Having lived through this experience Peter was driven to become a doctor but his plans to study medicine were at first blocked by the Communist authorities who labelled him 'alien class'. It was his mother's overall devotion which made her challenge the classification and he was eventually allowed to pursue his studies. After qualifying he received a research fellowship in 1968, which enabled him to work in London.

Over the years there have been many poignant memories shared by an array of Holocaust survivors and the Commemoration is always an extremely moving event. It allows everyone to honour the memory of those who died in the Holocaust and it goes some way to helping people to understand the evils of racism and prejudice and where this can lead to. It is now left to us all to oppose intolerance and hatred in whatever form, wherever it is found. Information on the Holocaust can be found at [hmd.org.uk/holocaust](http://hmd.org.uk/holocaust) and the life stories of survivors can be found at [hmd.org.uk/lifestories](http://hmd.org.uk/lifestories).



ALL  
ASPECTS  
OF ROOFING  
UNDELTAKEN  
FROM COMPLETE  
NEW ROOFS  
TO SMALL  
REPAIRS

**A ROOFING COMPANY YOU CAN TRUST!**



**NEW ROOFS – DRY RIDGE SYSTEMS – FIRESTONE RUBBER ROOFS  
FELT FLAT ROOFING – FIBREGLASS ROOFING – ROOF REPAIRS**

**CALL US FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION**

**07973 116 365 – 07739 564 133**





## Caring for our community and here for your loved ones

The team at Jennings are dedicated to serving our local communities with passion and pride. We are here to help you by providing you with the highest standards of funeral care, listening carefully to your requests and creating a heartfelt tribute to your loved one.



**JENNINGS.**  
EST.  
1908  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

11 High Street,  
Wednesfield WV11 1ST  
**01902 723237**

12 The Woodlands Centre,  
Wood Lane,  
Willenhall WV12 5ND  
**01922 712153**

276-278 Penn Road,  
Penn WV4 4AD  
**01902 330357**

3 High Street,  
Sedgley DY3 1RP  
**01902 661137**

484 Stafford Road,  
Oxley WV10 6AN  
**01902 786795**

6-7 The Square,  
Codsall WV8 1PT  
**01902 845770**

Church Road,  
Wombourne WV5 9EZ  
**01902 898103**

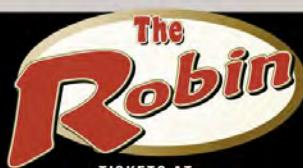
Jamieson Court,  
50/52 Wellington Road,  
Bilston WV14 6AG  
**01902 491443**

St.James House,  
Horseley Fields WV1 3DN  
**01902 352251**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SATELLITE AGENCY



# HEAVEN 17



TICKETS AT:



THURS 28TH MAY  
[WWW.THEROBIN.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEROBIN.CO.UK)



@THEROBINVENUE



# MT SKIPS U Fill em we

**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 28<sup>th</sup> February 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 1922 W.H.N. Knight, the “police court missionary and probation officer for Wolverhampton, Bilton, Willenhall, Brierley Hill and Sedgley” gave a report to the local magistrates about his activities the previous year. He said that he had visited 1157 homes conversed with 467 prisoners in the cells at police stations, received 349 letters and attended 309 police court sittings.
- ★ In 1877 Edwin Douglas (15) was charged with using a catapult to break a window on Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley and when he appeared in court he was fined 20/- plus costs or one month imprisonment in default. The magistrates said that this was the latest incidence of a catapult being used to cause damage and that they wished that shopkeepers would cease selling them.
- ★ Metal theft is no new crime—in January 1878 the offices of Bannister & Foster, coalmasters of Deepfields were forcibly broken into and a large quantity of brasses weighing about a hundredweight were stolen. This came only a week after the ironworks next door had also been raided and a large amount of scrap iron stolen.
- ★ In 1722 Josiah Sheldon gave the rent obtained from a piece of land he owned to provide bread every week for 12 poor widows living in Tipton. The land (about 2½ acres) proved to be much more valuable than first thought and the annual income of five guineas in rent was overshadowed by the value of the coal beneath its surface. In 1797 the rights to the coal were sold for £1,052 and the proceeds lent to the churchwardens of the parish church who were at that time rebuilding the church. The interest from the loan was then used to continue to pay for the bread.



# 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**

# 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)



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



**shawfit**  
Interiors

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

## INTERESTING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

**(2nd)** **Groundhog Day** is a fun holiday over in the United States and Canada to celebrate the emergence of a Groundhog, which signifies when spring will arrive. If the Groundhog has a shadow, it is thought that winter will continue for six more weeks, if not, spring has arrived.

**(6th-22nd)** The world's biggest winter sporting event, held every four years will this year be held in Milano Cortina, Italy.

**(7th)** **Charles Dickens Day** celebrates one of Britain's prolific writers on his birthday. It is a day to enjoy Dickens' work as a novelist who brought social realism to the fore as his books reflected the real life of the poor in Victorian England.

**(13th)** **World Radio Day** is a day to celebrate and appreciate the medium of radio. Radio is a powerful medium for celebrating humanity in all its diversity and constitutes a platform for democratic discourse.

**(14th-21st)** **National Nest Box Week**. British birds are short of nesting holes and there are numerous reasons why anyone with a garden can help by putting a nestbox, which will attract interesting birds and bring birds into the garden.

**(17th)** **Random Acts of Kindness Day** is exactly what it says...a day to show random acts of kindness. The holiday was started by the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation which was founded in 1995.

**(27th)** **International Polar Bear Day** is a global event which draws attention to the challenges which polar bears face in a warming Arctic.

# 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 ‘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 one you used to live, or that you feel obligated to maintain.

### Stepping away from social media pressure

“We often try to replicate what we 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”.



Before



After

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.



Professional Organising,  
Decluttering & Interior Redesign

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

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

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**

# PROFESSIONAL FOOT HEALTHCARE

Angela Lowe Dip CFHP



- Fully Qualified & Insured
- Fully Qualified in Health & Social Care
- Qualified to treat Diabetics

## Treatments available include:

- Corn and callus removal
- Nail trimming
- Treatment for in-growing toenails
- Treatment for fungal nail infections
- Verruca and wart treatments
- General foot health checks and advice

\* Tipton based clinic appointments also available

\*Reflexology also available



## HOME VISITS ONLY £25

Call to enquire : 07533 158 797



## WITH LOVE...SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

With Valentines Day just around the corner we couldn't resist taking a quick look at what is traditionally one of the most frequently given tokens of love—flowers, especially roses. The rose is said to have been the favourite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love and beauty and its popularity as a gift dates back to the mid 17th century. Over the years different messages have been assigned to different colour roses and woe betide anyone who gives the wrong colour – the reaction may not be what you are expecting!

**Red roses stand for enduring love, passion and faithfulness.**

**White roses are the symbol of purity and truth and are often used to convey such messages as "I miss you" when lovers are apart.**

**Yellow roses are used to symbolise friendship –and therefore are not really the most appropriate for Valentines Day.**

**Pink roses, however, are held to be extremely romantic and are said to convey admiration and sweetness as well as love.**

**Peach, lilac, orange and coral roses all denote passion in differing degrees.**

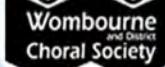
And the number of roses that are given is also of great significance. A gift of a dozen red roses is, of course, the most romantic (although a single rose is equally acceptable and an awful lot cheaper!). A pair of entwined red roses is said to denote an impending engagement or even possibly a marriage. So, if you are planning to buy roses for your loved one make sure that you send the right colour and quantity otherwise you could be sending the wrong message. And that could be disastrous!"



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 4LF

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

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

A special opportunity to 'Come and Sing' with Wombourne & District Choral Society. Wombourne and District Choral Society (WDCS) invite you to join them for an informal day of singing fun with our 'Come and Sing' special choral event of Fauré Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine, to take place on **Saturday 14th March 2026 at Springdale Methodist Church, Warstones Road, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 4LF**. Registration will start at 12.00 noon, followed by an afternoon of intensive rehearsals beginning at 12.45pm with our conductor Dr Edward Caine, and finalising with an informal concert at 4.45pm to which we encourage you to invite friends and relations.

If you are used to singing in choirs and know the Requiem or can read music well, then this is the perfect opportunity to unwind and enjoy one of the most beautiful pieces of the choral repertoire, as well as to get to know our choral society which is open to all comers. We also welcome people who have never tried singing with a choir to come and challenge themselves, to have a go with the help of our experienced members.

Sheet music will be provided on the door, although you are welcome to bring your own copy, and there will be regular tea and coffee breaks during the day. The session costs £15 to take part. Audience tickets for the performance are FREE.

To book your place, visit our website at [www.wombournechoralsociety.org](http://www.wombournechoralsociety.org) or call Candy on **07772 511325**.

## WOMBOURNE TYRES

Tyre Dealer & Repair Shop



A family run business

Efficient service with competitive prices  
We offer tyre repairs and maintenance  
Call in for a FREE Tyre check

All tyres available • Any Car • All Brands available

24 hour call out service now available: **07951 693557** call out charges apply

**01902 896 166 – Hours 9am-5pm**

Smestow Bridge Industrial Estate, Bridgnorth Rd Unit 1 Wolverhampton WV5 8AY

## 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)



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *YOGURT AND KEFIR*

A review by Trevor Langley



Yogurt is a semi-solid dairy (or can be a non-dairy) production utilising fermented milk to create a product that is rich in nutrients, including calcium and protein, plus probiotics, that assist the health and well-being of bones, gut and/or severity from viruses. Greek-style productions are usually recognised to have a thicker consistency and higher protein level.

Multi award-winning Tim's Greek Family Yogurts (Est. 1949) are inspired by their Greek family recipes and have the finest natural ingredients, plus gut-friendly bio-live cultures and fresh, pasteurised British milk combining, to bring really great tastes to fruition, with dairy goodness and creamy textures to the fore. Founded by the Timotheou family, their amazing story developed and now 'Tim's', as the brand has become known, creates productions that continue to gain prestigious awards. Tim's Greek Family Natural Yogurt I found to be very delicious on its own and also when accompanying fruits. Delights around the table were experienced. Other comments were that this product is so versatile it can be drizzled with honey and also used as a favourable dip, topping or dessert, as required. Other very popular choices include Blackcurrant, Honey, Caffe Latte, Mango, Raspberry and Vanilla flavoured yogurts.

Tim's Greek Family Natural Kefir is a probiotic-rich dairy production that is fermented and produces a refreshing sensation which has digestive and immune benefits. The smooth productions of kefir are known to improve digestion and gut health, and, similarly to yogurt, can assist in the fight against infections.

Tim's Foodservice Range offers opportunities for chefs, hotels, colleges and universities, catering establishments, wedding venues, also schools, plus hospitals and many other outlets, that require these types of productions, to gain access to bulk supplies. Stockists, further productions, information and more details are available on their very informative website. Doorstep deliveries are available and online ordering (*NB Tim's itself does not sell online – just through wholesalers for the foodservice and eg Waitrose and Ocado for the Greek family range*) is easy too. All orders are dispatched quickly and efficiently (please see above). Highly recommended.

Tim's, Mopes Farm, Denham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire SL9 0QH. Tel: 01753 888380. E-mail: [info@timsdairy.co.uk](mailto:info@timsdairy.co.uk) Web: [www.timsdairy.co.uk](http://www.timsdairy.co.uk)

**COMING UP IN THE  
MARCH EDITION:**  
*For the love of...Cider*



As always,

Enjoy!

*Trevor Langley*

# 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)



**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



**Mob: 07860 851017**

# ON THE HOME FRONT

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

## Sam's Exterior Cleaning Services

### SPECIAL OFFER

- ✓ uPVC Clean to Top Front, Back & Apex
- ✓ Gutters Cleared ✓ Free Window Clean
- Semi-Detached Houses - £120 • Detached Houses - £159

When you take up this offer you will also get 20% off any further services booked with us. Why not add your conservatory or cladding, call for a price. T & C's Apply. Limited spaces.

When they're gone - they're gone!!



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!!



fsb®



## 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

SEDGLEY  
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

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

**A.L.F**  
**HANDYMAN**  
**07703 190098**  
**OR**  
**07751 669760**

No Job Too Small!!



Free No Obligation Quote  
OAP Discount

[a.l.f.handyman@qualityservice.com](mailto:a.l.f.handyman@qualityservice.com)

## FOOT HEALTH PROFESSIONAL JOANNE STALLARD MCFHP MAFHP

Registered Member of the British Association of Foot Health Professionals

- Neuropathy awareness assessments made
- Nail Cutting • Fungal Nails
- Corns and Callous
- Ingrown Toenails
- Verrucae • Home Visits Only

Supporting diabetes & Arthritis



Tel: 01902 443726 or 07983 529420  
Castlecroft Rd, Castlecroft, W-ton.

## 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

## CLEAN & CARE 4U

[cleancare4u@gmx.co.uk](mailto:cleancare4u@gmx.co.uk)

### CLEAN & CARE



Find us on Facebook  
[cleancare4u](https://www.facebook.com/cleancare4u)

### DOMESTIC CLEANING

- Dusting/Vacuuming/Mopping
- Kitchens & Bathrooms
- Interior Glass & Mirrors

### CLEANING & CARE

- Changing Bedding/Laundry
- Meal Preparation/Doing Dishes
- Companionship
- Personal Care
- Medication Reminder

07598 299726



**Gold Oak**  
windows • doors • conservatories

## GIVE YOUR HOME A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

We use the highest quality products which are energy efficient, building regulation compliant with police approved security.



**FINANCE AVAILABLE**

### We Supply & Install:

- Windows
- Doors
- Conservatories
- Porches
- Canopies
- Roofline
- Warm Roof
- Roof Lantern
- Garage Doors
- Ultion Locks
- Bi-fold Doors
- Glass Units



### 10 Year Guarantee

We are a family run business offering a professional and friendly service with no pressure selling. Get in touch for a free quotation.





**N.E. DOWNING**  
FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Supporting families in the West Midlands with compassion, dignity and guidance when you need it most.

**Pre-Paid Funeral Plans • Immediate Help 24/7  
Traditional & Direct Funerals**

Home visits available by appointment, offering support in the comfort of your own surroundings.

**For immediate help and caring advice, please call:**



**J.R. JONES & CO.**

89 Dixon's Green Road,  
Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 7DJ

**01384 252772**

**J.T. BROOKES & CO.**

62 Market Street, Kingswinford,  
West Midlands, DY6 9LH

**01384 296683**



**WWW.NEDOWNING.CO.UK**



# BROOK STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE

Brook Street, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 9DD

## Perfect Venue For Any Occasion

- Daily activities from Play & Stay to Over 50's club
- Licensed bar
- Live entertainment and performances
- Room hire from £20 per hour
- Kitchen facilities for hire
- Disabled facilities
- Large car park with CCTV
- Enclosed outside area



## Event Packages also available

- Event Co-ordinator
- Venue Decoration and hire services
- Catering

## Contact us for your enquires



Follow us on Facebook

Brookstreetcommunitycentre

**Brook Street  
Community Centre**

*'At the heart of Tipton serving our community'*



Contact : 0121 557 0371

# FEBRUARY FACTS

February is, of course, one of our most unusual months. After all, not only is it the shortest one of the 12 but it is also the only one with a variable number of days.

Here we have compiled a number of other facts about it:

**It was named after Februa, a Roman festival of purification (which is probably the basis of spring cleaning)**

Later it was called Sol-monuth or 'Mud Month' in Old English.

Shakespeare only mentions February once in all his plays—'Much Ado About Nothing'.

In the USA February hosts a long list of special events including Pet Dental Health Month, Hot Breakfast Month, Jobs in Golf Month, National Women Investors Month and National Shopping Carts To The Supermarkets Month.

February's official flower is the primrose.

February, of course, has the distinction of being the month of St Valentine's Day. It has been suggested that St Valentine should be regarded as the patron saint of florists and chocolate manufacturers. He is actually the patron saint of bee-keepers, epilepsy, young people and the plague.

This year Shrove Tuesday (generally called Pancake Day) occurs on 17 February. It is officially the last day before fasting for Lent which commences on Ash Wednesday.

Although it is hard to pinpoint the exact first celebration of Valentine's Day as a celebration of love, it likely occurred in Paris in the 1400s. The English and French associated mid-February with that of the season of birds' mating, making it an appropriate time to celebrate romance.



**f @wilfselectrical**

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

Wilf's Mobile:  
**07572 613414**

Email:  
**wilfredo123@hotmail.co.uk**

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



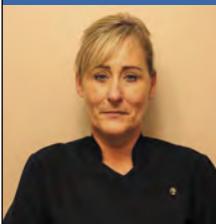
**THEN TALK TO US AT  
VILLAGE VOICE**

ABOUT COST EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING THAT WORKS.

**0781 790 4477**



# Foot Health Care



*Treatment carried out in the comfort of your own home.*

*Home visits £30  
no hidden costs.*

*I have 15 years experience in foot health care and hold a current DBS certificate.*

## Lisa Culbard

DIP CFHP. VRFHP

*Fully Qualified and Insured  
Foot Health Practitioner*

- **Nails trimmed**
- **Thick Nails Reduced**
- **Corn Removal**
- **Callus Reduction**
- **Ingrown Toe Nails Treated**
- **Treatment of Fungal Infections**
- **Foot Health checks/Advice on Foot Care**

**Don't suffer with painful feet.  
Look after them and they will look after you!**



For appointments call Lisa on 07989 410801 [L.Culbard@sky.com](mailto:L.Culbard@sky.com)

## A MATCHING PAIR

**The 1930s saw two major buildings who shared the same name appear in the centre of Sedgley and Coseley. These were the Clifton cinemas.**

Born in Birmingham during 1885 Sidney Clift was a solicitor who married into the cinema industry as his father-in-law ran the Empire at Stinchley. Clift acquired a couple of existing cinemas and then started to build his own 'super-cinemas'. The first of these was in Walsall in 1936 and the second opened a year later in Sedgley. Seating just over 1000 filmgoers, the cinema in Sedgley was frequently packed out in its early days and a further Clifton was commissioned and built at Lye. The final Clifton to be constructed was at Coseley in 1939, very shortly before the outbreak of the War.

Both local Cliftons hosted variety shows and pop concerts in the 1950s and early 1960s but with the cinema audiences starting to decline in the late 1960s and early 70s the death knell for both buildings started to toll. In 1963 the Coseley cinema was demolished to be replaced by a shopping centre and bowling alley (which never materialised) and in 1978 the Sedgley cinema was turned firstly into a bingo hall and then, once the bingo 'bubble' had burst into a pub in which capacity it is still today extremely popular.



*Today the Clifton in Sedgley is no longer a cinema but a pub, part of the J.D. Wetherspoon chain.*



# CHANGING ROOMS

WWW.CHANGINGROOMS.ORG.UK | 01902 670426

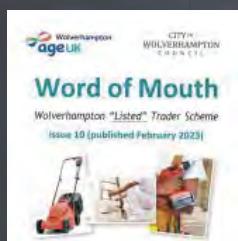
- WET ROOMS/ADAPTATIONS
- BATHROOMS
- KITCHENS
- GARAGE CONVERSIONS

## A company you can trust

### Wetrooms/Bathrooms

Approved and trusted by  
Dudley & Wolverhampton  
trading standards & age UK

Trustmark registered



## INDEPENDENCE MATTERS

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**

# A GARDENER'S WORK IS NEVER DONE!



## FEBRUARY

The British weather fluctuates dramatically at this time of the year and we experience conditions from mild through to freezing temperatures and snow whilst at other times bright sunshine and cold nights. All this is "confusing" to our traditional semi-dormant plant growth habits. Some plants are starting to bud up to four weeks earlier than 5-10 years ago but are then struck by frost damage. Moreover, we are finding that traditional gardeners are having to change their working plans for the garden to potentially give plants a longer growing season due to the unknown temperatures that we are experiencing.

Cleaning greenhouses, sheds and tools alongside washing pots, ordering sundries and planning for the forthcoming season can be undertaken come rain or shine, warm or cold. Consider your growing plans for the display you're looking for versus your current plant stock. To supplement home grown plant cuttings start to raise seedlings at the end of the month and look at enhancing your plant range by visiting local nurseries where you can see the quality of plant stock before you purchase. They may also have opening seasonal offers and be able to offer useful advice and knowledge rather than just ordering online.

Whilst working on the garden in "good weather" days, cleaning and tidying the borders or turning over allotments and vegetable patches can all be done but please don't forget that the birds and wildlife will need food on both good and bad days whilst ponds will need to be defrosted regularly to release the build up of gasses underneath the ice.

### OTHER JOBS TO BE DONE:

- From mid-February onwards sow tomato and cucumber seeds for green house growing.
- Plant out end of February/early March garlic and shallots
- As long as the ground is not frozen consider sowing broad beans, carrots and parsnips early and plant beetroot and Jerusalem artichoke tubers.
- In warm greenhouses, or under cloches, set out seeds for salad onions, lettuces, radish, peas and spinach.

It will be your last chance to prune winter apples, pears, medlars and quinces.

- Prune currant bushes, autumn-fruiting raspberries and prune back newly planted raspberries to about a foot high.
- Check the acidity of your soil, if too acidic add some lime.

Above all else, don't forget to keep smiling—the summer months are getting closer all the time!!!

# PRESTWOOD CAVE NURSERY

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

## ***Spring has arrived at Prestwood Cave Nursery***

***We are delighted to welcome  
customers back to our  
traditional rustic nursery  
on Fridays, Saturdays and  
Sundays between 10.00am to  
2.00pm from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.***

**Call and speak to Paul on:  
07703 529004 for further  
information.**



PRESTWOODCAVENURSERY

## **BUY SMART – BUY PLUG PLANTS**

**Summer bedding and basket plug  
plants available from middle of  
March through until end of April.**



**07703 529004 [cave.carter@yahoo.com](mailto:cave.carter@yahoo.com)**

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

***Don't forget to follow us on Facebook during our closed period***

★ It was reported in January 1903 that the lifeless body of a local farmer, George Brooks, had been found in Baggeridge Wood. It seems that he had left his club in Sedgley shortly before 11.00pm in order to walk home. He regularly took a short cut through the wood but on this occasion it seems that he fell and, unable to get up, perished in the intense cold of the night. His body was not discovered until mid morning the following day.

★ There was a heated debate in the Sedgley Council chamber in January 1962 over a proposed 5/- a week increase in council house rents. Labour councillors suggested that the state of some of the houses was so bad that an increase could not be justified. Conservative councillors, however, said that the increase was needed. One of their members, Cllr Bruce Meredith, suggested that “*if they don't want to pay the extra 5/- they should get out and buy a private house.*” He went on to say that in the majority of council houses there were two incomes and that there was an increasing number of new cars on the council estates. “*If they don't like the increase they know what they can do*” he said. His comments caused an uproar in the chamber with Labour councillors howling at him. Once the furore had died down a vote was taken and the resolution to increase the rents was passed by 12 votes to 8.

★ In the 1950s Mitchell Mitchell was a boxer who fought under the name “*The Coseley Kid*”. Strangely he was from Ilford in Essex and does not seem to have any connection with Coseley. If anyone has any information they would like to share I would be happy to do a piece on “*The Coseley Kid*” in a future edition.

## 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.



- ✓ 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)**



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

**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**

# 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)**





|| 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. In the long term George should neither win nor lose. Imagine there are six people playing, each choosing a different number. Total stake money is £6 and if three different numbers are shown on the throw then three players win £2 each (£6). If two different numbers are shown then one player wins £4 and one £2 (£6) and if all three dice show the same number then one player wins £4 and one £2 (£6) and if all three dice show the same number then one player wins £6. This means that the game is even-handed and in the long run no-one will win

2. 20.

3. The answer, strangely is 8. Convert the numbers to Roman numerals and then draw a line through them (cutting them in half):

~~IX~~ ~~XI~~ ~~XII~~ ~~XIII~~

4. A point-making it 4.9

5. By going second Anthony only has to ensure that whatever George picks up he ensures that the number each round equals four. That way he cannot be beaten and the £5 must be his!

6. Felicity is 20 years old and her mother is therefore 40. Ten years ago Felicity would have been 10 and her mother 30.

## COMPETITION WINNERS

The answer to our Wordsearch Competition in the **JANUARY** edition was **HISTORY** which was not there at all. The two lucky winners who each receive a £50 'DINING OUT' CARD are:

**MARK CROYDON** of **WORDSLY** and

**MRS G MEEK** of **KINGSWINFORD**

You can find this month's competition on page 26.

**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.

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 **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026** – GOOD LUCK!

Congratulations to **JULIE PRIEST** of **QUARRY BANK** who was the lucky winner of the two tickets on offer in the **JANUARY 2026** edition.

# OR WHATEVER by John Sparry

## *In a bit of a 'pittle'*

Hoppy Uniatz, the amicable ex-gangster who was part of Simon Templar, the Saint's team, perhaps having accidentally come across a page in the Times devoted to ornithology, when he was looking for a list of the next day's runners and riders—suddenly asked Simon and the Saint's lady friend, Patricia Holm, "Boss, ain't a nightjar the thing you keep under the bed?".

A tough guy, I'd say he was well equipped to give any miscreant what we in the Black Country call a 'cogwinder'.

When I was endeavouring to sell second-hand furniture many years ago, along with night commodes—more convenient than nightjars—I was often asked for 'a pair of chest of drawers', and the customer only meant one not two, chests of drawers.

Similarly, when travelling for a local credit drapers, after bringing a lady in Amblecote the wrong item, I learned that a 'sleeping blanket' was a flannelette sheet.



*Valuer and Manager, Sidney Bills (l) and Howard Hill*

At Joe Brookes's Enville Street saleroom in Stourbridge on one Monday each month, valuer and manager, Sidney Bills, would bawl out anyone bold enough to try a tune on one of the 'pianners' - "Hey, ~ Mozart!"

And Sidney always stationed a be-capped and brown-cowgowned Howard Hill on the little platform 'ter keep 'em from messin' with the carpitts'. Were they Lye, Stambermill or Stourbridge voices you'd hear enquiring, "Howerrd, 'ow much is that cubberd?"

Oh well, I'll go and 'put the kekkle on and mek some tay' Good Queen Bess, around 1590, pronounced it tay—but I doubt if she had to put the kekkle on herself.

**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!)*

# The Sedgley, Gornal, Coseley & Tipton PARISH PUMP



## COME TOGETHER IN COSELEY ≡ International Women's Day ≡



\* Inspirational film about brave, independent women \* Make friends

\* Table top quiz

\* Cake and hot drink

\* Friendship singalong



Sunday 8th March - 2pm start

St Chad's, Coseley Church Hall,  
Oak Street WV14 9TA

Tickets £5 from Kerry 07794618943

ALL WOMEN OF ALL AGES WELCOME



International  
Women's Day

### SEDGLEY EX-SERVICEMANS CLUB

SNOOKER, BOWLS, DARTS, GOLF  
SKY SPORTS, BINGO, ENTERTAINMENT

NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR BOOKINGS

TEL 01902 680404

Email [exservicemensclub@gmail.com](mailto:exservicemensclub@gmail.com)



CAR PARK FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS ONLY  
VEHICLES & PROPERTY LEFT AT OWN RISK



### KNIT & NATTER

10.30am on 2nd Saturday of month



ALL WELCOME

St Chad's Church Hall  
Oak Street, Coseley WV14 9TA

# The Sedgley, Gornal, Coseley & Tipton PARISH PUMP

## SEDGELEY ACTIVE RETIREMENT GROUP

meet every Thursday morning at Sedgley Community Centre, Ladies Walk, Sedgley  
**DY3 3UA** from 10.00am-12.00 noon (term time only).

### COMING UP...

#### FEBRUARY

12th—China—Land of Pandas and Dragons by speaker **Ray Sturdy**

19th HALF TERM

26th – Carry on Remembering by speaker **Rose Cook Monk**

#### MARCH

5th—Stourbridge Glass Industry by speaker **Dr Kate Round**

12th—ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19th—Richard III—Monster, The Myth & the Man by speaker **Mary Bodfish**

26th—Suffragists & Suffragettes by speaker **Emma Spencer**

New Members are always welcome and the first two sessions are free.

For further information, please contact **Stuart Lawley on 01902 882973**

## TIPTON LIBRARY : Victoria Road, Tipton DY4 8SR

Telephone: 0121 569 4944 : Email: [tipton\\_library@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:tipton_library@sandwell.gov.uk)

**Tuesday, 10 February**—11.00am-12.30pm: Sandwell Carer's Coffee Morning. If you are a Carer we are here to help! Drop-in to our friendly coffee morning offering refreshments, support and advice.

**Thursday, 12 February**—7.00pm: Stand Up Poet. Gavin is sardonic, witty, outraged, plain silly, sometimes just poignant or cathartic, but always “keeps you constantly engaged” (Kansas City Star, USA) delivering verses on life, the universe and everything(ish)...Plus sporadic comic anecdotes and his unique 55 word stories.



#### OPENING TIMES:

**Monday**—9.30am-6.00pm

**Friday**—9.30am-5.00pm

**Tuesday**—9.30am-1.00pm

**Saturday**—10.00am-1.00pm

**Wednesday**—9.30am-5.00pm

**Sunday**—CLOSED

**Thursday**—CLOSED

# The Sedgley, Gornal, Coseley & Tipton PARISH PUMP

## WHAT HAPPENS AT SEDGLEY TG?

- Meet others and make new friends
- Lots of enjoyable activity groups to join:  
craft group - every Wednesday 2pm SCC\*  
TG Singers choir - most Mondays 7pm SCC\*  
walking & strolling groups  
lunch & supper clubs  
book club  
theatre group  
garden group  
Orange Cafes
- Entertainment or Speaker event - every 3rd Monday 7.15pm SCC\*
- Join in with national and local projects and campaigns to help others
- Day trips & enjoyable outings

Visitors and new members always welcome.  
For more information, please contact Kerry on

07794 618943 or [kerry59@btinternet.com](mailto:kerry59@btinternet.com)

\*Sedgley Community Centre  
Ladies Walk, Sedgley, Dudley DY3 3UA  
[www.facebook.com/SedgleyEVETG](https://www.facebook.com/SedgleyEVETG)  
[www.th-tg.com](http://www.th-tg.com)



THE NEXT PARISH PUMP WILL  
BE IN THE **MARCH 2026**  
EDITION AND THE COPY  
DEADLINE IS **Tuesday, 17th  
February 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)

## DUDLEY PROBUS CLUB

lunch meetings are held on the **2nd Thursday** in the month starting at 12.30pm and are held at **The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley DY1 1RD.**

### Coming up...

- 12 February—**Alex Hunt**, Artisan Cheesemonger
- 12 March—**Colin Knipe** 'Teddy Gray's—A Dudley Institution'
- 9 April—**Mark McLaughlin** 'For God & Country: History of a Dudley Mission Church'
- 14 May—**Kate Davies** from Dudley Trading Standards talks about 'Preventing Scams'
- 11 June—**Jack Williams**—'Animal Conservation at Dudley Zoo'
- 9 July—Bingo Session with caller **Anne Jennings**
- 13 August—Annual Club Quiz with quizmaster **Allen Round**
- 10 September—Annual General Meeting
- 8 October and 12 November—speakers to be advised
- 10 December—Christmas Social with entertainment.

Further details can be obtained by emailing [dudleyprobus@gmail.com](mailto:dudleyprobus@gmail.com) or by visiting the Dudley Probus website.

# The Sedgley, Gornal, Coseley & Tipton PARISH PUMP

## ReLove the Preloved COFFEE MORNING



The regular Community Centre Coffee Morning with a raffle, delicious cakes and lots of pre loved bargains... bags, scarves, hats, jewellery, ornaments, books and more.

**10am Saturday 21st February**  
Sedgley Community Centre,  
Ladies Walk, Sedgley DY3 3UA  
**Everyone Welcome**

in support of  
Sedgley Community  
Centre and



### LORD HORATIO NELSON: ENGLAND'S GREATEST HERO?

A Talk by Max Keen

**Saturday 21 February**  
**10.30am**

Tipton Library  
Victoria Road  
Tipton  
DY4 8SR

Free Entry

Refreshments available  
including samosas & cake



## IT'S WRITE HERE

It's Write Here is a writing group who meet at Coseley Library, Castle Street, Coseley WV14 9DW on the 4th Thursday of every month at 11.00am-1.00pm.

Pens and paper are provided and there is complimentary tea and coffee organised by the Library. If you are interested in creative writing, expression or discussion of books, individual and collaborative works and ideas then we would love to have you join our group.

For further information please telephone the Library on **01384 812775** or email them at [coseley.library@gll.org](mailto:coseley.library@gll.org)

# ADVERTISERS' INDEX

<b>ACCOUNTANTS</b>		<b>GARAGE DOORS &amp; SECURITY SHUTTERS</b>	
Nicholas Barwell & Co	<b>10</b>	Rings Security, Shutters & Gates	<b>41</b>
Gornal Accounting	<b>14</b>		
<b>ANIMAL SERVICES</b>		<b>GAS, PLUMBING &amp; HEATING</b>	
The Island Vets	<b>52</b>	Wheeler Gas, Plumbing & Heating	<b>34</b>
		Rightio Plumbing & Heating	<b>6</b>
<b>BATHROOM/KITCHENS</b>		<b>KITCHEN &amp; BATHROOM INTERIORS</b>	
Changing Rooms	<b>48</b>	Round Oak Interiors	<b>15</b>
		Shawfit Interiors	<b>35</b>
		Changing Rooms	<b>48</b>
<b>BEER COMPANIES</b>		<b>KITCHEN DOORS</b>	
The Jinja Beer Company Ltd	<b>7</b>	Dream Doors	<b>OBC</b>
<b>BLINDS &amp; AWNINGS</b>		<b>MEMORIALS</b>	
Castle Blinds & Awnings	<b>25</b>	Bates Memorials	<b>19</b>
<b>BUTCHERS</b>		<b>MOBILITY</b>	
Abbey Road Traditional Butchers	<b>16</b>	Power Link	<b>22</b>
<b>CAR REPAIRS &amp; SERVICE</b>		<b>MUSIC VENUES</b>	
Northway Autos	<b>4</b>	The Robin Club, Bilston	<b>31</b>
Dudley Car Bodyshop Ltd	<b>21</b>		
<b>CARPETS</b>		<b>NURSERIES &amp; PLANT CENTRES</b>	
Trinity Carpets	<b>24</b>	Beacon Nurseries & Plant Centre	<b>14</b>
		Prestwood Cave Nursery	<b>51</b>
<b>CARPET CLEANING</b>		<b>ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES</b>	
Zero Dry Time	<b>49</b>	Sort My Space	<b>36-37</b>
<b>CLUBS &amp; COMMUNITY CENTRES</b>		<b>PUBLIC HOUSES</b>	
The Robin, Bilston	<b>31&amp;56</b>	The Five Ways Inn	<b>11</b>
Brook Street Community Centre	<b>45</b>		
<b>DENTAL SERVICES</b>		<b>ROOFERS</b>	
Simply Dentures	<b>20</b>	My Clean Gutters	<b>13</b>
		Pedmore Roofing Services	<b>29</b>
<b>DOUBLE GLAZING</b>		GMD Roofing & PVC	<b>54-55,IBC</b>
Cloudy 2 Clear Windows	<b>5</b>		
<b>ELECTRICAL SERVICES</b>		<b>SKIP HIRE COMPANIES</b>	
Wilf's Electrical	<b>46</b>	M T Skips Ltd	<b>32-33</b>
<b>FOOT HEALTHCARE</b>		<b>TREE &amp; LANDSCAPING SERVICES</b>	
Professional Foot Healthcare	<b>38</b>	Tree & Landscaping Services	<b>12</b>
Foot Health Care	<b>47</b>	Gornal Tree & Garden Services	<b>41</b>
<b>FUNERAL SERVICES</b>		<b>VENUES FOR HIRE</b>	
Jennings Funeral Directors	<b>30</b>	Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Football Club	<b>17</b>
J.R. Jones & Co	<b>44</b>		
<b>FURNITURE</b>		<b>VISITOR ATTRACTIONS</b>	
Dreamworld Furniture	<b>IFC</b>	West Midlands Safari Park	<b>23&amp;27</b>
Buy Sofas Direct	<b>8-9</b>		
		<b>WINDOWS &amp; DOORS</b>	
		Gold Oak Windows	<b>43</b>

## Village Voice MAGAZINE

Provides the ideal opportunity for local businesses to advertise their goods and services at a very reasonable cost.

There are three separate editions each month in the areas:

Sedgley / Gornal /  
Coseley / Tipton;

Kingswinford / Wall Heath /  
Wordsley;

Wombourne / Swindon /  
Penn / Kinver

Advertising rates start at the equivalent of just £10.00 plus VAT per month.

If you would like further information then please call Gail on  
**0781 7904477**  
or email:  
[villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk)

PLEASE MENTION

*Village Voice*  
WHEN USING THE SERVICES  
OF OUR ADVERTISERS  
THANK YOU.

## — ON THE — **HOME FRONT**

**PAGES 42**

- Ovenblitz Midlands
- Joanne Stallard
- Foot Health Professional
- Sam's Exterior Cleaning Services
- Orion Security Systems
- The Shaggy Dog
- Clean & Care 4U
- A.L.F. Handyman

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

# 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**

# DREAM DOORS®

NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS

## QUALITY KITCHEN MAKEOVERS

by simply replacing the doors and worktops



BEFORE



FREE coffee machine with  
every order over £5,000\*

Haier I-Master Series 5  
Home Barista-Black

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.