

FREE

Village Voice

Chris Smith - We Remember!

ISSUE 235 | APRIL 2026

hello April



Community magazine for Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

RICHARD ALLEN-ZOARDER

POWERED BY
exp UK

BESPOKE ESTATE AGENT

Nikon

D780

RICHARD ALLEN-ZOARDER
BESPOKE ESTATE AGENT

YOUR LOCAL PROPERTY EXPERT

SALES

LETTINGS

MANAGEMENT

SURVEYS

0800 112 3677



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



01384 866688 / 07817 904477



villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk



www.villagevoice-online.co.uk

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may
be reproduced without written
permission from the publishers.

© Village Voice Magazines Ltd 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

And so we are in April...just where has the time gone? We have had a few spring-like days over the past couple of weeks and so it seemed to be the perfect time for a spring cleaning article – I hope you enjoy reading it and that it spurs you on to make a start in your home. Village Voice are entering into the spirit of things by providing the competition prize this time – 2 x £50.00 B&Q vouchers.

This edition features a fairly mixed bag of articles ranging from a knock-out fight between the Leader of the Council, Cllr Patrick Harley and Shaz Saleem (with proceeds going to the Mayor's charities) right through to what to do in your garden during April. Something for everyone we hope!

Gail



IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 Win 2 x tickets to the Robin Club in Bilston
- 6 Brainteasers
- 10,26,30,52 It's A Fact!
- 20 Our competition this time sees 2 x £50 B&Q vouchers up for grabs. Don't forget to send in your entry for a chance to win.
- 49 Knock-out Fight between Leader of the Council, Cllr Patrick Harley and Shaz Saleem – all in aid of the Mayor of Dudley's charities
- 56-57 Our Charity Focus is Dudley Crossroads
- 58 Our ever-popular 'A Gardener's Work is Never Done'
- 64-65 Spring Cleaning – do's and don'ts
- 68 Brainteasers Answers
- 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 **THURSDAY, 23rd APRIL 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 0345748 4950
TRAVELINE WEST MIDLANDS 0871 200 2233

HELP LINES

AGE UK ADVICE CENTRE 0800 678 1602
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 01384 482929
CHILDLINE 0800 111 11
SAMARITANS 116 123
STOP SMOKING HELPLINE 0300 123 1044
VICTIM SUPPORT 01384 241511

UTILITIES

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

COUNCIL SERVICES

DUDLEY MBC 0300 555 2345
LIBRARIES - KINGSWINFORD 01384 81 27 40
- WORDSLEY 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 **MAY 2026** edition of **VILLAGE VOICE** is **FRIDAY, 17th APRIL 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 or write to us at The Robin Tickets, Forge House, 50 Redhall Road, Dudley DY3 2NL. The lucky winner will be drawn on **Thursday 23rd April 2026 – GOOD LUCK!**

Congratulations to **TRACEY RICHARDSON** of **KINGSWINFORD** who was the lucky winner of the two tickets on offer in the **MARCH 2026** edition.

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.

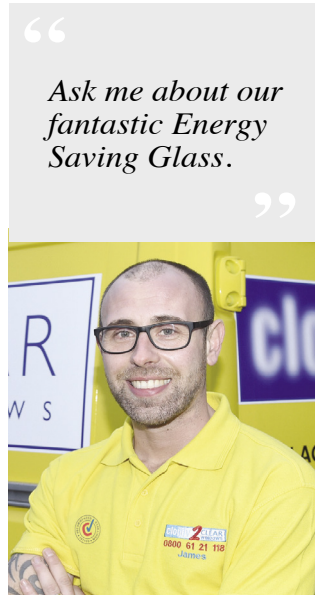
Why opt for costly full window frame replacements that lead to unnecessary redecoration expenses? By replacing

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 today!

(Prize draw 28/8/2026 - T's&C's apply. Visit 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



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

Faulty locks, handles or hinges?

Priority freephone
0800 61 21 118

www.cloudy2clear.co.uk

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



FIVE WAYS INN



LOYALTY CARD
TOP BACK FOR EVERY £1 SPENT
DARTS, POOL TABLE & OTHER PUB GAMES
BathamS
PRIZEWINNING ALES

LIVE SPORT
sky sports **INT** SPORTS
BathamS
PRIZEWINNING ALES
LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT EVERY WEEK

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

BRAINTEASERS

And here we are again with another selection of puzzles designed to stretch even the most high powered brain. The answers (if you need them) can be found on page 68.

1. A man stands on one side of a river whilst his dog is on the other bank. He calls the dog which immediately crosses the river without getting wet or using a bridge or boat. How does he do it?
2. A sundial has the fewest moving parts of any timepiece. Which timepiece has the most?
3. What is unusual about the following words:
revive banana grammar
voodoo assess
potato
4. A simple one now: if three peacocks lay 5 eggs in 10 days how many eggs will six peacocks lay in 10 days?
5. What do the words below have in common?
job polish
6. Andy and George are farmers. They are working in their barn when their six dogs and 12 cats follow them in. One of the cats only has three legs. How many feet are in the barn?
7. This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so plain you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out.



EURO VAN CENTRE

SPECIALIST IN COMMERCIAL VEHICLES



Welcome to Euro Van Centre

With over 20 years experience in commercial vehicle sales,
we offer a tailored service unrivalled by others.

We specialise in providing high quality vehicles at competitive prices and can source any requirements, should we not currently stock what you are looking for.

We can provide a free valuation, should you be looking to part exchange and offer a three month warranty period from point of purchase.

Call our team to discuss your requirements further.



Sell Your Van To Us!

**Buxton House
Dawley Brook Road
Kingswinford
DY6 7BD**



EURO VAN CENTRE

SPECIALIST IN COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

☎ **01384 732128**
☎ **07399 219806**
✉ **sales@eurodistributionukltd.co.uk**
🌐 **www.eurodistributionukltd.co.uk**

Monday – Friday 08:30 – 17:00
Saturday – Appointment only
Sunday – Closed

BUY FLOORS DIRECT

FREE UNDERLAY ON ALL CARPETS OVER £17.99 SQ/MT



Caroline

3+2 **£1,279**

3+1+1 **£1,399**



Lucy Corner

£1,799



Jodie

3+2 was **£1,649** NOW **£1,399**

3+1+1 was **£1,849** NOW **£1,599**



Lucy

3+2 **£1,599**

3+1+1 **£1,999**

www.buysofasdirect.co.uk

BUY SOFAS DIRECT

 All Sofas Handmade in the Black Country 



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

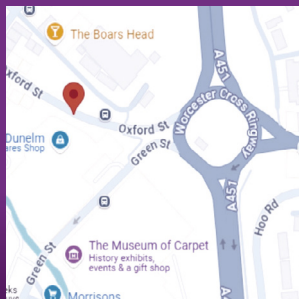
Merry Hill Opening hours

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

it's a fact!

- ★ The Breakwell family of Kingswinford had to suffer not one but two dreadful tragedies in the 1850s. In 1856 John Breakwell was killed in a mining accident and then three years later his widow, Ann, died in an equally sad way. She was drawing water from a well when she slipped and fell head first down the well. A local carpenter—John Hughes—witnessed the accident and immediately lowered himself down the well shaft but, as the local paper described, “when he brought her up she was a mutilated corpse.” The Breakwells left a large family who were then cared for by relatives in Pensnett and Dudley.
- ★ In 1919 John Kinsall (45), a miner and licensee of the Grand Turk Inn in Kingswinford was taken to court accused by his wife, Hannah, of persistent cruelty. She said that he had tried to strangle her and had thrown things at her, sometimes causing injury. When questioned about the allegations he denied them all, saying that he was scared of her—so much so that he had not complained when he found out that she had been having an affair with his brother-in-law for six years. In court she denied the affair but her husband produced a series of witnesses including a local policeman who swore that they had seen the two lovers together on many occasions including seeing them in compromising situations. The magistrates on the bench announced that they felt there were faults on both sides and they were concerned about the effect on the couple’s two children. They suggested that the Kinsalls might consider a reconciliation if Mrs Kinsall gave an undertaking not to see her lover again. A second hearing was set for a fortnight hence but by then Hannah Kinsall had run off with her lover!

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



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

shawfit
interiors

shawfitinteriors.com





Stairlifts

Safe, reliable and tailored to your home. Perfect for added safety and comfort.



Mobility Bathrooms

Wet rooms, bath to shower conversions, walk in baths.

Serving Kingswinford
and Surrounding Areas.



01384 886 648

www.chapterlivingsolutions.co.uk

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT

The Black Country has long had its own food specialities although now many have fallen out of favour—especially with the modern desire for “fast food”.

One treat that was usually reserved for Sunday dinner was FRUMENTY. This consisted of corn grains that had been soaked in water and milk overnight and then stewed until soft. It was normally served with sugar or treacle (or sometimes honey) and was a sort of wheat porridge. Occasionally fruit would be added if it was in season and available.

Another favourite dish in the Black Country was GROATY PUDDING which was frequently served in the cold winter months. A thick broth like dish, it is made from white groats (a kind of cattle feed) plus stewing beef or shin of beef, onions, milk, stock and root vegetables. Although something of an acquired taste, it continues to be

popular in some areas including Gornal, Netherton and Cradley. It is traditionally eaten on Guy Fawkes Night around the bonfire.

Many of the weekday dishes used offal from pigs, sheep and cows and often brawn, chawl or chitterlings were served to local families, members of whom had frequently spent up to 10 hours down the mines or in the nailshops.

BRAWN (from pigs' heads), CHAWL (pigs' cheeks) and CHITTERLINGS (pigs' intestines) were particularly enjoyed in many of the mining communities where frequently a couple of bags of coal would have been exchanged at the butchers for enough to make a tasty meal. Often local grown cereal would be added to bulk-out meals and root vegetables were widely used to provide additional nourishment.





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
www.treeandlandscapespecialist.co.uk



My Clean Gutters

**100%
SATISFACTION**



**GUTTERING
FROM
£39**

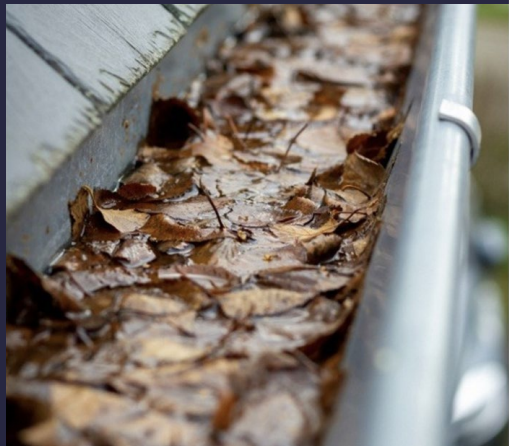
ALL ASPECTS OF ROOFING WORKS UNDERTAKEN



Freephone: **0800 0463373**

Birmingham: **0121 652 0374**

Mobile: **07376 915 527**



My Clean Gutters

**www.my-cleangutters.co.uk
mycleangutters777@icloud.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

For many years the boundary between Wordsley (which was part of Kingswinford) and Amblecote (which had its own District Council) ran down the middle of Brettle Lane. In 1828 the Kingswinford parish appointed five special constables whose duties were mainly to act as informers against those who did not observe the Sabbath. The other duty they were expected to undertake was assisting the churchwardens to clear the churchyard porch of “*all idle persons loitering there*”. There are few records of the success (or otherwise) of these constables, although in 1830 there were 11 summonses issued against publicans “*for permitting tipping on the Sabbath*”. Fines for these misdemeanours amounted to £1/9s/0d. A further record shows that the licensee of the

‘Sun’ public house in Brockmoor was sent a letter warning him to desist from “*disorderly practices*” otherwise he would be reported to the local magistrates with a view to having his licence revoked.

In 1648 the vicar of Kingswinford, Nicholas Paston, was one of the local clergy who signed a pamphlet entitled “*Against the Errours, Heresies and Blasphemies of these times and the Toleration of them*”. Amongst heresies listed in it were Antiscripturism, Socinianism, Anabaptism, Arminianism, Antinomianism and Eranstianism.

Although some mining in the area was recorded as long ago as the 13th century, it was not until the late 17th century that the wealth of coal beneath the Chase was known. From then the various Lords of the Manor would lease land for miners to work.

It was not until 1848 that Brierley Hill was established as a parish – prior to that it had been part of the parish of Kingswinford.



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**

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 | 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

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@stuartshandymanagementservices.co.uk

Mobile 07818 883757 Website: www.stuartshandymanagementservices.co.uk

Sam's Exterior Cleaning Services

UNMISSABLE SPECIAL OFFER

Average 2/3 Bed House Roof Clean, UPVC Clean to Fascia & Soffit, Gutter Clear & Clean. 2 Car Drive Powerwash and Resand

ONLY £1,199 - Saving of £500*



07879 073702



Find us on Facebook

ORION SECURITY SYSTEMS

MOB: 07958 500386

KEITH MIDDLEBROOK

Email: 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

ovenblitz
midlands



Local oven cleaning specialists

Ovens, Hobs, Extractors, Microwaves, BBQs

Website - www.ovenblitzmidlands.co.uk

0800 773 4870 / 07757 099529

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



Follow Us On Facebook

fsb[®]



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,
Shipleigh WV6 7EZ

PLAZA MALL

Dudley Market
Place

Call : 01902 661377 or 07848 039795

WE BUY YOUR UNWANTED
GOLD FOR CASH



Jewellery, watches, coins - appointments welcome

Call Sam: 07956 872130

Unit 4, Holloway Street West, Gornal DY3 2DZ

**BERESFORD
PLASTERING**

BERESFORD_PD ☎ 07533 613281

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

PEDMORE ROOFING SERVICES

ALL ASPECTS OF ROOFING UNDERTAKEN 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

PEDDLING THEIR WARES...1933 STYLE

In 1933 Kingswinford Parish Church at Wordsley had its centenary and as part of the celebrations a booklet detailing the church's history was published. Whilst the details of the first 100 years of its life are interesting, what is as fascinating are the advertisements that were included in order to offset some of the production costs.

Alfred Yeates & Sons, dispensing chemists of Wordsley and Stourbridge were advertising their own 'Stomach and liver mixture' (trial size 1/3d) and at just 2/- a bottle their 'Neuralgic mixture'. The **Brierley Hill and Stourbridge Building Society** was advertising "liberal advances at 5 per cent" whilst boasting that they had assets of £271,800 and a reserve of £15,000.

One of the many coal merchants in the areas was **Thomas Fletcher** of Amblecote who took an advertisement extolling the virtues of his "best Cannock coal" and the availability of "cobbles and range nuts". He also announced that **Miss P. Fletcher** of North View, Mount Pleasant was his agent for Wordsley and Kingswinford. **Darby's Quality Bread** of Brettell Lane left readers in no doubt about why their bread was so good—"because it is MADE CLEAN in the best equipped bakery in the district, BAKED CLEAN in steam in dust proof ovens and DELIVERED CLEAN by courteous men in spotless vans.

Other advertisements were included from **The Midland Radio-Gram & Electric Supply Company**, **Fred Webb High Class Family Butcher**, **Bells Café**, coffin makers **Farmer & Son** and **Matty & Cherrington** who claimed to be specialists in underwear and frocks of all kinds.

There were also advertisements for the "*Stour Wheeler*" bicycle available from **Petty & Co** (who described themselves as '*manufacturers of machines of the finest quality*') and for "*Matchless Sewing Machines*" from the **Parkes Sewing Machine & Equipment Company** of Wolverhampton. In both these cases it can only be assumed that local shops were offering these goods as there were no contact details included in the advertisements.

Our favourite, though is **Pearson & Harley** who are described as '*Coffin makers, tree fellers, stockists of spectacles and wholesalers of sugar confectionery*'.



The Hypochondriac
Pattingham Drama presents
a Comedy, adapted from Molière by Roger McGough
13th to 16th May 2026 at 7.30 pm - Pattingham Village Hall
Tickets £12 online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/pattingham-drama
or phone line: 0333 666 4466

Dreamworld Furniture



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

NEW MODELS IN STORE NOW!



**FREE
POWER
UPGRADE**



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



**Fine
Italian
leather**



Offer Available until 28th February
Available on selected models.
Ask a member of staff for details.

**FREE REMOVAL
OF YOUR
OLD BED AND
FURNITURE**



**Mattresses
starting
from
only £199**



**3 Seater and
2 Chairs all
reclining now
only £1995**

**LUXURY 3 PIECE
SUITES AVAILABLE
FOR IMMEDIATE
DELIVERY**

**ODD CHAIRS &
SOFAS STARTING
FROM £195
TO CLEAR!**

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



*Improved
Circulation*



**FREE DELIVERY
TO A
ROOM OF
YOUR CHOICE!**

WE WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE!

- ✓ Relief from aches and pains
- ✓ Single and double beds
- ✓ Premium mattresses
- ✓ Free Friendly Delivery to a room of your choice!

**Odd bed
bases
starting
from £99**



**Sale now
on all
mobility
furniture**

**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



Hopefully if the good weather ever comes our way, it will spur us all on to do that much needed DIY around the house and garden. With that in mind we are pleased to offer two lucky winners the chance of each winning a £50 gift card for B&Q. Every little helps! Please note, only one entry per person – multiple entries will not be entered into the draw.

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

(remember to include your name, address, postcode, telephone number and email address).

The winners will be the first two correct entries drawn at random after the closing date of **Thursday, 23rd April 2026**. Good luck!

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

HIDDEN WORDS

1. ASSEMBLING
2. PRODUCTS
3. CLEANING
4. HOUSE
5. SPRING
6. ORGANISE
7. OUTDOORS
8. SCREW
9. ART
10. DECLUTTER
11. PAINTS
12. DECOR
13. NAILS
14. GARDEN
15. VOUCHER
16. PLANTS

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

ADDRESS:

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

EMAIL ADDRESS:.....

SEND TO: VILLAGE VOICE MAGAZINE, 50 REDHALL ROAD, DUDLEY DY3 2NL

Wall Heath

DECORMAR

Home Garden & Pet Supplies



**Introducing our new range of BUFFALO brushware
the veritable king of brushes –
whatever the job we have the broom for you.**



BUFFALO
TRADE TOUGH, BUILT TO LAST

**INTRODUCING OUR
NEW BRUSHWARE**

- Durable metal handle
- Sturdy screw fit bracket
- Scrapper blade
- Rubberised edges
- Flagged outer bristles

**TRADE APPROVED
INDUSTRY
QUALITY**

GET A GRIP ON GRIME



**INTRODUCING
OUR BRUSHWARE!**

- AWARD-WINNING BRAND
- UNBREAKABLE TUFF-LOK BRACKET
- IN-STORE MERCHANDISING SOLUTIONS

Buffalo brushware is built to last. With a dense bristle fill for real cleaning power, and the unique Tuff-Lok bracket, these brushes are trade tough and ready for hard work. Voted as the 'Best Garden Product' at The Hardware Show Ireland 2026.

BETTER. TOUGHER. STRONGER.

**TRADE APPROVED
INDUSTRY
QUALITY**

**LIFETIME GUARANTEE WITH
TUFF-LOK
STRONG SECURE BRACKET**

HOW TO USE:



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

11A Enville Rd, Kingswinford DY6 0JT

Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm Saturday 9am – 4:30pm

Sunday hours (from April) 10am – 1pm

01384 274312

Whilst recently talking to Karen Hayes who for many years ran the highly successful Occasional Cakes in Kingswinford, I asked her if she could come up with a cake recipe for Spring and she did not disappoint with her Lemon Drizzle cake.

Ingredients:

225g slightly salted butter
 225g caster sugar
 4 large eggs
 225g self raising flour
 1 lemon for juice and zest

For the topping:

2 juiced lemons
 150g icing sugar



Method:

Heat the oven to 170 or gas 4. Beat together all the butter and sugar until light and fluffy and then add the eggs one by one mixing slowly. Sift in the flour and lemon zest and combine. Grease and line a loaf tin and spoon in the mixture. Cook for 45 to 55 minutes depending on oven—test the cake with a skewer to ensure it is cooked. Leave the cake to cool in the tin but before it is completely cold mix together the lemon juice with the icing sugar. Spike holes in the cake (diagonally so that the juice doesn't run straight out) and pour the mixed icing sugar all over the cake allowing it to drip into the cake. Leave to go cold. Store in a cool dry place ...never store cakes in the fridge, ideally in an airtight container.



ST JAMES DENTAL AND FACIAL AESTHETICS

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

📞 01384 394880

🌐 www.stjamesdentalcentre.co.uk

📍 Bridgnorth Road,
 Wollaston, Stourbridge
 DY8 3QG

OUR SERVICE:

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



Wheeler's

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

PUB POETRY

At one time as well as signs denoting their names many local pubs would also include a verse above the door. Typical of these were:

*"If you be hungry or a-dry
Or your stomach out of order
For sure relief at the Round of Beef
For both of these two disorders"*

*"If you go by and thirsty be
The fault is yours and not on me
Fixed here I am and hinder none
Refresh and pay and travel on".*

*"The Old Red Cow
Gives good milk now"*

*"Good malt makes good beer
Walk in, you'll find it here"*

One of the most interesting pub signs locally, however, was to be found down the road at Queen's Cross in Dudley where the 'Five Alls Inn' was split into five panels. The first had a picture of a king saying "I rule all". The second an image of a parson saying "I pray for all" and the third a lawyer saying "I plead for all". The fourth was a soldier saying "I fyte for all" and the last was of a taxpayer with the legend "I pay for all" below. Whilst this may have dated from the 1840s it goes to show that nothing changes!

The 'wobble shops', unlicensed establishments selling particularly strong beer and ale, had to be circumspect about how they advertised themselves in case the excise man came calling and in Wordsley they would leave an old boot outside.

Zero Dry Time: No hassle carpet cleaning



Zero Dry Time specialise in DRY carpet and upholstery cleaning, hard floor cleaning and leather restoration.

It's carpet cleaning but not as you know it.....

The 'on your hands and knees, scrubbing and carrying dirty water' is a thing of the past. With the advancements of new technology and products, Zero Dry Time have developed a robust cleaning system that will enable us to give you.... the customer, what you deserve when having your carpets cleaned.

Dry Carpets and Upholstery ready for immediate use with no fuss – what's not to like?!

At Zero Dry Time we have developed our own range of products that have been tested to industry standards. All our products are child and pet friendly.

Some of these fantastic products are also now available as maintenance products for you to purchase and use within your home/business, keeping your carpets and upholstery fresh between cleans with 'UNBELIEVABLE RESULTS'.

- **Pongo and Pongo 4 Pets** – a multi-purpose extreme odour eliminator – 4 in 1 product saving you time and money
- **Like Magic dry foam spray** – a multi-purpose unique dry foam, fantastic at removing stains and refreshing carpets and furniture, leaving them smelling amazing!
- **Like Magic Spot & Stain remover** – unbelievable stain removal spray for use on carpets and fabric upholstery
- **Tile and Hard Floor Maintainer** – keep your tiles, grout and wooden floors looking like new with this fantastic product.

These products range in price from £5 to £12.95 each with free delivery We are also now proud stockists of unbelievable sanitising products for your home, office, and your car.

Please contact Chris and the team to order yours now and make the switch to making your busy lifestyle a lot easier!

Zero Dry Time was established in the local area 8 years ago and offers a free no obligation quote on all flooring and upholstery cleaning and restoration requirements. Call Chris in Kingswinford on 0800 180 4981

Imagine Dry Carpet Cleaning

"no soggy carpets or wet dog smell".

- ✓ **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**



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

zero dry time
Dry Carpet, Upholstery & Hard Floor Cleaners

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

**Leather Cleaning
Specialists**
Restoration & Recolouring

Imagine

Dry Carpet Cleaning



Dry Carpet, Upholstery & Hard Floor Cleaners

"no soggy carpets or wet dog smell"

- ✓ **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**

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 ◀

Available upon
request at time
of booking
Subject to Eligibility

▶ 1-2 Hour ◀

Emergency
Response
time!



650921

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!

- ★ From 1860 until around 1894 much of the water used in the Kingswinford area had been pumped all the way from the outskirts of Lichfield. However, the quality was somewhat variable and the supply was subject to lengthy disruption. After extensive geological surveys it was decided that six boreholes would be sunk at Ashwood in the Smestow valley. Varying in depth from about 300 feet to more than double that, a total of four million gallons a day could be extracted. Originally three coal fired boilers were used to power the pumps to bring the water to the surface but these were replaced in 1958 by electric pumps. Further along the valley the Hinksford Pumping Station was brought into service in 1899. From here around a million gallons a day have been pumped into reservoirs in Dudley and whilst initially two steam pumps were used it was converted to electricity in 1950.
- ★ There were riotous scenes inside Wordsley Magistrates Court in June 1857 when two men from Gornal, George Hale and Edward Bennett, appeared charged with prize fighting. The magistrates were told that both men had proposed marriage to a Jane Smith and that she had been unable to choose between them and so they agreed—with her blessing—to fight for the right to marry her. At this point the public gallery burst into laughter and the court record shows that there was “*great merriment all round*”. The boxers were bound over to keep the peace.
- ★ At one time Wordsley had a number of pubs with particularly unusual names. The ‘Harmonic’ stood close to Wordsley Church whilst the ‘Thaull Ghatt’ was situated where Wordsley Green Shopping Centre is today. On the corner of Barnett Lane was also a pub called ‘The Sign of the Finger’.

THE RED LION

— AT WOMBOURNE —

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



BUILT IN 1703, THE RED LION IS STEEPED IN HISTORY, AND IS CURRENTLY BEING REIMAGINED FOR YOU.





Local Osteopathy Practice The VIP Clinic Celebrated Nationally at IO Awards

Morgan Fallon, Practice Director of the VIP Clinic, was named the winner of the Sole Practitioner Award at the Institute of Osteopathy's (iO) prestigious annual awards ceremony in London on 22nd November 2025.

The Practice of the Year awards celebrate the very best in osteopathic care. The Sole Practitioner category honours individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication to patient care, community involvement, and professional excellence. Dr Alison Robinson Canham, Chief Executive of the Institute of Osteopathy, said of the winner: 'We thought Morgan's VIP Clinic demonstrated genuine community engagement and a well-established network. The judges also praised the clinic for its strong social media presence, high quality website and positive online reviews.'

Practice Director Morgan Fallon graduated from the European School of Osteopathy with an Integrated Masters' degree. She works from her home town of Kingswinford in the West Midlands and loves her local community, they all look after each other and Morgan often helps support other local businesses.

"I believe that small clinics can make a big impact on our local community. My mission is to provide a high level of personalised care within a relaxed and calm setting, where trust and a sense of importance are the cornerstones of my ethos. I understand that many patients seek my care because they haven't felt heard or valued elsewhere. That's why I am dedicated to making every patient feel like a VIP."

The VIP Clinic offers a high standard of service to all patients. Morgan Fallon has worked at various clinics around the West Midlands and Worcestershire since 2011. She decided to open an Osteopathic practice at her home in Kingswinford. Morgan takes immense pride in offering exceptional customer service and creating an environment where patients feel comfortable and respected. At The VIP Clinic, every visit is an opportunity to enhance the quality of life for the local community, one patient at a time.

Her skill and dedication are reflected in her patients' glowing testimonials:

"Morgan is clearly extremely competent as both a diagnostician and therapist and made me feel comfortable and reassured. I am incredibly grateful to Morgan for her treatment and ongoing follow-up care."

"She is a wonderful osteopath. She takes her time and gives 100% every time I see her. I recommend anyone with confidence to see Morgan. You will not be disappointed."

'I feel so privileged to have won an IO award it's like winning a grammy in my profession. My goal has always been to win one of these during my career and to win one is amazing. I'm so lucky to have such a supportive family and the most amazing patients that make my job truly awesome and I get to do what I love every day. I'm so proud to call myself an Osteopath'

The VIP Clinic is based in Kingswinford, Dudley on High Street. Morgan offers Osteopathy, Sports Massage, Medical Acupuncture, Shockwave Therapy, Ultrasound Therapy and Manual Lymphatic Drainage Massage. For further information visit www.thevipclinic.co.uk or call on **01384 386919**.

Morgan Fallon DO MOst, receiving the Sole Practitioner Award from Daniel Collis and Charlotte Ryce.





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

OUR SERVICES

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

BOOK NOW

 CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO:
07876 612785



ADAMS

LOCKS & MAINTENANCE LTD
07876 612785

FREE QUOTES
FULLY INSURED



it's a fact!

- ★ Insolvent proceedings were commenced against Joseph Woodhouse of Wolverhampton in July 1841 during which his previous employment was detailed. At the time of his insolvency he was described as a licensed victualler and retailer of “spirituous liquors, wines and tobacco” as well as being a partner in the Birmingham Conveyance Company, “carriers and omnibus proprietors”. Prior to this he had held alcohol licenses in Kingswinford and Dudley and before that he had been a pork butcher in Upper Penn. Before taking up butchery he had been the licensee at the Fox & Goose Inn at Upper Penn having previously started his work career as an agricultural labourer.
- ★ In 1928 there was a sad story in many papers telling of the suicide of 27 year old Charles Young. He was a very popular gardener at Wordsley Rectory who, on receiving a letter from his fiancée breaking off their engagement, drank a cup of weed killer. The inquest reached the verdict that he had committed suicide whilst of unsound mind. It was reported that the girl in question fled the area, fearful of repercussions.
- ★ Johnny Marsh was a farm labourer whose favourite trick was to sneak into local fields after dark and pull up any vegetables he could find. The next morning he would tell the farmer that he had caught someone stealing them and gave chase and although he did not catch the thief he did manage to get him to drop the vegetables. Naturally any reward then offered for his honesty was gratefully received! Unfortunately, however, he tried this once too often and his deceit was discovered.

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
Designflooring**

**BEDS &
MATTRESSES**

FROM
£69

FREE ESTIMATING SERVICE

Plus

**FREE
DELIVERY
ON ALL ORDERS**



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

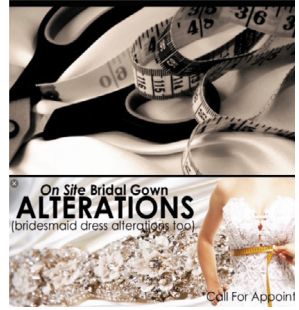
Tel: 0121 520 6091
www.trinitycarpets.co.uk

➔ **LOCAL FAMILY
BUSINESS TRADING
SINCE 1984**

➔ **REMOVAL AND
DISPOSAL OF EXISTING
FLOORING &
MATTRESSES AVAILABLE**

TOTAL SEWING SERVICE

Curtains & Blinds : Haberdashery : Alterations



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

BLAZE HAIR



✦ **Blaze is proud to be partnered with Beauty Works Professional Hair Extensions** ✦

Whether you're looking for extra length, thickness, volume or a beautiful colour transformation, our expert team is here to help bring your dream hair to life. 🧚‍♀️

📞 **Call our front desk today to arrange your FREE colour consultation, and let's create the hair you've always wanted.**



www.blazehairkingswinford.co.uk



FREE PARKING



37 LAPWOOD AVENUE, KINGSWINFORM DY6 8RP



01384 70048

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



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

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AFFORDABLE ADVERTISING IN AND AROUND THE BLACK COUNTRY AND SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE?

Then why not consider advertising your business in

VILLAGE VOICE MAGAZINE.

Each month we cover the areas:

Sedgley./Gornal/Coseley/Tipton
Kingswinford/Wall Heath/Wordsley
Wombourne/Swindon/Penn/Kinver

Our rates start from:

FULL PAGE: £70.00

HALF PAGE: £55.00

QUARTER PAGE: £45.00

CREDIT CARD SIZED: £40.00 (for four months)

All rates are subject to VAT

Discounted rates are offered for block bookings.

For further details or to book your space in VILLAGE VOICE MAGAZINE please call Gail today on 0781 790 4477



VILLAGE CAFE

Coffee ★ Breakfast ★ Lunch

Village Cafe Ltd

01384
404449

8 Townsend Place, Kingswinford DY6 9JL

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

BREAKFASTS • LUNCHES • LIGHT BITES • CAKES



ALL DAY BREAKFASTS AND FULL ENGLISH SET BREAKFAST

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

TRY OUR HOMEMADE LASAGNE, SHEPHERDS PIE AND OMELETTES



OPEN SUNDAYS
9.00am – 3.00pm

All Day Breakfasts

Sunday Lunches served
12.00 noon – 3.00pm
(booking essential)

PHILLIPS

International Travel Ltd

For a brochure or to book ☎ 01299 402989

✉ 46 Sandbourne Drive, Bewdley, DY12 1BN

✉ info@phillipstravel.co.uk

🌐 www.phillipstravel.co.uk

DAY TOURS

Sat 25 Apr Caerphilly & Penarth £26
 Mon 4 May Cirencester & Tetbury £24
 Sat 16 May Tissington Well Dressing £25
 Sat 23 May Hay-on-Wye & Hereford £25
 Sun 31 May Ironbridge & Shrewsbury £22
 Wed 3 Jun Bath £23

Sat 6 Jun Brecon Mountain Railway £46
 Sun 14 Jun Buxton & Bakewell £26
 Sat 27 Jun Oakham & Rutland Water £25
 Wed 8 Jul Chester £23
 Sat 11 Jul Cowbridge & Porthcawl £26
 Sun 19 Jul Bury St Edmunds & Lavenham £27



YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RUN COMPANY

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

QUALITY HOLIDAYS 2026

20 Apr	HARROGATE & YORKSHIRE DALES	5 days	£590
11 May	KENTISH GOLD	5 days	£600
7 June	HEXHAM & NORTHERN MAGIC	5 days	£600
15 June	ST AGNES & CORNISH GEMS	7 days	£795
28 June	SPEYSIDE, CAIRNGORMS & BLACK ISLE	7 days	£810
12 July	EASTBOURNE	7 days	£865
28 July	ISLE OF MAN	7 days	£1020
9 Aug	NORMANDY BEACHES TOUR	5 days	£825
21 Sept	GRANGE-OVER-SANDS & LAKELAND	5 days	£655
5 Oct	DUNSTER & EXMOOR	5 days	£660

Price includes dinner, bed & breakfast and excursions.

BEHIND THE SCENES: DRIVERS HOURS

PHILLIPS

International Travel Ltd

All aspects of our work are planned according to driver hours regulations, applicable to all coach journeys across the UK and Europe. They exist to ensure that drivers are not overworked to the point that they pose a danger to the passengers. All our work is monitored via the tachograph on our coach.

Drivers must not work more than 6 consecutive days, and each week must allow the driver a minimum of 45 hours unbroken rest, but this can be reduced to a minimum of 24 hours, providing the difference up to 45 hours is made up by the end of the third week.

Daily shifts must be separated by at least 11 hours of rest, but this can be reduced to 9 hours twice a week. Drivers are permitted to drive a maximum of 9 hours per day but this can be extended to 10 hours twice per week. They must finish work no more than 15 hours after they started.

A 45-minute break is required after 4.5 hours of driving, however this can be aggregated between 15 and 30-minute breaks. If there are two drivers on the coach the daily rules above still apply, however the maximum spread-over between start and finish of their shifts is 21 hours. There are several more rules to consider so this article is **not** the complete picture. All these aspects must be carefully considered when planning our tours, particularly for long-haul journeys to destinations our customers want to go.

Julian Phillips, Director, Phillips International Travel

AUTHENTIC, RESTAURANT QUALITY MEALS!

Crafted by Chefs, Loved by Foodies!



Chilled Curry Company®

CHILLED TO PERFECTION

**NOW OPEN
IN KINGSWINFORD**

- 🌀 Made with fresh, high-quality ingredients 🌀
- 🌀 Traditional recipes, bursting with authentic flavours 🌀
- 🌀 Slow-cooked for perfection, ready in minutes! 🌀

VISIT US AT Chilled Curry Company, 40 Market Street, Kingswinford DY6 9LB

CALL US 07895 127 771

OPENING HOURS: Every day – 10:00am to 7.00pm

www.chilledcurrycompany.co.uk

📷 @thechilledcurryco 🍷 Chilled Curry Company 🎵 @chilledcurrycompa

— POEMS FROM —
A BLACK COUNTRY BLOKE



JOHN HOMER

For many years John Homer has been involved with West Bromwich Albion, the Albion Foundation and the Black Country Living Museum, and is also a founder-member of the ‘ME, MYSELF AND I’ group which is a dementia support group for carers.

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

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

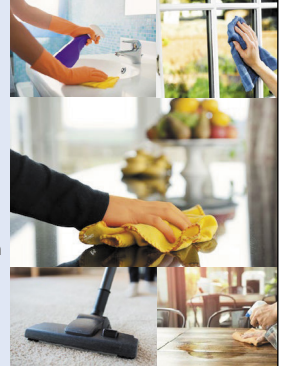
The book is available to buy at **£9.99 (plus postage)**—please contact John on **07818 291578** or **01384 236827** or email him at **johnhomerwba@hotmail.co.uk**

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



📱 @wilfselectrical

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

Wilf’s Mobile:
07572 613414

Email:
wilfredo123@hotmail.co.uk

Wall Heath

NATURES PAWZ



Pet Supplies



Raw Food – all natural

Chews

Pig's Ears

Pig's feet

Dog

accessories

BIRDS

Bird seed

Hearts

Fat Balls

Suet blocks

Coconut

halves

Peanuts

Small animal

feed

AND MUCH MORE....

Local delivery service available

INTRODUCING A NEW RANGE TO NATURES PAWZ

We are proud to have been appointed as a local stockist of BIRMINGHAM RAW. Birmingham Raw use only all natural raw ingredients which are free from additives thus supporting your dog's optimal health and wellbeing.



HYPOALLERGENIC SINGLE PROTEIN



HYPOALLERGENIC DOG FOOD

HOW DOES IT WORK?

HYPOALLERGENIC FOODS ARE MADE FROM INGREDIENTS THAT ARE LESS LIKELY TO CAUSE ALLERGIES AND INTOLERANCES, AS WELL AS USING SINGLE PROTEIN.

BENEFITS

HYPOALLERGENIC RAW DOG FOOD OFFERS SEVERAL ADVANTAGES, INCLUDING:
DIGESTION: IT SUPPORTS HEALTHY DIGESTION AND HELPS REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF GASTROINTESTINAL PROBLEMS.
SKIN AND COAT: IT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A SHINY, HEALTHY COAT AND PROMOTE BETTER SKIN HEALTH.
WEIGHT MANAGEMENT: THIS TYPE OF FOOD CAN AID IN WEIGHT MANAGEMENT WHILE ENSURING YOUR DOG RECEIVES THE ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS.
ALLERGIC REACTIONS: HYPOALLERGENIC FOOD MAY HELP MINIMIZE ALLERGIC REACTIONS, SUCH AS ITCHING AND SKIN IRRITATIONS.



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

If you are a pet owner then Natures Pawz can help you with food for your special pet. We have a large selection from food to treats to oral care and even puppy training pads together with a whole lot more...

33 High St, Wall Heath, Kingswinford DY6 0HB

www.naturespawz.co.uk



01384 274985

07795 217374



MT SKIPS U Fill em w

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!**



Fenc
fro

Dudley Central Trading Estate, Shaw Road, Dudley, West M

PS LTD ve 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 30th April 2026)



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

Open 7 days a week closed Sundays!

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



DO YOU REMEMBER?

What memories do these names conjure up for you? They were all shops in Kingswinford in days gone by.

Haywards the barbers in Market Street. **Harringtons** which was a cake shop later run by Mrs Stevens. **Dando's Fish & Chip Shop** which was a favourite with many people who had been to the cinema across the road. **Wyn Penzer's Emporium** on the corner of Penzer Street and High Street. **The Post Office** on the corner of Market Street and Park Street where Temptations Nail & Beauty Studio is today, **Griffiths Radios** in High Street.

Piddocks of Market Street, Kingswinford - this was one of the main retailers in the area for 'Royal Wordsley Knitwear' which was manufactured down the road close to the Redhouse Cone. **Slaters The Chemist** in Market Street close to the cross—the Townsend Place precinct now stands where this shop once stood. Another chemist—**Hicklings**—operated from a converted cottage at the Stourbridge-end of Market Street.

Regular customers at **Perks** the haberdashers may not just have been buying buttons or thread—it was the unofficial pawn shop for the village where people would go to 'pop' their valuables hoping that they could afford to reclaim them later. Finally, there was **Bird's**, another barber shop specialising in beard trimming.

Nicholas Barwell & Co. Ltd

Accountants & Tax Advisors

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

Tel: 01902 897141 Fax: 01902 897242

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



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

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

INITIAL FREE CONSULTATION

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

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

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.

Knockout Night for Charity

I am proud to announce that on 21st August this year at Dudley Town Hall, a boxing spectacle will take place featuring 8 huge and exciting fights raising money for the Mayor's charities.

This Big Showdown, will go down in history as the biggest sporting event ever to take place in Dudley. Tickets will go on sale soon.

The main event will be two of the biggest names this borough has ever seen - the Leader of Dudley Council, Cllr Patrick Harley -vs- the High Sheriff Award winner, Shaz Saleem!!

Yep that's right I will be going head to head against the Leader of the council, it will be Community -vs- Politics!

Two successful charity fundraisers!

To raise more funds awareness for my chosen charities we organised a Charity coffee afternoon and a Charity quiz night, both at the British Oak in Kingswinford. The events raised a total of £390 taking our overall total to £1600!!

On the 4th April 2026 I will be taking part in a wing walking challenge raising money for Midlands Air Ambulance and One Cat at a Time. Please share and donate on the link below;

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/shaz-wing-walking?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=WA

Honouring community champions

Two amazing local champions were awarded the TSF Award for Heroes: Gail Bradley from The Kingswinford & Wall Heath Litter Pick Group and Michelle Stokes from TSF Kuppa Club! Congratulations to both and thank you!



Upcoming community events

10th April - Kuppa Club - 9.15am to 11am at Wall Heath Tavern ● **12th April - Kingswinford & Wall Heath Litter Pick** - 10am ● **24th April - Kuppa Club** - 9.15am to 11am at Wall Heath Tavern ● **26th April Kingswinford & Wall Heath Litter Pick** - 10am ● **Kingswinford in Bloom** meet every Saturday and Sunday 10am by the library.



Contact me

📞 07786 196666 ✉️ askshaz@hotmail.co.uk 📱 @shazsaleem001



01902 259706
07874 810219
goldoakwindows.co.uk
enquiry@goldoakwindows.co.uk



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.





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

SALE NOW ON



ELEMENTS RANGE



ELEMENTS RANGE



FULL SHUTTER RANGE



EXPRESSIONS FAUX WOOD RANGE



AUTOMATED BLIND RANGE



**Bridging Connections
with Somfy's**



Compatible Solutions



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

*Free Parking
That's a promise!*

CALL US ON 01384 273769

VISIT US IN STORE STREAM ROAD, KINGSWINFORD DY6 9NT

LOOK AT US ONLINE
WWW.CASTLEBLINDS.CO.UK

EMAILSALES@CASTLEBLINDS.CO.UK

WHO SAID THAT?

Here are a few quotes on family life that we recently came across:

“Insanity is hereditary. You get it from your children.”

“The first half of our life is ruined by our parents and the second half by our children.”

“Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family...in another city.”

“Somewhere on this globe, every ten seconds there is a woman giving birth to a child. She must be found and stopped.”

“Families are like fudge - mostly sweet with a few nuts.”

“The other night I ate at a really nice family restaurant. Every table had an argument going.”

“I like children if they’re properly cooked—but I couldn’t eat a whole one.”

“Children and zips do not respond to force...except occasionally.”

“Family: A social unit where the father is concerned with parking space, the children with outer space, and the mother with closet space.”

“Ask your child what he/she wants for dinner only if they pay.”

“I owe a lot to my parents, especially to my mother and father” is reputed to have been said by Greg Norman, the Australian golfer in a radio interview”.

“My children have been good to me. They emigrated.”

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

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**

Green Powered Enterprise
100% Solar Powered Showroom and Workshop

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

KNOCKOUT NIGHT FOR CHARITY

The *Thrilla in Manila* and the *Rumble in the Jungle* may be legendary bouts, but Dudley is gearing up for its own blockbuster boxing showdown



In a charity clash set to pack a punch, Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, will step into the ring with former councillor Shaz Saleem on 21st August at Dudley Town Hall — all in the name of charity. The two civic heavyweights will be throwing punches for a purpose, raising funds for the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

This pugilistic pair will be going toe-to-toe over eight one-minute rounds, topping a full fight card featuring talented local boxers. With eight bouts to enjoy, the night promises to be a real crowd-pleaser and a knockout evening of entertainment.

They'll be battering each other with the best of intentions, hoping to land not just blows but a fund-raising total of £30,000 in support of these worthy causes.

VIP tickets will get the ringside treatment, including food and access to the after-show party at nearby Fun City — a knockout combo for any boxing fan. Local businesses and individuals feeling ready to get into the fundraising ring can take up sponsorship packages ranging from £500 to £5,000. SR Construction, Brindley Capital and GMB Union are already in the sponsor corner, backing the event with champion spirit.

Councillor Pete Lee, Mayor of Dudley, said:

“This is going to be a great night of boxing with many top local fighters and two Dudley sparring partners, Patrick Harley and Shaz Saleem. Come and support them and help us to raise money for some very worthwhile charities – and may the best man win!”

Tickets will soon be available from Dudley Borough Halls:
<https://boroughhalls.co.uk/whats-on.html>



- // 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 //




// FREE QUOTES //

07714 899321

E: DENSONGARETH@YMAIL.COM



it's a fact!

- ★ Amongst the more unusual craft to be used on the Stourbridge canal through Wordsley were two boats made out of concrete. They were constructed by a local building firm, A.H Guest, in 1917 as an experiment as there was a shortage of wood and iron due to the First World War. Unfortunately because of their weight only a relatively light load could be carried, making them uneconomic to use for the carriage of goods up and down the canal system.
- ★ The origin of the term 'Black Country' provides historians with something of a dilemma. Whilst the Oxford English Dictionary identifies its first use as being in a book written by J.C. Young and published in 1834 that reference is used merely as a description and according to the OED the first time that the term was actually attached to a specific area was in an article in the *'Daily Telegraph'* in December 1864. There are, however, at least two published sources of the term that pre-dates this—the earliest being a book called *'All Round the Wrekin'* by Walter White which was published in 1860. Certainly at this time the region deserved such an epithet with over 440 collieries, almost 200 blast furnaces and more than 1120 ironworks within a five mile radius of Dudley Castle. It is said that at night the fires from the furnaces and forges could be seen from many miles away and that by day a black cloud of smoke hung over the area. Indeed, so bad was the pollution that the legend has it that for over 9 months Dudley Castle could not be seen from the bottom of Castle Hill.



DO YOU WANT YOUR BUSINESS TO GROW?



SCAN ME

THEN TALK TO US AT VILLAGE VOICE

ABOUT COST EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING THAT WORKS.

0781 790 4477

BEACON NURSERIES & PLANT CENTRE

Shrubs and Perennial Plants are now available

Pansies and Violas will be arriving shortly.

WE ALSO STOCK COMPOST

ROWAN ROAD, SEDGLEY DY3 1LH
Tel: 01902 882933



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.

Five Ways House, Lake Street,
Lower Gornal, Dudley, DY3 2AU

01902 880040

J.T. BROOKES & CO.

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

01384 296683



WWW.NEDOWNING.CO.UK

Greyhounds take centre stage at Crufts as volunteers promote adoption

Crowds at this year's Crufts had the chance to meet some special four legged ambassadors, as volunteers from Home Run Hounds Greyhound Rehoming Charity came together to promote greyhound adoption on one of the biggest stages in the dog world.

The charity's stand at Crufts was made possible thanks to the generosity of Arena Racing Company, who funded the space so that every penny raised during the event could go directly to helping the dogs. Entirely run by volunteers, Home Run Hounds proudly holds the accolade of being the largest 100% volunteer run greyhound homing charity in the UK, so support and events like this allow the charity to continue caring for the greyhounds and help them transition from track to family life.

Every conversation at Crufts was an opportunity to spread the word about the gentle and affectionate breed, but the stars of the stand were definitely the dogs themselves. Thirteen of the charity's currently "homeless" hounds attended across the four days, alongside sixteen happily homed hounds who proudly returned with their families. The event has already had a positive impact with three enquiries about potential adoptions received so far as a direct result of the four days hard work, and volunteers hope that more will follow.

Home Run Hounds would like to publicly thank all volunteers who helped the event take place, as well as members of Daybreaks Trust, Insight Hounds, Camping and Caravanning With Greyhounds and Sighthounds and TTouch, and most importantly, the members of the public who came to say hello and made all the hard work worth it. The charity was set up just four years ago, with only one branch and space for nine dogs at that time. Since then, it has grown to six branches across the UK, space for 120 dogs and an army of dedicated volunteers. With events like Crufts helping raise awareness and interest in adoption, the team hope the charity will continue to grow and that many more retired racing greyhounds will soon be enjoying life in loving homes.





APRIL AT THE ROBIN



MECHANICAL ANIMAL

INDUSTRIAL GOTH & NU METAL FREAKFEST

MARILYN
MANSON
SPOUKY KIDS



deftones
DEAFTONES

KORN
KORN AGAIN

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL

WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL
GARY DELANEY
WORK IN PROGRESS

FRIDAY 3RD APRIL
ROY & HEMMINGS
HITS OF MOTOWN

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL
MECHANICAL ANIMAL
MARILYN MANSON, KORN & NIN TRIBUTES

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL
MANIAC STREET PREACHERS & THE PHONICS
MANIAC STREET PREACHERS & STEREPHONICS TRIBUTES

FRIDAY 10TH APRIL
SPACE COWBOY
JAMIROQUAI TRIBUTE

SATURDAY 11TH APRIL
BON GIOVI
BON JOVI TRIBUTE

SUNDAY 12TH APRIL
ANT-TROUBLE
ADAM & THE ANTS TRIBUTE

FRIDAY 17TH APRIL
SABBOTAGE
BLACK SABBATH TRIBUTE

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL
THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW
JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE

SUNDAY 19TH APRIL
RECORD & CD FAIR

SUNDAY 19TH APRIL
BRAVADO
RUSH TRIBUTE

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL
RHCP UK
RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS TRIBUTE

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL
THE COUNTERFEIT STONES
ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL
FOCUS
PROG ROCK LEGENDS

THURSDAY 29TH APRIL
CLASS OF 79
PUNK TRIBUTE



SATURDAY JOHNNY CASH 18TH ROADSHOW APRIL

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

01902 401 211

DUDLEY CROSSROADS



SINCE 1982

Dudley Crossroads is a small local charity operating in the Dudley borough. Our office is on the Pensnett Trading Estate in Kingswinford, and we were founded over 40 years ago in 1982.

We provide **respite care** to informal (unpaid carers). This can be anyone looking after a relative or friend who is 18+ in their own home. We can help by visiting the home for a 2-3 hour call once a week and staying with the person who needs care while the carer goes out. While we are there we can also do light housework, prepare meals and drinks, take people to health and other appointments or anything else that help the carer.

We also run an **elderly support service**. This is for people who may find everyday tasks difficult and want to remain independent in their own homes. We can offer shopping, meal preparation, light housework, companionship and support with social activities.

Free services our charity offers our clients include our time to talk telephone befriending, a walk and talk group for carers and ex carers, and pet therapy in our office. We hold social events, including twice yearly meals out at the Lodge in Dudley where up to 80 people attend.

All our services are designed around individual needs and choices after consultation with our care team. Regular support staff build long and trusted relationships, working with a smile and fitting into family lives. All our staff are fully trained, insured and DBS checked.

Sadly, like many charities, funding is a major cause for concern to Dudley Crossroads. We do get some funding from Dudley Integrated Care Board, but we are constantly looking for other ways of raising funds. We would be very happy to hear from any companies who would like to donate!

For people in receipt of attendance allowance or PIP we charge our not for profit rate which is much cheaper than private agencies as we are a registered charity. For people not in receiving attendance allowance or PIP we can help fill in forms. Payments can be made using private funding, Attendance allowance or Personal Independence Payments.

We have many wonderful comments from our yearly surveys, including:

'Excellent and competent staff, always do what is needed and more.'

'I value the service my mom gets. It provides valuable company for her and enables me to have a little bit of time.'

'Crossroads gave my wife some of the best times in her final years. Thanks again to all at Crossroads – I will always be in their debt.'

'I am very happy with the service I receive. My support worker is a very caring person who is very helpful and nothing is too much for her to do.'

'We are more than satisfied with the service provided by Crossroads and we look forward to weekly visits to give family members a break and provide a different face to interact with.'

If you would like any more information about our charity or you would like us to do a short talk at any event, please get in touch with our office – details on the next page.

Carer & Older People's Support

Dudley Crossroads



We can provide a range of support services to those living alone, enabling them to live as independently as possible in their own homes.

We can also offer regular respite services to those who live with family or friends to enable the main carer to take a well-earned break.

We offer a flexible, regular service, specifically tailored to individual needs. The range and variety of our service is almost endless and we will endeavour to accommodate the needs of those requiring our support.

We are a charity and 'not for profit' organisation and whilst not all of our services are free the charges are very reasonable when compared to private agencies. This can be discussed before the service commences.

We use a dedicated, fully trained and insured staff team who make lasting relationships with the people they support.

If you wish to contact us we can arrange for a friendly team leader to visit you and establish the kind of service required with no obligation. There is a referral form on our website or you can telephone us or email.

Our office hours are 9:00am – 2:00pm Monday to Friday.

TELEPHONE 01384 298513

EMAIL: office.dudleycrossroads@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.dudleycrossroads.co.uk



Dudley Crossroads, 6 Watt House, The Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford DY6 7YD

Registered charity no. 1054168

**A
GARDENER'S
WORK
IS NEVER
DONE!**



APRIL

Both new and experienced gardeners are now itching to fill borders with shrubs and trees and also to add spots of spring colour before the abundance of summer planting begins in mid to late May. Many garden centres and plant nurseries, such as Prestwood Cave Nursery, are starting to showcase small, medium and more established plants that can easily slot into those garden gaps. The weather has certainly been mixed over the past three months and more than likely April will be no different - gardeners should remember that frosts can continue right through until the end of May so please take care not to be too eager and plant less hardy plants too soon. Certainly summer bedding should be left until mid May.

There are, however many jobs that can be done this month:

Shrubs, roses and trees can be shaped and fed to encourage new growth. A mix of compost and a thin layer of well rotted mulch applied around the plants works wonders and benefits the ground for the next few months.

Dead heading of Rhododendrons and Azaleas and adding a boost of ericaceous compost will prolong flowering.

Wildflowers and hardier annuals can be sown direct to prepared borders.

Plant up patio containers and hanging baskets but again keep well protected. If you don't have the room consider ordering now for mid-May collection or delivery planted patio containers and hanging baskets. Prestwood Cave Nursery offer a great pre-order service for summer patio and bedding plants. These can be collected in mid-late May. The nursery also offer a local delivery service if you can't get out and about. Why not visit their Facebook page for further details or call 07703 529004.

Indoor tomato plants, cucumber plants and chilli plants can also be sown and pricked out this month, giving you an array of summer and autumn vegetables to use at home.

Sow in the vegetable garden quick grow summer vegetables like beets, radish, lettuce, spring onions but protect with fleece and cloches.

A secondary planting of potatoes for a later lifting can also be done as well as planting garlic, onions and shallots.

Check for aphids on brassicas, fruit bushes and also summer flowering plants like roses. Watch out for pesky slugs and snails. Spray if necessary to prevent further issues over the coming months. Alternatively, continue to attract the birds to the garden by having plenty of bird food and top up water features throughout April and May.

Pricking out of March-sown seeds continues . Ensure night time frost protection is maintained.



HAPPY GARDENING

PRESTWOOD CAVE NURSERY

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

Spring has arrived at Prestwood Cave Nursery

**Our nursery opening times
are OPEN DAILY 10am
until 4pm (except closed
on Wednesdays).**

**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.**



**Basket
PLUGS from
75p each or
10 for £14**



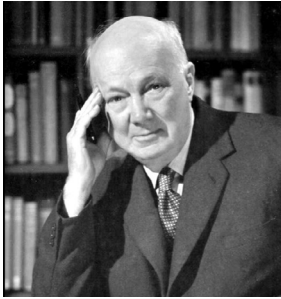
**Pre-order
Summer
Hanging Baskets
NOW**

07703 529004 cave.carter@yahoo.com

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

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

AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE RADIO REVOLUTION



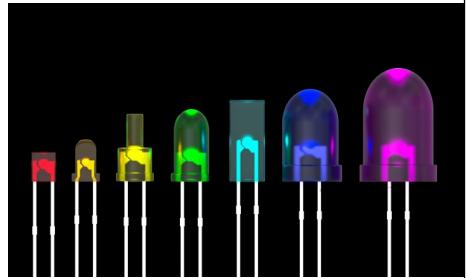
Born on 2nd June 1881 in Kingswinford Henry Joseph Round became one of the most influential men in electrical engineering. He was one of the early pioneers of radio and for many years was personal assistant to Guglielmo Marconi.

He joined the Marconi Company in 1902 and was sent to America where he was in charge of a number of important research projects. It was during this period that he invented the light emitting diode (LED). Yet it was his service in both the First and Second World Wars that brought him into the limelight.

At the outbreak of hostilities in 1914 he joined Military Intelligence and worked on direction finding using radio transmissions. Such was his success that the Admiralty relied on his knowledge to predict the movements of the German fleet and as a result of information provided by Round the British fleet was in a prime position to win the Battle of Jutland, the largest ever sea battle. For this and his other work during the war he was awarded the Military Cross for “*gallantry during active service against the enemy*”.

Between the Wars he returned to his duties with Marconi before setting up his own consultancy business. During the Second World War he was mainly involved in the development of the ASDIC system (now generally known as SONAR) for submarines.

Round died on 17th August 1966 in Bognor Regis after a short illness. He was 86 years old and had been working almost until his death. Indeed, during his lifetime he applied for and received 117 patents on his work, the last just two years before his death. Although not widely recognised in his home town, there is no doubt that Round was an exceptional man.



Light emitting diodes (LEDs)

Jayne's Flowers
Gornal-based florist

All types of floristry work undertaken
Over 30 years experience
In-house florist for J R Jones Funeral Directors

☎ 07737 600541 ✉ jaynepickerill135@gmail.com

SAM BATES
Granite Quartz
Bespoke Worktops

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
Unit 4, Holloway Street West, Lower Gornal,
Dudley DY3 2DZ
Tel: 01384 985923 Mobile: 07956 872130
Call for a Free Survey

GOT A ROOF LEAK?



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

**GIVE YOUR BUSINESS
A BOOST!**



SCAN ME

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



Your Local Councillor Update

Dear Residents,

Free Parking Returns to Support Our High Streets

We're pleased to share some very positive news for residents, visitors and local businesses across Kingswinford and Wall Heath.

From 1st April, two hours' free parking will be reintroduced across all Dudley Council-owned pay and display car parks – including Kingswinford.

This is something we have consistently pushed for, recognising the importance of supporting our local high streets, encouraging footfall, and making it easier for people to pop into the village without worrying about parking costs.

To benefit from the free parking, you will still need to collect a physical ticket from the machine and clearly display it in your vehicle. At present, the parking app cannot be used for the free two-hour period. If you wish to stay longer, you simply pay the difference based on the updated tariffs.

These will now be:

- ✓ Up to 3 hours: £3
- ✓ Short stay (up to 4 hours): £5
- ✓ Long stay (up to 12 hours): £6
- ✓ Overnight (7pm to 7am): Free

New signage will be installed in all car parks from 1 April to make these changes clear and easy to follow. This is a really important step forward in helping to support local businesses, increase visitor numbers and ensure our village centres remain vibrant and accessible.

Phil, Ed & Mark



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TEAM BELOW



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

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

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

SPRING CLEANING—DO'S AND DON'TS

You know the feeling—the weather is finally on the way to being half decent, the sun is shining....and it shows up everything wrong with your home—from windows through to grimy cupboard fronts and so on. The only way forward is to roll up your sleeves and give your home a thorough spring clean.

Before you start think about opening the windows—this is the best way of getting a fresh smell into the home. Of course, before you can get down to any spring cleaning there is the little matter of decluttering your home of everything that has built up over the past year and which is no easy task. There are lots of “rules” about decluttering but really it is down to your judgment—if you haven’t picked up an item in a year do you really need it? Make yourself feel better by donating unwanted items or indeed

selling them—one man’s trash is another man’s treasure is an old but true saying. What you decide to keep must then have a dedicated space in your cupboards or shelving area but it is important to ensure that you properly label the items so that they don’t get left behind again.

I must admit that over the years the only way that I can feasibly declutter is to take absolutely everything out of the cupboards and off the shelves and put it to one side. That way, you are seeing areas of your storage that you probably do not see on a day to day basis and more than likely you will be horrified at the amount of out of products, cans, bottles and packets that have accumulated.....you are not, however, on your own!

There is a great divide about storage jars—do you have them or do you stick with the packaging the items come in? This is most definitely a personal choice—one thing about glass containers is that you can actually see what you have and that goes a long way to helping you make up weekly shopping lists—you only buy what you need..

One item in your kitchen that works very hard for you and which is sometimes overlooked is your chopping board. Most of us will be guilty of just giving it a quick clean after use when in reality it does need more attention. Try running the cut side of a lemon over the board to help remove stains and smells—for added power add salt or baking soda. Follow this with a coating of cutting board oil to nourish the wood



Do not try to clean more than one room at a time. It is far better to concentrate on one area and then move on to the next. Personally, with me it always has to be the kitchen that I start first—many will say start at the top of the house and work down but the kitchen is probably one of the most high traffic rooms in the house and if that is tidy and ordered then the rest falls into place. Again, this is an extremely personal choice so do whatever works best for you.

The object of spring cleaning is to not miss anything out at all—let nothing escape the frenzy.



Start with the top of the cupboards which in many homes tend to be a hide away spot, thoroughly clean cupboard shelves, tiles, worktops, sink, oven microwave, fridge, washing machine and windows. The last job you should do in the kitchen is to mop the floor and then take a moment to stand back and admire all your hard work.

It is then a matter of moving from room to room –remember as you go around your home to dust ceilings and light fixtures—it is surprising how much dust builds up on these surfaces. It is easily remedied by using a soft cloth lightly dampened with water to wipe away the dust. Walls too are a very overlooked area when cleaning but they do over time acquire a build up of dust (and cobwebs) - dusting with a dry floor mop is one way to tackle this task.

Once you get to the bedrooms there is a tried and tested method—wash all bedding and if it is a nice day and you don't want to wash pillows then hang them on the line to freshen them up. Clean the mattress and vacuum under the bed and then tackle all those annoying stains that have built up on carpets and rugs. If you have the energy now is as good a time to go through your wardrobe to declutter unwanted or unused items. As we said earlier try to donate or indeed sell items.

The bathroom is probably the last room I would tackle—it is a time to deep clean the shower and bath not forgetting, of course, the glass shower doors and the shower head and tiles. Clean the toilet, sink and countertops, wash bath mats and put out fresh towels.

There is no hard and fast rule as to how long a spring clean should take—it may be that you allot 2-3 days and take it gently going from room to room. The more energetic person might get it done in a day and some will start by emptying one drawer or cupboard at a time. It does not matter at all—it is whatever works best for you. It may be that you would prefer to bring in the professionals to help declutter your home.

Katherine Blackler, a CPO® (Certified Professional Organizer) and founder of SortMySpace Ltd has been helping individuals transform overwhelmed homes and workplaces into more supportive, calming environments for 10 years. Katherine can be contacted by email at katherine@sortmyspace.co.uk or by telephone on 07914612531.

HAPPY SPRING CLEANING TO YOU ALL

IT'S A RUM AFFAIR

A review by Trevor Langley

Rum, as an alcoholic spirit drink, has been around for many years, with history showing the records dating from at least the 17th century. The preferences and requirements of rums vary, from person to person. Some rum lovers may enjoy a light or golden-coloured rum, whilst others could like a dark-coloured rum, for example. Flavoured rums have also become widely popular, over recent years, for rum 'devotees' also. The Caribbean area is very much recognised as 'where it all started', for rum productions. Family recipes and varying ingredients, plus the processes involved, bringing rums to fruition, all have an effect, for appearances, bouquets, mouthfeel and palatability – each to their own delectation!



Multi award-winning Duppy Share is a London-based company that makes available a range of rums which are hugely impressive. Founded, during 2013/14, Duppy Share is an independent company, focused on making high-quality, authentic Caribbean rums available to the UK and beyond. DUPPY SHARE SPICED RUM (35% vol) is hugely popular and well placed to be amongst the leaders, in the Duppy Share range of Caribbean spirits. I found this blend of 100% Jamaican rums that is infused with 10 natural Caribbean botanicals and spices, to have a bouquet which aroused my nasal senses and led to my mouth's pleasures. Kola Nut, Clove, Ginger and Nutmeg are amongst the inclusions, plus Grapefruit, Orange and Pineapple, for this smooth, very well-balanced, delectation. I am most impressed with this beverage, whether enjoyed simply over ice or with a mixer of choice.

Other very popular Duppy Share Caribbean Rums include DUPPY SHARE LEGACY EDITION, DUPPY WHITE, DUPPY SHARE AGED (Produced with 3 year old and 5 year old rums), DUPPY SHARE XO (Produced with 5, 8 and 12 year old finely-aged rums) and several more. Take time and pleasure to locate and enjoy your favourite tippie. Very attractive gift boxes (plus other merchandise) are available too.

Duppy Share – Appreciating, celebrating, embracing and inspiring the true Spirit of the Caribbean and its Islands, with fun and excitement included along the way. The very informative website has further details and information. Highly recommended.

Tel: 020 7751 1727. E-mail: hello@theduppyshare.com Web: www.theduppyshare.com

COMING UP IN THE MAY EDITION:

*WINES: SOME OF ENGLAND'S STILL
AND SPARKLING FAVOURITES*



As always,

Enjoy!

Trevor Langley



GORNAL

TREE & GARDEN SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL TREE SURGEONS

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

CALL TODAY
FOR A FREE
QUOTATION



Tel: 01384 830384 Mob: 07860 851017

MARY HERMAN-SMITH
CATERING



**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

Email: maryhermansmith@btinternet.com Can also be found on



www.maryhermansmithcatering.co.uk

BRAINTEASERS ANSWERS

Congratulations if you managed these crafty brainteasers. There will be more of the same in the May edition.

1. It is the middle of winter and the river has frozen over.
2. An egg timer (just think of all those pieces of sand falling from the top to the bottom!)
3. With each word move the first letter to the end. Then read the word backwards – each word is the same as the initial ones.
4. None. Peahens lay eggs not Peacocks.
5. With both words if you initialise the first letter they are pronounced differently.
6. Four. Cats and dogs have paws not feet—so the only feet in the barn belong to Andy and George.
7. The paragraph does not contain the letter ‘e’ which happens to be the most commonly used letter in the English language. In 1923 George Trulove, an American author wrote a complete novel without using the letter ‘e’. It took him 12 years to write!

COMPETITION WINNERS

The answer to our Wordsearch Competition in the **MARCH** edition was **PREMIERE** which was not there at all. The two lucky winners who each receive a **FAMILY PASS to THE ODEON CINEMA at MERRY HILL, DUDLEY** are:

HELEN JUDGE of **WALL HEATH** and
DAVID PARKER of **NORTHFIELD**

You can find this month's competition on page 20.

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

Wombourne & District Choral Society

CARMINA BURANA

by Carl Orff

Conducted by Edward Caine

Saturday 25th April 2026 - 7.30pm
Church of St John's in the Square
Wolverhampton WV2 4AT

Tickets £15 (under 16 Free)
online at www.wombournechoralsociety.org, choir members or on the door.



Registered Charity 1067808
www.wombournechoralsociety.org.uk



OR WHATEVER by John Sparry

“It’s a Rolls Royce, not a Rover!”

Any man who can buy a 20/25 Rolls Royce, 1935, with a Freestone and Webb body, and take it out on a trip, after removing the car’s floor in order to locate a troublesome noise emanating from the transmission, is well worth writing about.

Geoffrey Hubert Cookson was a primary reason for my book, ‘Vehicular Traffic’. Geoff often told me he had educated himself on the engines and workings of lorries and cars, by borrowing books from the old Moor Street Library in Brierley Hill. This was probably when he was still a pupil at Bent Street School long before he became a valued asset of the team of mechanics at Stourbridge’s Midland Red bus garage.



*Geoff Cookson with his Sunbeam
‘Oil-Bath’ Bicycle,*

Geoff moved on to Westley’s on Castle Hill in Dudley—maybe because on permanent display in their showroom was a veteran Rolls Royce. Fred Pargeter, with whom Geoff worked, said: “He was a ‘real’ mechanic as opposed to a fitter. He taught me to stand back from a problem.”

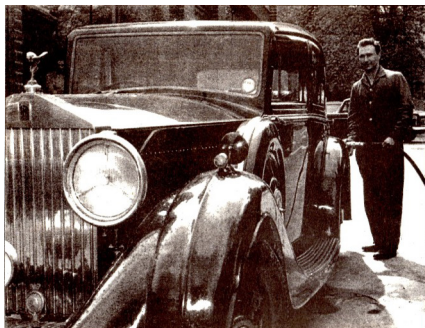
For me, Mr Cookson was a friend and champion buyer of books—and not only from my stock: book and second hand stores throughout the Black Country were

beneficiaries by Geoff’s custom. That is if the volume was about machinery.

One day at my domain he glanced at a copy of ‘Zen and the Art of Motor-Cycle Maintenance’ - he quickly put it down again—too much zen and not enough maintenance.

While working opposite Dudley Hippodrome, he dealt with a big car which was the transport of Eve Boswell, Tommy Cooper and Derek Roy, I think also Tony Fayne and David Evans, the sporting-comedy duo. “Derek Roy was one of them “grumpillion’ businessmen types—they look over their glasses.

‘Grumpillion’ was just one of the Cookson word-coinages. He claimed his brain was too full to come up with the correct one. I’d say it was a very creative brain—anything boring was ‘Madronical’. I am trying to popularise it in the Midlands. It is a certain fact that G,H, Cookson Esq. was very UN-MADRONICAL.



*Geoff Cookson fuels his 20/25 Rolls Royce,
1935.*

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!)

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER?

One question that I am frequently asked is whether I can supply the names of speakers—granted there are a lot of names available via the internet but what if you are not well versed in computers? Periodically, therefore, we like to publish the names and details of a selection of local speakers. If you are a speaker and would like to be included free of charge in a future feature, then please email your details together with a current photograph to Gail at villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk

JOHN HOMER - A BLACK COUNTRY BLOKE!

For many years John has been involved with West Bromwich Albion, the Albion Foundation and the Black Country Living Museum, and is also a founder-member of the 'ME, MYSELF AND I' group which is a dementia support group for carers.



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

His talks are a "pot-pourri" of stories, anecdotes, jokes, poetry and songs about the Black Country and life in general!

For further details of talks available please contact John either by:

Telephone: 01384 236827

Mobile: 07818 291578

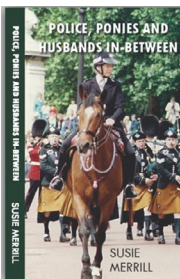
Email: johnhomerwba@hotmail.co.uk

SUSIE MERRILL

Are you looking for a speaker?

'From One Pig to Another'

A collection of lively stories from Susie Merrill about her days as one of the first mounted police women in London's Metropolitan Police. All delivered with a characteristic wicked sense of humour. On retirement she moved to the West Midlands to marry Richard and become a smallholder keeping rare breed pigs on Kinver Edge in South Staffordshire.



Many of her experiences are recorded in her autobiography: '*Police, Ponies and Husbands in-between*'.

Susie Merrill can be contacted on 07831 487648



Ian M. Bott is a well known Wednesbury antiquarian who is known for his love of the 'macabre side of history'. There are many talks available via Ian including:

'Black Country Murders'—true tales of gruesome murders.

'Lost Mansions of the Black Country' stories about the many great houses that were once a feature of the area.

'The Midlands Zeppelin Outrage' - 1916 when a squadron of zeppelins were sent to bomb Liverpool but instead bombed Midlands industrial towns.

For a full list of talks and availability please contact Ian on 0121 556 8877.

TERRY CHURCH

has been speaking to various groups and societies for well over 20 years during which time he has given a total of over 300 talks.



He offers a range of talks including:

- 'Village Memories'* - reminiscences of growing up in a village on the edge of the Black Country in the 1950s.
- '1942 A Vintage Year'*—a look at how life has changed in the last 70 years.
- 'You couldn't make it up'* – a light hearted look at stories that made the news.
- 'Lost but not forgotten'*- nostalgic reflections of Terry's life at school, work and play.
- 'Radio and Television in the 1950's and 60's'*- entertainment as we knew it.
- 'Autograph Collecting'*- the history of the signature and 60 years of collecting them.
- '57 Black Country Sportsmen'* – sportsmen who have made the Black Country proud. This is also the title of Terry's book published in July 2015 (a further volume was published in September 2017).

Terry can be contacted at:

6 Wharfedale Close, Wall Heath,
Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 9AZ

Telephone: 01384 292170

Mobile: 07974 428261

Email: terrychurch6@gmail.com

Max Keen is a retired teacher and speaking is his profession and being an avid historian he does so with the utmost of enthusiasm. There are 14 talks to choose from— here is a small selection:



- 'Sir Francis Drake: England's Greatest Naval Hero?'*
- 'King John: The Worst or Most Useful King?'*
- 'Pirates! The Fact and the Fiction'*
- 'Hereward the Wake: The Last True Englishman?'*
- 'Sir William Marshall: England's Greatest Knight?'*
- 'The History of Dudley Castle 1071-1933'*

Each talk features a multimedia projection and full period costume...including armour for the Henry V and Richard III talks.

Max can be contacted in a variety of ways:

Mobile: 07985 747261

Home: 01299 879841

Email: max55@uwclub.net

Website: www.keenhistorytalks.com

Or follow him on Facebook at

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

KAREN EVANS

After completing a History degree Karen taught in primary schools before retiring in 2015. She then wrote two 'Grim Almanac' books for the History Press and she is currently writing for Family Tree Magazine on all things genealogical. Her love and enthusiasm for history was the impetus for her talks be it Regency dancing or using DNA in her own research. Karen's talks include:

'The Ultimate Black Sheep'—this uncovers an 1823 murder in her family which sent her on a thrilling and fascinating journey of discovery.

'Where does my family come from?' Unlocking the secrets of DNA testing—this talk covers areas such as understanding how the test works in very general terms.

'Dancing in the time of Jane Austen' - every savage can dance according to Mr Darcy but what would he have seen in the ballrooms of the day?

For a full list of talks available and availability please contact Karen on 07462 801829 or email her at karenevansdna@gmail.com



NATIONAL SERVICE (RAF) ASSOCIATION

We are a group of men who did their National Service in the RAF back in the 1950s. We meet every month at midday on the second Tuesday of the month in the Community Hub at RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton WV7 3EX where we have a guest speaker and generally put the world to rights.

As we say every Remembrance Day, we who are left grow old and sadly our membership is dwindling, but we feel that there may be readers of Village Voice who were Erks and who might be interested in joining us for the sum of £5.00 per year. This covers the postage of our monthly newsletter, *The Erk*, (*for those who may be confused, an Erk was the slang name for another rank in the RAF*).

If anyone is interested, please do come along to one of our meetings where you will receive a very warm welcome. Alternatively, please contact Gail at Village Voice (at villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk) who will pass on our contact details.

HALFPENNY GREEN AIRFIELD

When the airfield was originally built for the RAF in 1939 the main contractor was McAlpines. Thirty one years later the company was one of the first to base its own aircraft at the airfield.

The first aircraft landed at Halfpenny Green on 22nd March 1941. It was a Miles Magister trainer from the RAF. Over the following week it spent many hours taking off and landing at the airfield, checking the safety of the approach from all areas.

In 1961 there were just 750 aircraft movements (take-offs and landings). In 1990 there were 67,363.

In 1968 the windsock used at Halfpenny Green was donated to the International Red Cross to be used in Biafra on an emergency airstrip bringing vital aid to the country.

Over the years various plans were hatched for using the airfield. These included using it as a base for training pilots for BEA and BOAC, a permanent venue for pop festivals and as a motor racing circuit.

Halfpenny Green was renamed 'Chilford Green' for the children's TV series "*Flight Into Danger*" which was largely shot at the airfield during June 1972. The series, though, was not a success and was soon taken off our screens.

The first jet to land at Halfpenny Green was a Cessna Citation 500 Quietjet belonging to Group 4 Security. It landed on 10th March 1978, much to the concern of local residents who believed that it may herald the regular use of the airfield by larger and more noisy aircraft. May Bank Holiday in 1980 saw over 50,000 spectators at Halfpenny Green for a motorcycle grass track event that attracted many of the sport's top competitors including three world champions.

In August 1987 a British Airways Concorde made two low passes over the airfield on its way to and from an air display at RAF Cosford. WAAG—the Wolverhampton Airport Active Group—was formed in 2003 to fight plans to develop Halfpenny Green into a commercial airport.

MEMBER MONDAYS

All movies, all day from

£7*

Exclusive to members
Download the app today

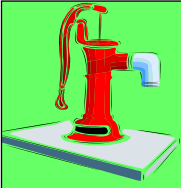


my ODEON

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

Available at select ODEON cinemas only. Prices at other ODEON cinemas may vary.

For more details, see www.odeon.co.uk/privacy-and-legal/myodeon-member-monday-and-saver-terms/



The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

PARISH PUMP



WALL HEATH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Enville Road, Wall Heath DY6 0JT

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

COMING UP...

11th April, The Wednesday Club, 2pm. **John Butterworth**, “Official invitation to China”. John was one of four newspaper editors invited on the first official visit to China in 1986 as it opened its borders after years in isolation. John went to areas visitors do not see as well as many tourist sites.

16th April, Thursday at 2 Club, 2pm. **Max Keen**, “Dudley Castle history talk”. Max will be giving a talk about the history and times of Dudley Castle from its origin in 1070 AD.
Pre-booking and payment required—£5 admission.

30th April, Thursday at 2 Club, 2pm. **Mary Bodfish**, “Royal History talk”.
“You can’t abdicate and eat it”. So said the Dutchess. How a love affair caused a unique constitutional crisis.

13th May, The Wednesday Club, 2pm. **Alec Powell**, “Circus Days”. Alec will explain how he came to set up a circus while still working for a solicitor’s office in Birmingham. He will talk about the circus, the acts, places visited and the disasters. He has also worked as a magician and will tell us, with demonstrations, how that fitted into the circus ring

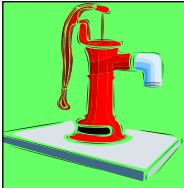
KINGSWINFORD ACTIVE RETIREMENT GROUP

Tutor – Siddique Hussain – Mobile: 07929 850814 : Email siddiqueh@gmail.com

St Mary’s Church Hall, The Village, Dudley Road, Kingswinford DY6 8AY
Monday mornings (term time) 10.00am-12.00 noon

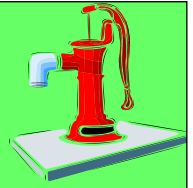
The Group allows people to enjoy a social and active programme of speakers, visits and discussions.

New members are always welcome. There is a fee (per term) of £25.00 plus optional trip costs (transport and entrance fees if applicable).



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**.



KINGSWINFORM METHODIST CHURCH

Stream Road, Kingswinford DY6 9NP

www.kingswinfordmethodist.co.uk

kmc.enquiries66@gmail.com

June 2026 will mark 60 years since the opening of the Methodist Church building on Stream Road. Methodists have been serving the community of Kingswinford for much longer as the current building saw two previous churches join as one.

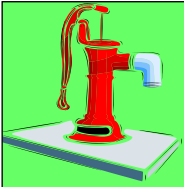
If you were married, baptised or have had family funerals at Stream Road, why not get in touch via our website, pop along to a coffee morning on the first and third Tuesday of each month -10.00am-12.00 noon - or come to one of our services to share your memories, celebrate with us and to see how the building has changed over the 60 years.



MEN'S BOWLS AT WORDSLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

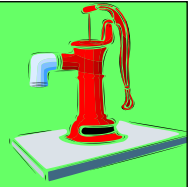
If you have time on a Friday afternoon, why not pop along to see us between 1.00pm and 4.00pm and join this highly popular group for Short Mat Indoor Bowls, Cards and Dominoes. There is always lots of laughter and jollity with this group—it is the perfect way to meet new friends and enjoy a nice cup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

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



The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

PARISH PUMP



u3a
learn, laugh, live



Kingswinford & District Registered Charity 1123789

We are part of a national network throughout the country and offer a range of activities and interest groups to semi-retired and retired people.

If you are interested in joining our friendly group you can join as a member at one of our speaker meetings from April 2026. The cost of membership is £30 and includes access to as many groups as you want to join. Contact the Membership Secretary at our [Join Us](#) web page.

All the information can be found on our website at <https://kingswinford.u3asite.uk/> and newsletters can be picked up from Kingswinford Community Centre as well as local libraries.

We look forward to welcoming new members.

Activities range from book groups, genealogy, art, crafts and board games to ballroom dancing, singing for fun, curling, line dancing and walking and many more.

We offer day trips and events including monthly speaker meetings and coffee mornings.

Meetings generally take place at Kingswinford Community Centre.

SATURDAY 25th APRIL 2026

11.00am—3.00pm

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church Hall, Foundry Road, Wall Heath DY6 9BA

**Free Admission
Refreshments Available**

For more information please contact Daphne on 07530 071068

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

15th April: A Drop Of The Hard Stuff

Ray Sturdy takes us on a journey through Ireland for its scenery, music and humour.

29th April: Trip to Alrewas Abboretum

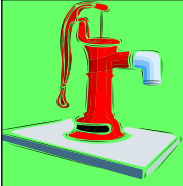
Price to be advised. Pick up as normal 9.30am Sainsburys Local, The Green, Wordsley.

Return between 5.00/5.30pm.

6th May: Women Chainmakers

Rose Cooke tells the story of chainmaker, Hannah Smith.

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



The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

PARISH PUMP



WALL HEATH FLOWER CLUB

Wall Heath Community Centre, Enville Road, Wall Heath DY6 0JT

DEMONSTRATORS FOR 2026/27

28th April	Amaud Metairie " <i>From Ekhaya to You</i> "
26th May	Sionedd Hughes " <i>What a Wonderful World</i> "
23rd June	Becca Morris " <i>Inspired by Nature</i> "
28th July	Joanna Davis " <i>Thank you M'am</i> "
25th August	SOCIAL
29th September	Claire Bond " <i>Autumn Treasures</i> "
27th October	Elaine Hale " <i>Rhythm 'n Roots</i> "
24th November	Debbie Davies " <i>Charismata</i> "
26th January 2027	Debbie Wellington " <i>For the Love of Colours</i> "
23rd February	AGM

Visitors always welcome to pay at the door.

Please contact Pauline on 01384 272430 or Greta on 01384 872752



Evening Cancer Support Group

On the second Tuesday of each month from 6pm, beginning Tuesday 10th February.

Anyone affected by cancer is welcome to attend including patients, carers and those bereaved as a result of cancer.

No booking is required. For more information please call us on 01384 231232.

THE NEXT PARISH PUMP WILL BE IN THE MAY 2026 EDITION AND THE COPY DEADLINE IS **Friday, 17th April 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 or telephone her on **0781 7904477**

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

ACCOUNTANTS Nicholas Barwell & Co TaxAssist Accountants	42 IBC	FUNERAL SERVICES J.T. Brookes & Co	53	SKIPS M T Skips	40-41
ANIMAL SERVICES Nature's Paws	39	FURNITURE Dreamworld Furniture Buy Sofas Direct	19 8-9	SOLICITORS Waldrons Solicitors	15
BEER COMPANIES The Jinja Beer Company Ltd	29	GARDENING SERVICES Beacon Nurseries & Plant Centre Prestwood Cave Nurseries	52 59	TRAVEL COMPANIES Phillips International Travel	36
BLINDS & AWNINGS Castle Blinds & Awnings	45	GAS, PLUMBING & HEATING Wheeler's Gas, Plumbing & Heating Rightio Plumbing & Heating	23 26	TREE & LANDSCAPE SERVICES Tree & Landscaping Specialists Gornal Tree Services	12 67
CAFÉS Village Cafe	35	HAIR SALONS Blaze Hair Salon	33	WINDOWS & DOORS Gold Oak Windows	44
CAR REPAIRS & BODYWORK Dudley Car Bodyshop	48	HOME & GARDEN Decormar	21		
CARPETS Trinity Carpets	31	HOME CLEANING SERVICES Lisa's Cleaning Services	38		
CARPET CLEANING Zero Dry Time	24-25	HOME & DÉCOR Total Sewing	32		
CATERERS Mary Herman-Smith	67	JEWELLERS Arthur's Jewellers	34		
CINEMAS Odeon Cinema, Merry Hill	73	KITCHENS & BATHROOM INTERIORS Shawfit Interiors	10		
CLUBS & COMMUNITY CENTRES The Robin, Bilston	4&55	KITCHEN DOORS Dream Doors	0BC		
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SALES Euro Van Centre	7	LOCKS & SAFES Adams Locks & Maintenance Ltd	30		
COMMUNITY UPDATES Cllr Phil Atkins Mr Shaz Saleem	63 43	MEMORIALS Bates Memorials	47		
DENTAL SERVICES St James Dental and Facial Aesthetics	22	MOBILITY Chapter Living Solutions Total Mobility	11 46		
DOUBLE GLAZING Cloudy 2 Clear Windows	5	MUSIC VENUES The Robin Club, Bilston	4&55		
ELECTRICIANS Wilf's Electrical	38	RESTAURANTS/PUBLIC HOUSES The Five Ways Inn The Red Lion	6 27		
ESTATE AGENTS Richard Allen-Zoarder	IFC	ROOFERS My Clean Gutters Pedmore Roofing Services GMD Roofing & UPVC Shayne Orme Roofing	13 17 50-51,61 14		
FOOD OUTLETS Chilled Curry Company	37				
FOOTCARE Step Ahead	34				

Village Voice MAGAZINE

If you would like to know more about advertising in Village Voice Magazine, please call Gail on

0781 7904477

or email:

villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk

PLEASE MENTION

Village Voice

WHEN USING THE SERVICES OF OUR ADVERTISERS
THANK YOU.

— ON THE —

HOME FRONT

PAGE 16

- OvenBlitz
- Cash for Gold
- Sam's Exterior Cleaning Services
- Stuart's Handyman Services
 - The Shaggy Dog
 - Orion Security Systems
 - Beresford Plastering

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

Account. Ability.

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

For the **right accountancy services** delivered at the **right price**, contact TaxAssist Accountants today. Free consultations available by telephone and online:

Call 01384 913 888

taxassist.co.uk/kingswinford

Find us at our new shop:

1-3 Moss Grove,
Kingswinford, DY6 9HS



Excellent Trustpilot

Based on 2,000+ reviews



DREAM DOORS®

NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS

QUALITY KITCHEN MAKEOVERS

by simply replacing the doors and worktops



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



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

Call us now for a free estimate:

01384 956119

01562 541208

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

9.8/10

dreamdoors.co.uk

THE UK'S #1 KITCHEN MAKEOVER COMPANY

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