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Chris Smith - We Remember!

ISSUE 236 | MAY 2026



Community magazine for Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

RICHARD ALLEN-ZOARDER

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Village Voice

Community magazine for
Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

Cover story

This month we are thinking more about birdlife and somewhat quirky garden ornaments.

The humble gnome can be found in many guises. Known as Gartenzwerg in Germany they are small humanoid figurines that have become a highly popular feature in so many gardens. Their roots can be traced back to European folklore particularly in Germanic and Scandinavian traditions where gnomes were believed to be earth spirits that protected treasures underground and offered good fortune to landowners.

Gnomes were at one point banned from England's most prestigious flower show for well over a century. In 2026 they are definitely making a comeback and bring with them a distinct personality all of their own.

Gail



IN THIS ISSUE

- 4** Win 2 x tickets to the fabulous Robin 2 Club in Bilston.
12,22,34,48 It's A Fact!
30 An article about the Pearson family of Brierley Hill who became one of the most wealthy and respected families in Kingswinford.
- 36** Brainteasers
38 One of our highly popular 'Order in Court' accounts
54-55 For our Wordsearch competition this month our very good friends at Prestwood Cave Nursery have very kindly supplied our prize. Two lucky winners will each win a 14" Hanging Basket.
- 56-57** 'The Great DY6 Spring Clean'.
59 Do you remember...a trip down memory lane for some.
64-65 Our Charity Focus this month is The Geoff Hill Trust
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 **FRIDAY, 22nd MAY 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.

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COPY DEADLINE

Please note that the copy deadline for the **JUNE 2026** edition of **VILLAGE VOICE** is

MONDAY, 18th MAY 2026.

Please book your space early to avoid disappointment.

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Courtesy of THE ROBIN in Bilston, we have two tickets up for grabs for one lucky winner. All you have to do to be entered is to send your **NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER** and **EMAIL ADDRESS** to villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk or write to us at The Robin Tickets, Forge House, 50 Redhall Road, Dudley DY3 2NL. The lucky winner will be drawn on **Friday 22nd May 2026 – GOOD LUCK!**

Congratulations to **MIKE BULLOCK** of **KINGSWINFORD** who was the lucky winner of the two tickets on offer in the **APRIL 2026** edition.

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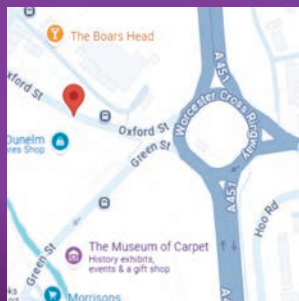
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We have come across another batch of interesting cases that were heard in the magistrates courts at Kingswinford and Wordsley in the 1860s.

The first case dates from 1861 and involved a William Cann of Kinver who was charged by James Mills, the gamekeeper to George Dudley of Compton House, of being on private land in pursuit of game. Cann was seen with three rabbits under his arm but escaped capture at the time. Although he pleaded not guilty, a witness was produced to say that he been offered two rabbits by Cann just hours after the episode.

Cann was found guilty and was sentenced to three months with hard labour after which he had to produce two sureties in the sum of £10 each to ensure that he kept out of trouble for the following 12 months.

The second case relates to a case of “wife abandonment”. David Duckless was brought before the magistrates in Kingswinford in 1862 accused of not supporting his wife who was having to claim from the parish funds. In his defence he said that she was not a good wife - she could not cook, was drunk most of the time and would frequently leave the house and children for days at a time. The magistrate said although he was appalled at her behaviour it was still right that Duckless should support her. However, he did say that for her actions she should be committed to prison for two months, during which time her husband would not have to pay for her.



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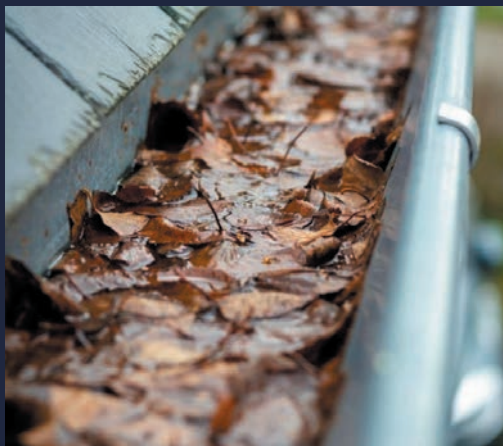
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it's a fact!

★ 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 legend has it that for over 9 months Dudley Castle could not be seen from the bottom of Castle Hill.

★ How many readers remember Holbeach Dairy Farm which stood where the Maidensbridge housing estate now is? It disappeared in 1958.



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THE OTHER QUARRY BANK SCHOOL

We came across an interesting tale of how a couple walking down Quarry Bank High Street were confronted by four Americans asking the way to “John Lennon’s School”.

It seems that the visitors were staying in Birmingham and that a news report about a new award being made in the former Beatle’s name mentioned that he had attended Quarry Bank School. Seeing the area called Quarry Bank on a local map the Americans hotfooted over to Brierley Hill to see the great man’s alma mater. Imagine their disappointment when they found out they were 100 miles out!

Their story, however, set us researching the school in question that shares its name with our local area—and found out it had a truly astounding list of former pupils. As well as John Lennon (who named his first group The Quarrymen after the school) other well known names to have attended include from the world of entertainment comedian Les Dennis, actor Derek Nimmo and scriptwriter Jimmy McGovern, sportsmen Joe Royle and Steve Coppel and from the world of politics William Rogers (one of the original ‘Gang of Four’ who formed the SDP) and Labour’s Peter Shore. Also Brian Barwick, former Chief Executive of the Football Association, was a former pupil. One of Lennon’s school reports was interesting : “Hopeless. Rather a clown in class. Likes wasting other pupils’ time.”!



Quarry Bank School (now Calderstones School) in Liverpool. The school was opened in the former Victorian family home of a wealth timber merchant. It was built in 1867.

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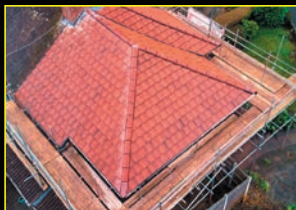


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OLDEST LICENSEE AT HINKSFORD

The Old Bush Inn at Hinksford entered into the record books back in 1910 when John Dutton, the landlord, died. It seems that at the time he was England's oldest licensee at the grand old age of 90.

The pub had originally been called the "*The Cock o' the Hole*" and in the 1874 was owned by William Reynolds.

At the time John Dutton was a wealthy man who had made a fortune in the iron trade and was looking to retire. He saw that the pub was up for sale and decided that he would purchase "*The Cock*" and run a country pub.



Under his ownership the pub acquired something of a reputation. As he was not concerned about the money side of the business he would—on a whim—refuse to serve people that he did not like the look of. He would also refuse to open the pub for days at a time when he was busy doing other things, especially tending his extensive garden. His somewhat eccentric ways, however, rather than putting off customers actually intrigued them and, against the odds, the pub flourished.

After his death in 1910 his son William took over and ran the pub along more conventional lines - William, however, died at the age of just 34 a few years after his father had passed away. The pub was inherited by Ellen Dutton, William's wife, who ran it very successfully until her death in 1936.

For almost five years after Ellen's death the pub lay empty and the building deteriorated until in the early 1940s it had been demolished. A new pub —called "*The Old Bush*" was built on the site but the standard of construction left much to be desired and it almost had to be completely rebuilt again in the 1970s.

Today "The Old Bush" at Hinksford (not to be confused with the pub of the same name at the other end of the road in Swindon) is a popular drinking place with local residents and visitors alike. It also has a large function room that is often used for private parties. In fact it is a very welcoming place -not necessarily like its predecessor "*The Cock o' the Hole*" and its recorded law breaking landlord.

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- ★ **Lenches Bridge**, on the border of Pensnett and Kingswinford, was named after the Lench family, generations of whom were licensees of the nearby 'Talbot' pub in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Initially it was designed to span the Stourbridge Extension Canal.
- ★ December 1847 saw an interesting story in the press concerning a thief that took clothes from a washing line outside the police station in Kingswinford. He was seen by the wife of one of the policemen who raised the alarm. However, the thief—still clutching an armful of clothes—took off closely pursued by two policemen. Unfortunately he was not apprehended!
- ★ **Prince Rainier of Monaco** (who later married the actress Grace Kelly) visited Wollaston when he was a child. The reason for this was that his nanny was the sister of Wollaston's vicar at the time (1929). In later years he described his trip as "*cold, damp and not very pleasant*"!
- ★ For many years the Bell Inn in High Street, Kingswinford was owned by the Wheelwright's Arms Brewery in Netherton. This was started by Samuel Kendrick Houghton in 1873 and then taken over by Joseph Davies who at first rented the brewery and beer house before purchasing it outright in 1888. The enterprise expanded considerably over the years as generation after generation of the Davies family took charge. In 1942, however, the family sold the brewery, its 12 pubs and two off licences to Mitchells & Butlers. As well as the Bell the company owned The Old Swan at Pensnett, The Mount in Wombourne and The Crown in Kinver.



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8 Nov	HUNSTANTON (Thursford Xmas Spectacular optional)	5 days	£675

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We have on occasion mentioned how Wordsley Hospital – then known as Stourbridge Workhouse – was used as a military hospital during both World Wars.

From 1915 until 1920 it was called The First Southern General Hospital and it cared for hundreds of soldiers who needed treatment following the hostilities in France, Germany and Belgium. Many of the patients were suffering from the effects of mustard gas. Although the War itself finished in 1918 it was not until 1920 that the last military personnel was discharged and the hospital could revert to more general duties. A maternity ward was opened and a separate section was created in which mentally disabled young people could be taught work skills.

With the outbreak of the Second World War the hospital was extended with seven new wards being built on what was originally the sports field. Initially these were used to house evacuees from London and Birmingham but, as the flow of casualties increased so the accommodation was given over to wounded soldiers, many of whom were from the American forces.

This influx of Americans –along with silk stockings and chewing gum –certainly enlivened the local social scene and as the soldiers recuperated so the weekly dances at Wombourne, Wordsley and Stourbridge became extremely popular. On a more serious note a more important advantage of the Americans being based at Wordsley was that their surgeons brought with them their expertise in plastic surgery, a technique that was only just beginning to be used in the UK. They trained a number of locally-based surgeons and it was no coincidence that in years Wordsley became a regional centre for plastic surgery.

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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.

We did it!!

In January 2025, at 117kg I decided to set myself a challenge to lose weight so that I could finally take part in the wing walk challenge - I had to be under 90kg to be able to take part.

After months of intense training and dieting, losing over 30kg (5 stones), in January of this year I surpassed my goal (83kg) and decided to book the wing walk but I asked you to nominate a Charity. Hundreds of you commented with incredible causes and I chose two, Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and One Cat at a Time. We wanted to not only raise funds, but awareness for these incredible charities.

Over the past few months I had the pleasure of meeting Susie, Kay and team members for both charities. We organised events at The British Oak, Kingswinford where we raised over £400 collectively which went towards the online total.

Today, I finally completed my final crazy stunt, as I took part in wing walking. The experience was incredible, it was so cool, we were 2000 feet in the air going at 145 mph!!! I even did shadow boxing in the sky in preparation for my boxing match against the Leader of Dudley Council, Cllr Patrick Harley in August... watch out Pat!

Thank you to everyone who has supported us, we have raised over £1700 thus far!! But the charity campaign is not over yet, I will be taking part in a 15,000 feet sky dive on 7th May supporting Midlands Air Ambulance and we will be holding a special presentation evening at the Kingswinford Royal British Legion on Thursday, 14th May. At this event we will present cheques to both charities and will have live music from incredible talents including Rosie Ginifer. I am so grateful for all the support given!

Honouring community champions!

The incredible Suzanne Richardson from The Health Factory, Kingswinford has won this month's TSF Award for Heroes! Congratulations Suzanne and thank you!



Upcoming community events

8th May - Kuppia Club - 9.15am to 11am at Wall Heath Tavern • **10th May - Kingswinford & Wall Heath Litter Pick** - 10am • **14th May - Charity presentation evening** - Kingswinford Royal British Legion 7pm.
• **22nd May - Kuppia Club** - 9.15am to 11am at Wall Heath Tavern • **24th May Kingswinford & Wall Heath Litter Pick** - 10am • **Kingswinford in Bloom** meet every Saturday and Sunday 10am by the library.



Contact me

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HOWZAT—THE START OF BRIERLEY HILL CC

The history of Brierley Hill Cricket Club can be traced back to a meeting at the Alm, a Tavern in Brierley Hill on 14th September 1876 when a group of interested sportsmen met and decided to form a club. A committee was elected with Dr Hyacinth D'Arcy Ellis as Chairman, local solicitor Joseph Higgs as Treasurer and Joseph Carpmail as Secretary. It was agreed that a deputation, led by Dr Ellis, should speak to the Earl of Dudley's agent, William Jeffries, about renting the field at the rear of the Town Hall.

Eventually it was agreed that the Club should have the use of the Labour-in-Vain ground just off Norwood Road. Indeed, the pub after which the ground was named stood just inside the boundary of the pitch. For many years the landlord of the Labour-in-Vain was Fred Moorhouse, a former Warwickshire fast bowler, who became Brierley Hill's number one supporter.

One father-and-son team who played for Brierley Hill was Sidney M. Evans and his son Sidney Harold Evans (later Sir Harold was a reporter for the *County Express* and joined the Civil Service after the War when he was Press Adviser to two prime Ministers, Harold Macmillan and Sir Alec Douglas-Home. In contrast, Sidney Evans Senior spent most of his working life at the Round Oak steelworks. Unfortunately Brierley Hill Cricket Club and the Labour-in-Vain ground are no more.

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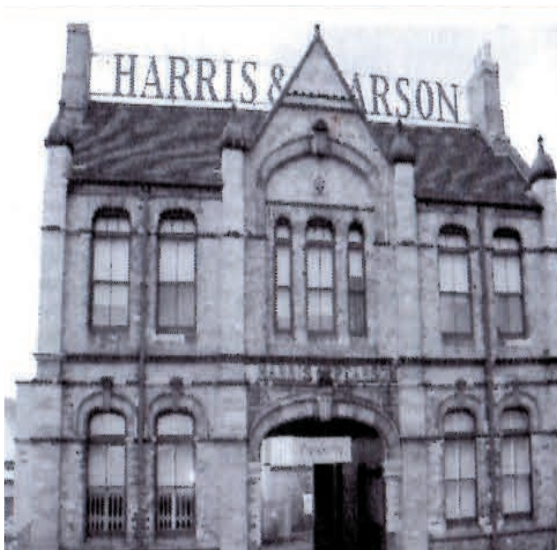
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THE PEARSON HERITAGE

Although originating in Brierley Hil, the Pearson family became one of the wealthiest and most respected families in Kingswinford during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The success of the family began with Joseph Pearson who was born in 1776. He set up a business, Parrish & Pearson, that operated a number of mines (including the Holly Hall pit) in the area. He was keen that his sons should follow him in the mining industry and sent John, William and George to college to study geology and mining.



Initially William joined the family firm before he and John set up on their own account with a company called J & W Pearson Ltd. This proved highly successful and in 1860 they formed a separate company –E J & J Pearson—in the names of their eldest sons. Unfortunately, as so often happens, the youngsters showed no aptitude for the business and soon it was taken back by the fathers—who then sold it to their brother George who had started the very successful Harris & Pearson firebrick company in Bretell Lane.

By this time John and his wife Ann had moved from Brierley Hill to Kingswinford and were in Townsend House on the corner of Market Street and Summer Hill.

Here they stayed until John died In 1878 and his wife shortly afterwards. The house passed not to Edwin (who had failed so miserably with E J & J Pearson) but to his younger brother Alfred. He was a doctor and as well as living in the house he used it as a surgery. He died in 1920 and the house and doctors practice were taken over by Dr Hallright and later by Dr Kenchington before the house was demolished and the Townsend Place shopping precinct was built on the site. One of the legacies that John Pearson left in Kingswinford was the Methodist Church in Moss Grove. He provided the loan to purchase the land for the church – and then when the trustees tried to repay the loan he refused the money, converting it from a loan to an outright gift. The Pearson link with Kingswinford does, of course, continue today. The previous MP for the area –Ian Pearson– is a direct descendent of George Pearson of Harris & Pearson fame.



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Your Local Councillor Update

Dear Residents,

As many of you will know, local elections are approaching, and I wanted to take a moment to speak directly to residents about why I am standing again to represent Kingswinford North and Wall Heath.

Since being elected in 2023, I have worked hard to be a visible, accessible and responsive local councillor. For me, this role has always been about focusing on what matters most to residents: safe streets, reliable local services, and making sure your voice is heard at the council.

Over the past couple of years, I've been proud to play a part in delivering real, tangible results for our community. This includes continuing the fight to protect our Green Belt, securing investment to improve road surfaces and tackle potholes, and supporting measures that help keep our area safe and welcoming for everyone.

I have always believed that local politics should be about getting things done, not pushing national agendas. Whether it is supporting our elderly residents, working to reduce antisocial behaviour, or helping local groups secure funding, my focus remains on delivering practical outcomes that benefit our area.

One of the things I am most proud of is working collaboratively. I am committed to working with any councillor, from any party, if it means delivering for Kingswinford North and Wall Heath. Looking ahead, there is still much more to do. We need to continue investing in our infrastructure, supporting our local high streets, and protecting the character of our villages while planning sensibly for the future.

The upcoming election on Thursday 7th May is an important opportunity to choose who you feel will best represent you locally. I hope that through my work, visibility and commitment, I have earned your continued trust and support.

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you for your time and for the many conversations we have had over the past year.

Mark Webb
Councillor for Kingswinford North & Wall Heath

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TEAM BELOW



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

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

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

it's a fact!

- ★ One of Kingswinford's football teams made history in October 1955 when it became the first ladies team to play under floodlights. The team was the Duckworth Damsels who took on the Hickman Dynamos at the Revo Stadium in Tipton. The Duckworth team all worked for the company of the same name which made cardboard boxes at its factory in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford. The Hickman team came from Brierley Hill and they proved too strong for the Damsels, finishing 3-0 victors. The game was witnessed by a crowd of over 2000 spectators and all proceeds were donated to a fund to provide specially adapted playgrounds for blind children.
- ★ The Wordsley Brewery used to be in Brewery Road (now Brierley Hill Road), Buckpool during its short but illustrious history. It opened in 1896 as the Lion Brewery and got into severe financial difficulties just ten years later—the company was wound up in 1906. The site was cleared and the Olympia Cinema was built and in later time it became a housing estate. During the excavations for the new houses, however, over 100 bottles from the old brewery were found.
- ★ In 1870 there was an unusual fatal accident in Wall Heath along the Mile Flat. William Jones, a waggoner employed by Henry Dallow of Grove Farm near Enville, died when he fell off his wagon and was crushed by its wheels. The inquest into the death heard that there seemed no reason for Jones to have got off the wagon and that it could only be assumed that part of his clothing had caught in the wheels of the wagon and that he had been pulled from his seat and dragged underneath the vehicle. The verdict recorded was of accidental death.



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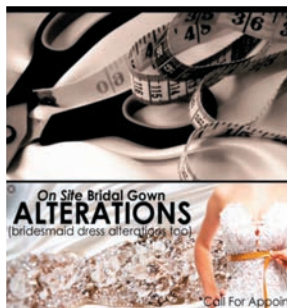
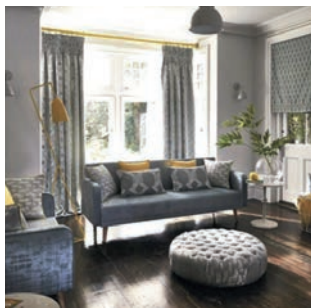
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BRAINTEASERS

We have a variety of puzzles this time, some ridiculously easy and others much more difficult. If you need the answers (and we bet you will!) they can be found on page 68.

1. Our first group of questions are homophones—pairs of words that sound the same such as Head Covering (hair) and Mad in March (hare). See if you can get these:
 - (i) Poverty / Work dough
 - (ii) Mrs Horse / First citizen
 - (iii) European country / Unfed
 - (iv) Wear down / Glass container
 - (v) Poem / Debt
2. Which is correct: Six and seven IS fourteen or six and seven ARE fourteen?
3. If a hen and a half lay an egg and a half in a day and a half, how many eggs would six hens lay at the same rate in six days?
4. This is one of the hardest we have set! A petrol tanker drives at a steady 30mph but the drain plug is incorrectly fitted and it is dripping petrol as it drives along. A carelessly discarded cigarette end ignites the dripping fuel and the flames travel along the road towards the tanker at 25mph. After 26 miles the tanker stops. How long will it be before the flames reach the tanker?
5. A few Rebus puzzles. Just say what you see:
 - A. O-ER-T-O-
 - B. Zain, Yain, Xain, Wain, Vain, Uain, Tain, Sain, Rain, Qain, Oain, Nain, Main, Lain, Kain, Jain, Iain, Hain, Fain, Eain, Dain, Cain, Bain, Aain.
 - C. You are given two dice, what are the odds that when you throw them the total on the two upper faces will be an odd number?

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ORDER IN COURT!



Following the interest in our previous articles about some of the court cases heard locally we have delved into the archives again to find the following details:

One of the most common offences dealt with by the courts was (and still is today) assault. In 1863, for example, Wordsley magistrates heard a particularly nasty case involving a man called Isaiah Brown who assaulted Joseph Crump, a puddler, on his way to work at 5.00am. For no apparent reason as the two men passed each other Brown attacked Crump, knocking him to the ground and whilst he was prostrate kicked him in the head, cutting his eye. As he went on his way Crump then threw stones at another passer-by. The court warned Crump about his future conduct, fined him 50 shillings plus costs or a month's imprisonment in default.

Theft too was often dealt with in the courts although none were quite as unusual as the case in 1857 involving Elisha Thompson, Mary Ann Abbott and Ann Abbott. They were charged with stealing 30lbs of rhubarb from the garden of Thomas Smith in Wordsley. A witness, Eliza Martin, said that she saw the whole episode when she was woken at 2.00am by a noise outside. She said that she saw Thompson pull up the rhubarb and throw it over the wall where the two girls were waiting to collect it. In cross-examination, however, she admitted that she had argued with the Abbotts some days before and it was felt, therefore, that she was an unreliable witness. As a result the case against all three was dismissed.

Later that same year the court was extremely busy hearing a series of cases concerning more than 30 local traders all of whom were found to have deficient weights and measures in their shops. All were accused of providing meat, bread or vegetables that were underweight.

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The main official of the Chase was the Ranger who lived at Mousehall, between the Thorns and Amblecote Road. For many years this was a position held by the Carey family who previously came from Devon.

The Chase at Pensnett was bounded by Kinver Forest (which was owned by the King) and Ashwood Hay.

In May 1912 a meeting was convened by the Kingswinford & Wall Heath Coronation Committee to discuss what to do with £5/10s/3d left over from the coronation celebrations. It was suggested that a fire appliance be purchased but it became clear that this would cost over £100 (including £5-£6 for uniforms). It was therefore decided that a hose cart and associated hoses be purchased and shared between Kingswinford and Wall Heath.

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.



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MYTHS AND LEGENDS

There are many strange myths and legends surrounding the history of the area and here we investigate one of them.

The Kingswinford Cross found in the churchyard of St Mary's Church dates back to the 14th century and it is often suggested that it was originally sited at the main crossroads opposite what is now the Cross Inn and that it was moved to its current position because it was being vandalised in a very unusual way.

It is frequently said that it was being damaged by local farmers and farm-workers who used to sharpen their scythes on it. Certainly there are deep grooves around the base that could be caused by this although it is difficult to see why the farmers would journey to the centre of the village to do this.

Other People suggest that the grooves were caused by soldiers sharpening their swords on the way to battle but again it seems somewhat unlikely that the cross was for this reason. What is known is that when the Cross Inn actually held Court Leets - the manorial courts - the decisions reached were read from the plinth at the bottom of the cross as it stood in the churchyard. This was a symbolic gesture to reinforce the fact that the decisions of the Court Leet also bound the Church authorities (who had a long history of trying to ignore civil laws and proclamations when it suited them). The cross is very similar to that in the churchyard at St Bartholomew's in Lower Penn.

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it's a fact!

- ★ In July 1893 a fete held by the Kingswinford & Wall Heath Conservative Association proved to be a bit of a disaster. The fete was held at *Summerhill*, the residence of Henry Smith and a large crowd were entertained by, amongst others, the Kingswinford Reed & Brass Band and generally a good time was had by all. However, when it came to the speeches at the end of the day the organisers were let down by one speaker after another. The local MP, A. Staveley Hill was unable to attend because he was attending his own retirement dinner in Stafford. Both Sir Alfred Hickman, MP for Wolverhampton and Mr Brooke Robinson, MP for Dudley were detained in London on Parliamentary business and the final guest, Richard Wright (an Irish barrister) was unable to travel to Kingswinford following an injury from a railway accident.
- ★ In 1857 a local Methodist preacher in Kingswinford, Rev Henry Higginson, made something of a name for himself when he used a somewhat underhand trick to drum up a large congregation. He started a rumour that he wanted a rope because he planned to hang himself in the house where he regularly preached. At the appointed time a woman came screaming out of the house and—not surprisingly—locals rushed to see what had occurred. When enough people were inside then the doors would be closed and locked and Rev Higginson (who was known as the 'Roving Ranter') would suddenly appear and start preaching.
- ★ At Kingswinford Police Court in December 1851 John Swift was fined 40 shillings plus costs for an unprovoked attack on another Kingswinford man called Joseph Kirby.

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WINES: SOME OF ENGLAND'S STILL AND SPARKLING FAVOURITES

A review by Trevor Langley

Multi award-winning Denbies Wine Estate (Est. 1986) is located in Surrey. Utilising several grape varieties, Denbies produces both high-quality still and sparkling wines. My votes (Still):



DENBIES FLINT VALLEY (11.5% vol). This dry white wine pleases on the nose with fresh citrus notes that carry through to the flavour. Splendid with poached and smoked salmon.

DENBIES SURREY GOLD (11% vol) is a medium-dry, white wine and is good for the nasal senses, with the fragrant bouquet enticing to the floral/fruit hints for the mouthfeel and the palate's delight. Pairs very well with foods of a spicy nature, including many Asian dishes of cuisine.

If a 'pink' wine is required, I would like to suggest **DENBIES ROSE HILL** (11% vol). Summer fruits come to mind for this easy-drinking delectation, which I found refreshing and great to add colour to a dining table, as well as for al fresco occasions. A fantastic accompaniment to salads and white meats. My votes (Sparkling, aged, bottle-fermented):

DENBIES GREENFIELDS (12% vol). The colour of golden-straw entices to the aroma and the tasting – an excellent example of a sparkling wine. Crisp, rich and with an extended palate.



DENBIES WHITEDOWNS BRUT (12.5% vol) is very popular, satisfying a lot of sparkling preferences and tastes. With fresh, ripe fruits evident for the mouthfeel, I found this production to be crisp and most pleasurable.

DENBIES CUBITT BLANC DE BLANCS (12% vol) is a much sought-after sparkling production from this company, which is only produced in the best of seasons. The quality is very much appreciated by many. The bouquet is pleasant and appealing, then, the taste buds are activated, continuing on, to a grand finish.

For all information about Denbies, including stockists, wine tastings, forthcoming events, Denbies restaurants, hotel, loyalty club, tours, weddings/receptions and a lot more, please make contact and/or visit their website, which I found very interesting.

Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6AA. Tel: 01306 876616. E-mail: info@denbiesvineyard.co.uk Web: www.denbies.co.uk

**COMING UP IN THE
JUNE EDITION:**

WINES: SOME FAVOURITES OF LEBANON



As always,

Enjoy!

Trevor Langley

NEWS FROM BLAZE HAIR

Blaze Hair Salon have been actively involved in fundraising for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity (MAAC) and have been recognised for their community support efforts.

The charity has been operating and funding three air ambulances covering six Midlands counties including

Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and the West Midlands.

MAAC rely heavily on the support and generosity of local people and businesses to maintain its lifesaving service which costs between £13-14 million annually to operate.

Blaze Hair's fundraising efforts have been instrumental in raising funds for the charity with Brett Harris and his team raising in excess of **£18,000** in memory of their much loved and missed friend and colleague Kerry Boucker.

The salon also acts as a "donation Station" for any unwanted pre-loved items which is wonderfully overwhelmed on a daily basis with the support of local people.

On Saturday, 23rd May, as part of their 35th anniversary, MAAC will be joining the Birmingham Pride parade along with all the other emergency service vehicles to celebrate and honour their supporters and fundraisers. Blaze Hair are proud to be Business/Community Ambassadors for MAAC.



Cut and Finish with our graduate stylist **NICOLE**— £25.00 (Tuesday to Friday). Nic comes to Blaze with Level 3 training as standard as well as working alongside Faye, our hair extension specialist, creating your dream hair.

Summer will soon be upon us and here at Blaze we are anticipating the season of Weddings, Parties and Proms.

Please contact the front desk or pop into the salon for further information.

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Our very good friends at Prestwood Cave Nursery have very kindly provided the prize for this month's competition. Our two lucky winners will each win a 14" Hanging Basket.

Will you be a lucky winner?!

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 **PRESTWOOD CAVE NURSERY** on our list. Fifteen of them are hidden in the square (spelt forwards, backwards, up or down or diagonally) whilst one is not there at all – or it may be misspelt! Once you have identified which one is missing just fill in the form below and send it to us. Alternatively send us an email at villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk (remember to include your name, address, postcode, telephone number and email address).

The winners will be the first two correct entries drawn at random after the closing date of **Friday, 22nd May 2026**. Good luck!

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

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3. GIFTS
4. CHARITY
5. PLANT
6. SALES
7. LOCAL
8. PRESTWOOD
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15. SHRUBS
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The Great DY6 Spring Clean 2026



The Great DY6 Spring Clean 2026 enjoyed a good turnout of over 60 volunteers, the youngest being just two years old! On a bitterly cold and blustery day we did a litter pick, swept and weeded Kingswinford and Wall Heath. A much deserved pint (or two) was enjoyed after the pick too! Dudley Council's Streetscene took away our impressive 57 bags of rubbish and arranged road sweeping the week before to help the initiative.

This was a huge community effort involving Kingswinford and Wall Heath Litter Pick Group, Wall Heath in Bloom, Kingswinford in Bloom and members of the public. It followed on from both individual and street wide picks in the previous weeks. Local school children and youth organisations will be continuing the work with their own litter picks over the coming weeks.

Wall Heath in Bloom will be holding another "spring" clean in early July to get the village ready for the RHS Heart of England in Bloom assessors' visit. The team meets every Saturday at 10.00. Kingswinford and Wall Heath Litter Pick Group meets every other Sunday at different DY6 locations. Kingswinford in Bloom meets every Saturday and Sunday at 10.00 and will be working on projects and events together with St Mary's Church.

Follow the groups on Facebook or Instagram to find out how you can get involved.



CHURCH ARCHITECT FROM WALL HEATH



One of the most influential architects in and around Dudley was undoubtedly William Bourne.

Born in Dudley in 1811, after achieving great success as an architect he and his family moved to Dawley House in Wall Heath where he died in 1870.

The first two commissions he received were for the churches of St John's, Kates Hill and St Jame's, Eve Hill which were both consecrated on the same day in 1840.

Although he had only a very limited budget (about £3000 for each church) it was generally accepted that his designs showed considerable flair so much so that a number of other commissions followed. Over the next few years he designed a further four churches in Birmingham, Rowley Regis and Swindon near Wombourne.

He was also credited as being the architect of several schools and houses, including St James' Church of England Infants School which is now at the Black Country Living Museum.

Other major projects that he was involved in included the Blind Asylum which was later to become the Dudley Guest Hospital. Unfortunately the building of his greatest design—the Town Hall in Dudley—had not been completed at the time of his death and he never saw the opening of the building.

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The Polaroid Land Camera was all the rage



back in the day. Of course, instant film cameras are still widely available today—the vintage look and instant physical copy of photos provide a fun, sentimental distinction to digital or phone cameras. Check your cupboards—these can be worth a bit of money now.



Before USB flash drives became the norm we had eight-inch floppy disks which were

introduced back in 1971 by IBM. In the late 70s they were superseded by 5¼ inch disks and then superseded yet again by the 3½ inch format. Now of course they are completely obsolete.

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CRIME WAVE HITS KINGSWINFORD

During the mid 19th century it seems that Kingswinford was hit by something of a crime wave with many cases going before not only local magistrates sitting at Kingswinford (at the Cross Hotel) and Wordsley (at the Public Offices) but also at Stafford Assizes. Here are a just a few of them:

In July 1850 the following cases were heard at Stafford Assizes: **James Lamb**, a carpenter employed by Joseph Monk of Kingswinford was sentenced to four months of obtaining from his employer 12 shillings by deception. He had told Moore that a supplier had been paid more than he had and then pocketed the difference.

Twenty-one year old **Joseph Harrison** was sentenced to seven years transportation for the use of a forged £10 note. It seems that a man, Thoman Bernall, had been to Stour-bridge and bought a pony. On his way home to Himley he met Harrison who offered to buy it from him for £10. The sale was agreed and Harrison handed over the £10 in payment. However, when Bernall presented it to a Dudley shopkeeper it was quickly discovered that it was a forgery. Bernall was initially arrested but when it became clear that he had been duped as well he was released and the police started looking for Harrison, a job made more difficult because he had given a false name and address. Eventually, though he was tracked down to Birmingham, arrested and put before the



Conditions onboard the ships transporting criminals to Australia and Tasmania were horrendous and during the journey 'down under' many criminals died.

court where he was duly sentenced.

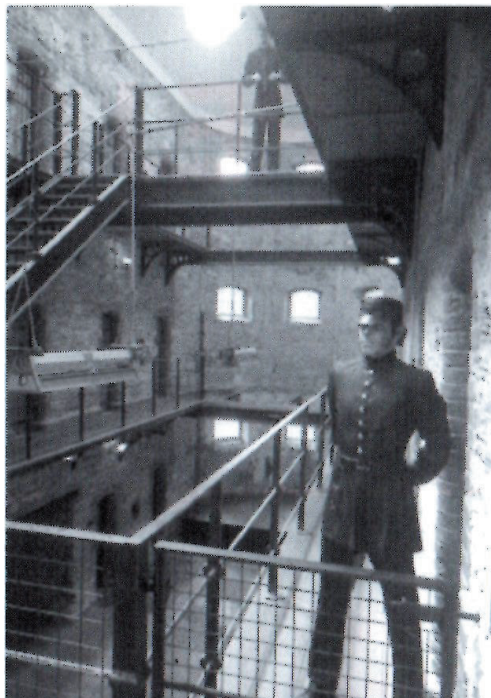


In January, 1853 several crimes in Kingswinford were dealt with by Stafford Assizes including Isaac Millwood who was found guilty of stealing 31/9s/7d from John Gough of Kingswinford and was sentenced to imprisonment for three months; James Fisher was sent to prison for nine months for stealing two tarpaulins belonging to Noah Bate of Kingswinford; **Thomas Thomas** was sentenced to two months imprisonment for obtaining 3s 6d from Jane Bate at Kingswinford with intent to cheat and defraud; imprisonment for one month with hard labour was the punishment for **Susannah Champion** who was found guilty of stealing 30lbs of coal, the property of Lord Ward; and **Samuel Winslow** was committed to prison for nine months with hard labour for stealing £8/10s from George Fothergill of Kingswinford.



The Assizes in March 1857 heard two cases involving crimes in Kingswinford. The first saw John Thompson (53), David Thompson (26), Frederick Higgs (23) and Samuel Walters (30) standing trial accused of breaking into Mouse Hall Farm, Kingswinford which was the home of Dudley Pearson and stealing £172/10s. Pearson had gone to church on the Sunday evening and on returning he found that the house had been entered and money taken from his bedroom. Suspicion quickly fell upon the defendants because they were seen '*flashing the cash*' in a couple of local public houses. When questioned two of the men admitted their (minor) part in the burglary, complaining that they had not been given any of the stolen money and confirming that David Thompson was the ringleader. Three of the men were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment each and the fourth -David Thompson - received a 15 month prison sentence as this was his second offence.

The second case involved 27 year old labourer **John Eades** who was facing charges of stealing a horse collar from John Oakes of Kingswinford, a saddle and reins from William Willis and a horse collar and bridle from Thomas Perkes of Amblecote. Eades had tried to sell the items to a local saddler who became suspicious and informed the police. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment.



Never a particularly nice place in which to be incarcerated, Stafford Prison had a reputation for employing guards who were particularly brutal towards the prisoners.



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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.

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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



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BRAINTEASERS ANSWERS

1. (i) Need and Knead
(ii) Mare and Mayor
(iii) Hungary and Hungry
(iv) File and Phial
(v) Ode and Owed
2. Neither. Six and seven make 13 not 14!
3. 24. It is actually a lot more simple than it at first seems. Each hen lays an egg and a half and therefore each lays four eggs in six days—and six hens would therefore lay 24 eggs in six days.



4. The answer is 10 minutes and 24 seconds—but the explanation would take a page in itself so you'll have to take our word for it!
5. A: Painless operation
B: No pain, no gain
6. The odds are 1 in 2 or 50%. The number showing on the first die is not of consequence. Whether it is even or odd the chance of it being the opposite on the second die (thereby ensuring the total is odd) is still just 1 in 2.

**WATCH OUT FOR MORE
BRAINTEASERS NEXT MONTH**

COMPETITION WINNERS

The answer to our Wordsearch Competition in the **APRIL** edition was **PAINTS** which was misspelt. The two lucky winners who each receive a **£50.00 B&Q GIFT VOUCHER** are:

MRS J. BRITTON of **BILSTON** and
RACHEL JEWELS of **KINVER**

You can find this month's competition on page 54.

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.



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

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OR WHATEVER by John Sparry

“Beware! It’s the ‘AbramMen’”

By 1403—Henry IV had won the Battle of Shrewsbury, although possibly hiding under the refectory table when the log-man came round for his money.—a religious house, St Mary of Bethlehem, founded in Bishopsgate, London, in 1247, had been converted to a home for the insane.

Those inmates considered not too out of order or control—of the ‘Abraham’ Ward—were allowed to go out begging in order to add a little more to their meagre diet.

As always, the rogues, and those known as ‘canting coves’ (whining thieves) thought ‘this could keep us in the manner to which we ought to be accustomed.’ Today, in order to save time they mainly use the phone.



“Ar tell you what, lads, we’ll pretend we’re maniacs—some of us won’t need to do much acting—an’ we’ll go around a-whining’ we’re from Bedlam.” (This was the corrupted pronunciation of Bethlehem, the previously mentioned hospital).

“An’ we’ll be sure to scare ‘em” - to be topical read scam—”an’ they’ll come across with the old spondulicks” (one wonders whether Henry IV was considering joining them).

And so the Abram’men pursued their dreaded vagabondage around England: ‘With a sigh like Tom O’ Bedlam’ wrote Will Shakespear in King Lear. The ‘Sham Abram Coves’ would have ensured that Ann Hathaway kept her cottage door bolts well-oiled.

**Due to my shaky handwriting,
for ‘Rover’ in the April issue
please read ‘Roller’ - the slang
for a Rolls Royce which
Mr Geoff Cookson could not
countenance.**

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!)

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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? Over the course of the next few months we will be providing the names and details of various local speakers. So, if you are a speaker and would like to be included free of charge in this feature, then please email your details together with a current photograph to Gail at villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk

MICHELE BIRCH

Michele offers a varied range of talks. She draws on her own family history by way of using family links and demonstrations of **Japanese gift wrapping techniques**—this is a popular talk towards Christmas time especially.

She also has a great interest in **poppies**—glass fantasy film demonstrations and an involvement in poppy displays. This is a highly popular talk towards November.

Another talk is **the power of colour and their affects on people suffering with mental health issues**. A further talk is **'Food and Your Mood'** which looks at the effect of food on our mood and why it is so important to eat healthily.

As well as being a health and wellbeing tutor for adult education Michele is also a life coach offering talks on positive thinking, resilience, motivation and self-esteem. She also offers the opportunity to tailor her talks to cater for any given audience and is more than happy to talk to organisers about their requirements.

For availability, please contact Michele either by email at:

michelebirch6@gmail.com

or telephone on **0791 853 2284**

BARRY PICKEN

Barry has been giving talks to local clubs and societies for over 20 years and covers a variety of topics currently including:



'Red Flowers and a Bag of Old Bones' - the story of the Poppy and the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

'The Habsbergs, the Hohenzollerns and the Romanovs - from obscurity to oblivion'

'They took their Lifeboat to the top of the mountain' - the Lynmouth Lifeboat January 1899

'Edith Cavell - heroine or spy'

'Railway wagon 132' - who were the three most important people to be carried in a goods wagon

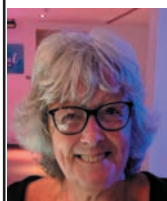
All of the talks are given with a power point presentation

For availability, please talk to Barry either by email at:

bpicken119@aol.com

or

Telephone **07940 743807**



KATE ROUND : Kate has been doing talks to local clubs and societies for over 15 years, on behalf of Dudley Museums Service, and is based at the iconic Red House Glass Cone, the home of Stuart Crystal. Kate talks about the glass industry, the artistry, and legacy of cut-glass, and the lives and skills of the people who made it.

Check out her website <https://kateround.com/>

All of her talks are listed with a description of content and all are presented with slides. For availability, please talk to Kate either by email at:

kateround.round@gmail.com or telephone on **07968 396679**

JOHN HOMER - A BLACK COUNTRY BLOKE!

For many years he 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

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**



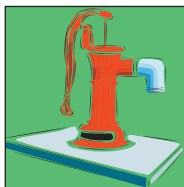
ALAN PEACE: Alan began his working life as a printer but has also been a youth worker and a professional climbing instructor. His high altitude climbing career has sent him around the world to places such as The Alps, Russia, Argentina, Norway, Italy, Morocco, Tanzania and Mongolia. He spent 10 years as a volunteer lorry driver with the German Red Cross delivering humanitarian aid throughout Eastern Europe and for 27 years was the Senior Warden of the Himley Park estate near Dudley. He is an Ambassador and volunteer fundraiser for Cancer Research UK and a local councillor and in his spare time he skips a 70 foot narrowboat running day trips.

Himley Hall—Past, Present and Future—Concentrating mainly upon the social history of the Himley estate and the many notable people who have visited.

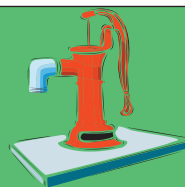
Never Work with Children or Animals (by the man who has done both and survived!) - an anecdotal and light-hearted look at some of the comical situations Alan has found himself in during 40 years of working with both children and animals!

The 1000km Stroll—backpacking the South West Coast Path—Back in May 2021 Alan travelled to Minehead in Somerset to begin backpacking the 1000km long South West Coast Path in aid of Cancer Research.—an eight week expedition and the follow-up expedition the reverse way in 2022.

For a full list of talks and availability please contact Alan on 07791 900445 or email him at alrobpeace@btinternet.com



The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley **PARISH PUMP**



KINGSWINFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Stream Road, Kingswinford DY6 9NP

www.kingswinfordmethodist.co.uk

kmc.enquiries66@gmail.com

Men's group 6th May - 7.00pm - bring and share supper. Why not bring a friend, a game and some food to share?

All Age Worship - 10th May with music from 10.00am and a formal start at 10.30am. We are exploring the Beatitudes this year - why not come along as a family and discover more about what Jesus has to say about what it means to be blessed.

Café Praise 17th May - from 6.00pm with food, worship band and the opportunity to share in conversational worship.

Super Sunday - 31st May - creative church for all the family, come and discover what truly makes a Sunday Super.

Advanced notice 21st June - Kingswinford Methodist Church will be 60 years old on the 18th June. Maybe you were married or baptised during that time, or the place holds special memories for other reasons. Why not come along and join us for this special service, which celebrates the work God has been doing in this place for six decades.

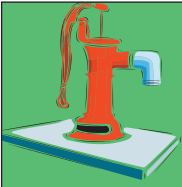
KINGSWINFORD ACTIVE RETIREMENT GROUP

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

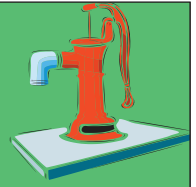
St Mary's Church Hall, The Village, Dudley Road, Kingswinford DY6 8AY
Monday mornings (term time) 10.00am-12.00 noon

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**



WALL HEATH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Envile Road, Wall Heath DY6 0JT

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

COMING UP...

13th May, The Wednesday Club, 2pm. **Alec Powell, "Circus Days"**. Alec will explain how he came to set up a circus whilst 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

21st May, Thursday at 2 Club, 2pm. **Alan Hill, History Talk**. Alan will be giving a talk about **the great clock of Westminster, "Big Ben"**, which is 168 years old this year.

4th June, Thursday at 2 Club, 2pm. **Ian Bott, History Talk**. Ian will be giving a talk about **the life and times of John Wesley (Methodist) and the Industrial Revolution**.

10th June, The Wednesday Club, 2pm. **Andy French, "The life, times and legacy of Billy Butlin"**. From modest beginnings in South Africa to his work as a travelling fairground "Showman" around the UK to the building of the world's first all-inclusive holiday camp in Skegness.



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.

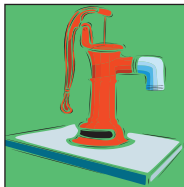
THE NEXT PARISH PUMP WILL
BE IN THE **JUNE 2026**
EDITION AND THE
COPY DEADLINE IS
Monday, 18th May 2026.

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

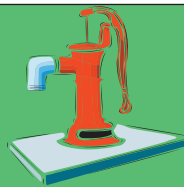
Gail at

villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk



The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

PARISH PUMP



WEDNESDAY SENIORS GROUP 50+

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

20th May: Musical Entertainment. Keith Slater entertains us with a variety of songs and musical instruments.

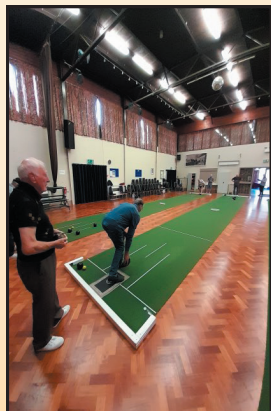
3rd June: The Funny Side of Art Or a Lifetime of Watching Paint Dry. Confessions of professional artist Geoff Tristram, an excellent and well known speaker who gives this highly humorous talk.

17th June: Strawberry Tea (Members Only).

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

MEN'S BOWLS AT WORDSLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

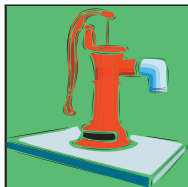
If you have time on a Friday afternoon, why not pop along to see us between 1.00pm and 4.00pm and join this highly popular group for Short Mat Indoor Bowls, Cards and Dominoes.



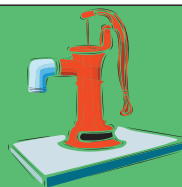
There is always lots of laughter and jollity with this group—it is the perfect way to meet new friends and enjoy a nice cup of tea/coffee and, of course, cakes and biscuits!

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



WALL HEATH FLOWER CLUB

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

DEMONSTRATORS FOR 2026/27

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

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.

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

ACCOUNTANTS Nicholas Barwell & Co TaxAssist Accountants	46 14	FINANCIAL SERVICES JPA Financial Services	31	MEMORIALS Bates Memorials	21
ANIMAL SERVICES Nature's Paws Island Vets	19 58	FOOD OUTLETS Chilled Curry Company	37	MOBILITY Chapter Living Solutions	29
BARBERS PR Barber Shop	42	FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONERS Lynn Harrison, Mobile Foot Health Practitioner	25	MUSIC VENUES The Robin Club, Bilston	4&47
BEER COMPANIES The Jinja Beer Company Ltd	39	FUNERAL SERVICES J.T. Brookes & Co	32	RESTAURANTS /PUBLIC HOUSES The Five Ways Inn	29
BLINDS & AWNINGS Castle Blinds & Awnings	44	FURNITURE Dreamworld Furniture Buy Sofas Direct	IBC 6-7	ROOFERS R&M Complete Roofing Specialists My Clean Gutters Pedmore Roofing Services GMD Roofing & UPVC Shayne Orme Roofing	9 11 17 66-67 34
CAFÉS Village Cafe	20	GARAGE DOORS & SECURITY SHUTTERS Rings Security, Shutters & Gates	16	SKIPS M T Skips	40-41
CAR DETAILING The Best Reflection	25	GARDENING SERVICES Beacon Nurseries & Plant Centre Prestwood Cave Nurseries	36 54-55	SOLICITORS Waldrons Solicitors	23
CAR REPAIRS Chips Away	8	GAS, PLUMBING & HEATING Wheelers Gas, Plumbing & Heating Rightio Plumbing & Heating	12 53	TRAVEL COMPANIES Phillips International Travel	24
CARPETS Trinity Carpets	45	GRAPHIC DESIGNERS Studio 74	49	TREE & LANDSCAPE SERVICES Tree & Landscaping Specialists	10
CARPET CLEANING Zero Dry Time	60-61	HAIR SALONS Blaze Hair Salon	27&51		
CATERERS Mary Herman-Smith	48	HOME CARE SERVICES Bluebird Care Home	69		
CHARITIES Dudley Crossroads	64-65	HOME & GARDEN Decormar	13		
CLUBS & COMMUNITY CENTRES The Robin, Bilston	4&47	HOME CLEANING SERVICES Lisa's Cleaning Services Spotterless Cleaning Services	38 22		
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SALES Euro Van Centre	15	HOME & DÉCOR Total Sewing	35		
COMMUNITY UPDATES Cllr Phil Atkins Mr Shaz Saleem	33 26	JEWELLERS Arthur's Jewellers	36		
DENTAL SERVICES St James Dental and Facial Aesthetics	43	KITCHENS & BATHROOM INTERIORS Shawfit Interiors	59		
DOUBLE GLAZING Cloudy 2 Clear Windows	5	KITCHEN DOORS Dream Doors	OBC		
ELECTRICIANS Wilf's Electrical	38	LOCKS & SAFES Adams Locks & Maintenance Ltd	28		
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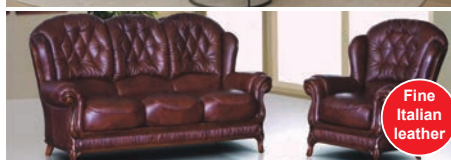
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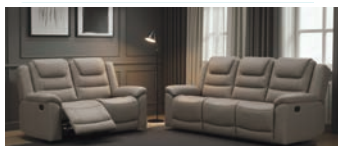


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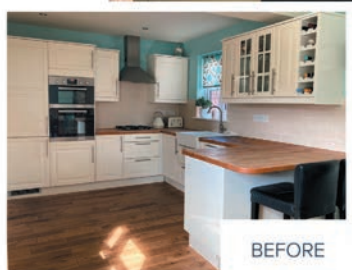
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