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Village Voice

Chris Smith - We Remember!

ISSUE 239 | AUGUST 2026



Community magazine for Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

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Village Voice

Community magazine for
Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

Cover story

Undoubtably, the RNLI is one of the most active services in the country and this is our way of reminding readers that, whilst we may be a long way from the sea, when we go away on holiday we may still require their services. This year the RNLI is celebrating 25 years of lifeguard services and what started as a trial on the south coast of England in 2001 has over the years expanded to over 245 beaches around the UK and Channel Islands. In the words of the RNLI "It doesn't matter who you are, or how you get into trouble, if you need help at sea, RNLI lifeguards and lifeboat volunteers will be there for you". We hope that you enjoy reading this highly informative article.

Gail



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Please note that the closing date for our competition this month is **MONDAY, 24TH AUGUST 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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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 **SEPTEMBER 2026** edition of **VILLAGE VOICE** is **THURSDAY, 20TH AUGUST 2026**.

Please book your space early to avoid disappointment.

WIN
TWO
TICKETS TO



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 **Monday, 24th August 2026 – GOOD LUCK!**

Congratulations to **TINA OHRI** of **WOLVERHAMPTON** who was the lucky winner of the two tickets on offer in the **JULY 2026** edition.

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BRAINTEASERS

This month we have pulled together a real mixed bag of brainteasers—see how you fare.

1. What is this cryptic word:

E H C A

2. Replace the letters in this simple sum with the numbers from 0-9 to complete the correct answer:

HORSE

SADDLE

= GALLOP

3. ABSORB DIVIDE GLITCH
MARGIN RECESS

Which of the following words belong in the list above... and why?

QUIVER SHAKEN SHIVER TINGLE

4. 62 - 63 = 1

Move just one digit to make this sum correct

5. 8 5 4 9 1 7 6 10 3 2

What is special about the sequence of numbers?

6. Forwards I'm heavy but backwards I'm not.
What word am I?

7. Just say what you see:

LM0TAHERW

8. SCORE

SCORE

SCORE

SCORE

Answers, if needed, are on Page 52.

FIVE WAYS INN



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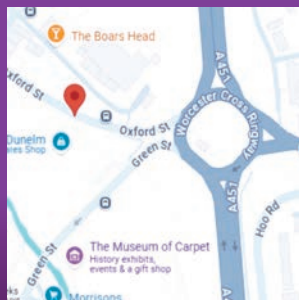
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Your Local Councillors

If you need to report an issue to Dudley Council, the quickest and most effective way is usually through the council's online reporting portal or by calling the customer services team directly on **0300 555 2345**.

Of course, as your local councillors, we are always here to help. If you are struggling to get a response, need support with an ongoing issue, or simply are not sure where to start, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our very best to assist.

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!

★ When the MEB—Midlands Electricity Board—was formed in 1948 it included an existing company known as the Midlands Electric Corporation for Power Distribution Ltd. As well as carrying on the business of generating and distributing electricity, the company had very wide objects including *“the business of iron, brass, metal and other foundries and fitters, mechanical engineers, metal workers, colliery owners, shipowners, ship builders and tramway owners”*. As far as we are aware, however, they never got around to actually building any ships.

★ In February 1914 a very grand wedding took place at St Mary's Church in Kingswinford. The bride was Olga Pietersen, the only daughter of Dr and Mrs Pietersen and the groom was James Mathews, the only son of Mr and Mrs Randle Mathews. Dr Pietersen was the owner of Ashwood House in Kingswinford which was run as a private asylum for those suffering from mental illness whilst the Matthews' lived at Stourton Court near Stourbridge. Randle Mathews ran W.J. Turney & Co who made high quality leather. In addition he was a local magistrate, Chairman of the Management Committee of the Stourbridge Dispensary, Vice Chairman of the Governors of Stourbridge Grammar School, Governor of Kinver Grammar School, President of Stourbridge Amateur Operatic Society, a Town Councillor and Mayor of Stourbridge on two occasions. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. Arthur Streeton, a member of the clergy attached to St Paul's Cathedral in London.





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Chocolate cake



Karen Hayes, formerly of *Occasional Cakes*, has very kindly provided this month's recipe.

INGREDIENTS for a 4-layer cake... simply halve the ingredients if you require a smaller cake – although never reduce the cooking time.

- 600g golden caster sugar (much better for you as the less refined version)
- 200g good quality butter
- 2 heaped teaspoons of baking powder
- 350g self-raising flour (I personally do not sieve because the flour is blended well in the factories)
- 8 tablespoons of milk (full fat if possible)
- 6 free range eggs at room temperature
- 12 tablespoons of boiling water
- 100g cocoa powder (not drinking chocolate)

PREPARATION

Make sure all your ingredients are at room temperature before you start, take them out of the fridge a good hour before.

Set your oven to 150-160 fan or gas mark 4, 180 if no fan oven

Grease and line with baking paper 4 x 7" round tins (I use vegetable oil or lard as butter can sometimes burn in the oven)

(I use solid bottom tins not loose bottom but that is a personal preference as they create a more unified shape and there are no lines where the base comes out.

METHOD

Blend the cocoa powder with the water and allow to cool (this gives a glossy effect on the cake and intensifies the flavour).

Then simply add all the remaining ingredients and mix together with a paddle or "K" beater with your mixer never use whisks as this can over beat the cake making it tough and dense.

Divide the mixture equally between the tins and bake in the oven for approximately 25-40 minutes (depending on your oven). The best test is the smell as it cooks – this will change in time. Press the cake gently in the middle with your finger and if it bounces back it is done – this normally happens around the time the cake comes away from the

edges of the tin. Alternatively, test the cake by inserting a skewer diagonally in the cake and if it comes out clean then it is cooked. If any mixture sticks to the skewer simply leave the cake in the oven checking every 4-5 mins so as not to overcook.

ICING FOR INSIDE AND OUT

I use a simple butter cream:

- 250g butter (room temperature)
- 500g icing sugar

Blend together and add Nutella or similar style spread if you want to add a chocolate flavour.

Fill each layer and sandwich together. You can add fruit in between the layers (such as strawberries) but remember this shortens the time you have to eat it as this can start mould growth. The remaining butter cream can be spread around the outside of the cake as this helps to prevent the cake from drying out and gives added moisture. For decoration simply add your favourite chocolates or sugar flowers which you can make yourself from sugar paste (there are lots of videos on the internet as to how to make sugar bag roses without any tools or equipment).

Now simply enjoy with friends... that's the best part....



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DID YOU KNOW?

In the Oxford Dictionary of Place Names it is suggested that the derivation of Wordsley is Wuluardesley, a 12th century Old English word meaning a woodland clearing owned by a man called Wulfweard.

In 1847 the schools in Kingswinford were inspected...and found to be somewhat lacking. Although their inspector, Rev. Muirhead Mitchell, said that the school buildings were adequate he did say that of 113 pupils examined only 5% were capable of simple arithmetic and none could write.

The first turnpikes on roads in the Black Country were established by the Turnpike Act of 1727.

By 1830 mail from London was taking just 18 hours to reach Kingswinford. The mail coach from London to Birmingham took 14 hours to reach the Swan Hotel in Birmingham. It arrived at 7:30am and all post for Kingswinford was then transferred to the Birmingham-Kidderminster coach which stopped at Dudley and Stourbridge. The mail could then be collected from Dudley or taken to Stourbridge where it could be put on the Worcester to Wolverhampton coach which stopped briefly at Kingswinford.

During the Second World War giant searchlights were installed at key points across the Black Country including Pensnett. It was planned that in the event of enemy aircraft flying-over the area at night then the searchlights would be used to illuminate them.

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THE MANY ADVENTURES OF CHESTER (THE DIVA)!



What is a Dog to do? We have had a message come through from Chester's owner to let us know that he is apparently enjoying life in the sun! He has spent the last month trying to avoid contact with over-zealous fans and being the Diva that he is he thought it best to head to the seaside—and doesn't he look the part! His owner has confirmed that there have been a few instances whereby people have recognised him although why wouldn't they! He has apparently handled himself very well and has remained pleasant and courteous—apart from, that is, a growling session with a feisty Spaniel who only wanted to get close to his rubber ring! As things apparently have got a little tricky for our Diva, he has decided to pack up and move on to pasture's new. Watch this space to find out what disguise the Diva comes up with next!

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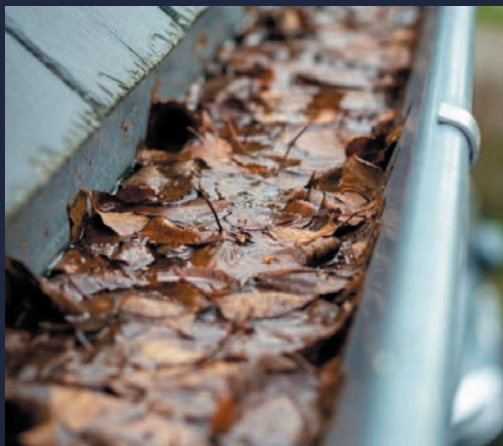
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Our prize this time is hopefully going to spur you all on to catch up with some DIY. With that in mind we are pleased to offer two lucky winners the chance of each winning a £50 gift card for B&Q – this is courtesy of one of our lovely advertisers who is very kindly supporting us with this. Please note that only one entry per person is allowed – multiple entries will not be entered into the draw. Good luck to you all.

All you have to do is search out the square below for the 16 words associated with **B&Q VOUCHERS** 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 **Monday, 24th August 2026**. Good luck!

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it's a fact!

★ In March 1914 Harry Slater (41), an ironworker of Lawnswood Road, Wordsley was charged with assaulting Emily Nicklin (20) of Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford. She said that she was walking home with a friend when Slater passed them. They exchanged "Goodnight" greetings but then Slater asked Nicklin to go with him. She declined saying that he was a married man. He then put his arm around her and tried to kiss her. She managed to get away from him and ran home. PC O'Hara, giving evidence against Slater said that "*a very respectable lady who did not want her name mentioned publicly*" who was living in Barnett Lane, Wordsley had said that she was approached by Slater that same night and that he had struck her on the back. She had retaliated by knocking his hat off. Slater admitted that he had been drunk but said that it was only meant in fun. The magistrates, however, did not find it at all amusing and fined him 40 shillings or a month's hard labour.



★ On 17th January 1912 over 16 inches of snow fell on Dudley in just 24 hours. Someone calculated that over the whole borough that was the equivalent of 10 million tons of snow. This was based on the fact that 16 inches of snow is the equivalent of two inches of rain and that amount of water over an acre weighs approximately 200 tons. With the borough stretching across more than 50,000 acres that makes a total weight of 10 million tons.

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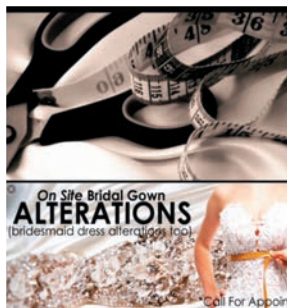
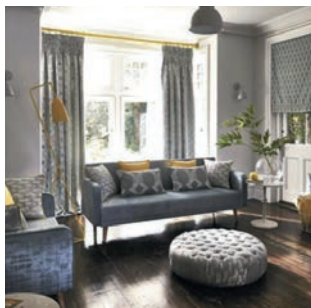
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METHODISTS PROSPER

In the Kingswinford area the first active Methodist Society was launched in 1837 when a Mr Corns became the first local preacher.

Initially the Methodists met at various addresses in the village but the first 'church' was converted from a house owned by Samuel Phipps and was next door to the Bell Inn in High Street. Membership, however, continued to grow and in 1851 it was decided to build their own chapel.

A plot of land in Moss Grove was bought from Edward Addenbrooke of the Manor House, High Street for the princely sum of £119 and construction started the following year. By 1853 the chapel was complete and formally opened. It proved to be a popular move and over the next 50 years the church was extended on several occasions to cater with larger congregations and was fully refurbished in 1903.

A further Methodist church was established in Mount Pleasant and then, when the boiler burst at this second church in 1962 the two congregations combined. A quart would not fit into a pint pot, however, and in 1966 a new—much larger—church was built in Stream Road at a cost of £50,000. The new church has stained glass windows (seen here) based on those in the original Moss Grove building. The Kingswinford Methodist Church is part of the newly established 'Vale Of Stour' circuit of Methodist churches.



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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.

The Big Showdown

We are weeks away from the biggest charity sporting event in the history of Dudley.

In a charity clash set to pack a punch, Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, will step into the ring with myself, Shaz Saleem on 21 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. Tickets are now available from Dudley Borough Halls:

<https://boroughhalls.co.uk/the-big-showdown.html>

Supporting One Community

This month, I donated blood for the 17th time.

A huge thank you to staff of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Blood Donation. They made the experience very easy and stress-free. Donated blood is a lifeline in an emergency and for people who need long-term treatments.

This is why it is so important we do our bit in supporting one another. Become a donor today by contacting 0300 123 23 23.

I also attended incredible events held by our schools – Summerhill School and Link Academy. I was proud to be a judge at the Black Country's Got Talent Final, huge congratulations to Max and Evan for winning.



Upcoming community events

Every Saturday 7pm – listen to the One Community Show on Black Country Xtra ● **14th and 28th August** – **Kuppa Club** – 9.15am to 11am at Wall Heath Tavern ● **9th and 23rd August** – **Kingswinford & Wall Heath Litter Pick** – 10am ● **21st August** – **The Big Showdown Dudley Town Hall** ● **Kingswinford in Bloom** meet every Saturday and Sunday 10am by the library

Contact me

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

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF RNLI LIFEGUARDING

This year the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) is celebrating 25 years of its lifeguard service. Started as a trial on the south coast of England in 2001, the service has expanded to over 245 beaches around the UK and Channel Islands helping keep beachgoers safe as they enjoy the coast. It doesn't matter who you are, or how you get into trouble, if you need help at sea, RNLI lifeguards and lifeboat volunteers and will be there for you. Collectively, RNLI lifeguards and lifeboat crews have saved more than 146,700 lives since the charity was founded in 1824.

LIFEGUARDING

On the beach, every second counts, which is why since 2001 the RNLI has also operated seasonal lifeguard patrols at beaches around the UK and Channel Islands. Over the past 25 years, our lifeguards have carried out over 48 million preventative actions, aided more than 440,000 people and saved over 2,000 lives. To find out more about the 25th anniversary of RNLI lifeguards, visit RNLI.org/Lifeguard25. Last year, 1,608 RNLI lifeguards provided a service on 249 beaches. Highly trained and equipped, RNLI lifeguards spot danger as it develops and respond instantly. They also provide safety advice and a reassuring presence on the beach. Local authorities and beach owners work with the charity contributing to the RNLI's lifeguard service costs. You can use the RNLI website to find your nearest lifeguarded beach close to home or whilst visiting another part of the UK or Channel Islands. To find your nearest lifeguarded beach visit rnli.org/find-my-nearest/lifeguarded-beaches.



This year the RNLI has created a special podcast, *We Are Lifeguards* which is a series that takes a closer look at what it is like to keep people safe at the seaside. Across five episodes, the podcast series explores the different aspects of lifeguarding, from the equipment lifeguards use and the training they do, to how every beach poses its own challenge. You'll hear lifeguards, past and present, talk about their experiences and hear from the people they've rescued. Search for 'We Are Lifeguards' wherever you get your podcasts.

LIFEBOATS

Providing a 24-hour search and rescue service around the UK, Ireland, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, in 2025 alone, RNLI lifeboat crews launched over 9,000 times and saved 272 people. Most RNLI volunteer crew members don't have a nautical background, so they receive world-class training from the charity, which gives them the vital skills to save lives, as well as confidence in each other and their lifesaving equipment.

Crews get the best kit, lifeboats, equipment and facilities the RNLI can provide. The RNLI has 238 RNLI lifeboat stations, 470 lifeboats: 155 all-weather lifeboats, 315 inshore lifeboats and 6 hovercraft. This is what it costs to build a RNLI lifeboat, deliver it, and make it ready for service:

- Shannon class all-weather lifeboat costs £2,781,000
- B class inshore lifeboat costs £322,000
- D class inshore lifeboat costs £101,000.

Each volunteer will also need their specific crew kit to keep them safe whilst carrying out their role effectively. The cost of kitting out an all-weather lifeboat crew member from their layered clothing to their lifejacket, helmet and gloves costs over £2,700 (RRP).

WATER SAFETY

Around 138 people die by accident in UK and Irish coastal waters each year. Men and boys aged 15 and over are most at risk, with activities including boating, walking, paddleboarding, waterside play and swimming accounting for most coastal incidents and deaths.

If you ever see someone in trouble at the coast, call 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard. If you are able to, tell the person to relax and float on their back and throw something buoyant to help them stay afloat. If you ever find yourself in difficulty in the water, remember Float to Live:

- Tilt your head back, with your ears submerged
- Relax and try to breathe normally
- Move your hands and feet to help you stay afloat – it's fine if your legs sink, we all float differently
- When you've gained control of your breathing, shout for help or swim to safety if you can.

INTERNATIONAL WORK

It's not just these shores the RNLI is keeping safe. Globally, around 300,000 people drown every year. The RNLI is helping other lifesaving organisations to tackle drowning in their own countries. The RNLI and its partners are putting lifesaving into the hands of local communities.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE RNLI

There are lots of ways you can support this lifesaving charity and local fundraising branches are always on the lookout for more volunteers. No matter how much time you are able to give, if you think that you can help or you would like to know more, please get in touch with the Brierley Hill and Kingswinford Fundraising Branch by contacting Mr John Pittwood on 07725 174176 or email him at jnp46@live.com

- Give time – see what other volunteering opportunities are available by visiting: rnli.org/support-us/volunteer
- Connect with the charity on social media to be inspired by the latest lifesaving stories by following @RNLI
- Shop with the RNLI where all profits go towards lifesaving work. You can visit the online shop at shop.RNLI.org
- Donate in memory of a loved one adding to the thousands of names that have been added to the letters and numbers that identify Shannon class lifeboats through the Launch a Memory campaign. Visit RNLI.org/LaunchAMemory
- Become a member by giving on a regular basis. Visit RNLI.org/membership
- Make a donation to power the lifesaving work. Visit RNLI.org/donate
- Leave a Gift in your Will – these are for the RNLI's crews' protection at sea, helping to fund crucial training, equipment, kit and more. 6 in 10 lifeboat launches were possible thanks to the generosity of supporters leaving a gift in their Will. Visit RNLI.org/legacy.



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BACK IN THE SWINGING SIXTIES

Recently we came across a 1965 edition of the “Star Achiever”, a newspaper that circulated in the Kingswinford, Wall Heath and Wordsley areas every Friday.

Looking through the advertisements we were amazed at how many were for social activities and entertainment. There was one for the Forum Ballroom in Pensnett (now sadly demolished) where bingo was played every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday with two guaranteed jackpots of £50 each evening. Another venue that has gone was the Robin Hood at Brierley Hill where admission was only 1/- and the resident band on Mondays and Tuesdays was the Jon Dee Trio who were described as “mad as ever”. The ‘Augmented Wall Heath ‘District Choral Society’ was holding a concert of “The Shepherd of Souls” by Thomas Brookfield at the Moss Grove Methodist Church in Kingswinford. Tickets were 2/6 each. Another event was Professional Wrestling which was scheduled to take place on Wall Heath Playing Fields on 26th June 1965. What is equally fascinating are some of the prices. A “Nippy” folding caravan was available from Car Sales (Pensnett) Ltd for the princely sum of £200 whilst Phillips of Market Street, Kingswinford were offering a selection of second-hand cars at prices ranging from £50 to £729. Typical prices included a one year old blue Triumph Herald for £509 and a two year old Morris Minor for just £429. In those days petrol prices were not as daunting as they are today—a gallon (not a litre! of regular cost just 4/9 whilst the best grade was 5/- plus you received 40 Green Shield stamps with every four gallons. **Those were the days!**

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Making Tax Digital for Income Tax – how to make a quarterly update

Making Tax Digital (MTD) for income tax started on 6th April 2026. It will initially apply to sole traders and landlords who reported qualifying income of £50,000 or more in the 2024/25 tax year.

If you fall within the qualifying conditions for MTD for income tax, you must:

- keep digital bookkeeping records
- submit quarterly updates throughout the year to HMRC and
- file your end of year tax return all using your MTD-compliant software

This guide explains what a quarterly update is, what information it should include and how to submit it.

What is an MTD for income tax quarterly update?

An MTD for income tax quarterly update is a summary of income and expenses for your self-employment and property businesses, for the previous three-month period.

A quarterly update is *not* a tax return and no tax becomes payable when you submit it.

Quarterly updates are cumulative within the tax year, meaning each submission replaces the previous one. This allows errors and omissions to be corrected in later quarterly updates or in the end of year tax return.

Who must submit quarterly updates?

MTD for income tax is being introduced in stages, depending on your level of qualifying income in the previous reported tax year:

Tax year used for threshold calculation	Qualifying income threshold	When MTD applies
2024/25	£50,000 or more	6 th April 2026
2025/26	£30,000 or more	6 th April 2027
2026/27	£20,000 or more	6 th April 2028

Qualifying income is income from self-employment and property rental *before* expenses are deducted. The thresholds are based on your total qualifying income as an individual, not per income source. However, each income source requires a separate MTD for income tax quarterly update. For instance, if you rent out four UK properties and have an interior design business, you would need to make a quarterly update for your property income and another for self-employment income.

Limited companies are *not* within the scope of MTD for income tax.



What are the quarterly update deadlines for 2026/27?

The quarterly update deadlines for the 2026/27 tax year are set out below. By default, MTD for income tax uses standard quarters (based on tax months), but you can elect to use calendar quarters if your software provider permits this. The deadlines are the same regardless of which quarter type you use.

Quarter	Standard (default)	Calendar (if elected)	Deadline
Q1	6 th April – 5 th July 2026	1 st April – 30 th June 2026	7 th August 2026
Q2	6 th July – 5 th October 2026	1 st July – 30 th September 2026	7 th November 2026
Q3	6 th October – 5 th January 2027	1 st October – 31 st December 2026	7 th February 2027
Q4	6 th January – 5 th April 2027	1 st January – 31 st March 2027	7 th May 2027

Your end of year tax return for 2026/27 should be submitted by 31st January 2028. All your income sources (including those outside MTD for income tax, such as employment income and savings interest) should be combined for your tax return. Adjustments and allowances are also included at this stage.

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FAMOUS EVENTS IN HISTORY IN AUGUST

1st August 1944: Anne Frank penned her last entry into her diary *"keep on trying to find a way of becoming what I would like to be, and what I could be, if...there weren't any other people living in the world."* Three days later, Anne and her family were arrested and sent to Nazi concentration camps. Anne died at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on 15th March 1945 at the age of 15.

5th August 1583: The first British colony in North America was founded by Sir Humphrey Gilbert, a British navigator and explorer. He sighted the Newfoundland coast and took possession of the area around St. John's Harbour in the name of the Queen. He was later lost at sea in a storm off the Azores on his return trip to England.

9th August 1974: Effective at noon, Richard M. Nixon resigned as president as a result of the Watergate scandal. Nixon had appeared on television the night before and announced his decision to the American people. Facing possible impeachment by Congress, he became the only U.S. President ever to resign.

15th August 1969: Woodstock began in a field near Yasgur's Farm at Bethel, New York. The three-day concert featured 24 rock bands who played to a crowd in excess of 300,000 young people. The event came to symbolise the counter-culture movement of the 1960's.

17th August 1788: After failing more than a dozen times, someone finally did it. Max Anderson, Ben Abruzzo, and Larry Newman drifted across the Atlantic in the helium-filled Double Eagle II. The 3,000-mile journey took six days and ended with a crash landing in France—but they made history midair.

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IT'S ALL IN THE EYES!

When it comes to attractiveness the colour, shape and size of the eyes is a major factor—which probably explains why women in the UK spend in excess of £25 millions a year on cosmetics for their eyes alone. Here are a few facts and figures about the eyes:



Your eyes blink between 17,000 and 27,000 times a day. Each blink lasts around a tenth of a second.



Almost half the brain is associated with the control of the eyes and the processing of the information that they collect.



The human retina comprises some 120 million 'rods' which enable black, white and grey to be distinguished and 8 million colour sensitive 'cones'.



The eye of a human can distinguish as many as 500 different shades of grey.



Under the right conditions the human eye can see the light of a candle at a distance of 14 miles.



Eye makeup has been used by humans since Ancient Egyptian times when a substance called kohl was used to enhance the eyes. This was made up of burnt almonds, copper, ash and ochre and was much used by the likes of Cleopatra.



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THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER
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FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER
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ELO TRIBUTE

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
NORTHERN SOUL TRAIN
NORTHERN SOUL BAND

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
THE QUARKNESS
HAWKWIND TRIBUTE

THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
MARTIN TURNER
FORMER WISHBONE ASH

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER
THE EMINEM SHOW
EMINEM TRIBUTE

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER
BEATLEMANIA
BEATLES TRIBUTE

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER
KING KING

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER
LIVE/WIRE - THE AC/DC SHOW
AC/DC TRIBUTE

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
BIG UP THE 90's
90's PARTY NIGHT

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER
KAST OFF KINKS
THE KINKS TRIBUTE

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER
SLEEP BROKEN
SLEEP TOKEN TRIBUTE

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER
JILTED GENERATION
PRODIGY TRIBUTE

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER
BYOB
SYSTEM OF A DOWN TRIBUTE

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
CD & RECORD FAIR
MORNING EVENT

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
HARVEST
NEIL YOUNG TRIBUTE

**THURSDAY
17TH
SEPTEMBER**



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KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!!

In 1722 a new publication called the *Quarterly Pursuit* was issued to magistrates and police forces throughout the country with details of crimes committed, property stolen and suspects wanted for questioning. Over the next 75 years or so its name was changed several times—including being known as ‘The Hue & Cry’ - before becoming the ‘Police Gazette’ in 1823. There are some fascinating entries for the Kingswinford, Wordsley and Wall Heath area including these here:

In April 1881 there was a notice about a man who had failed to turn up for his court appearance: “*Absconded on 27th ultimo from Wordsley Green, Kingswinford charged with embezzling various items of money:-JOSEPH BRADLEY about 45 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches, light brown hair, long light brown beard and moustache, stoutish build, a little bow-legged, dressed in blue pilot pea jacket, cord trousers, soft billycock hat, strong lace-up boots: has of late been employed as a brewer’s drayman; a native of Kidderminster, at one time in the employment of Mr Bucknall, a brewer of Kidderminster and at one time in the employment of Mr Cooper, a brewer of Dudley. Associated with brewers’ draymen and carters and well known in South Staffordshire. Information to Mr Supt. Woollaston, Brierley Hill or Sargeant Moore, Police Station, Brettell-Lane, Staffordshire who holds a warrant for his apprehension.*”

The following month a notice about stolen goods was published: “*Stolen on 20th instant at Cross-street, Wall Heath, Kingswinford:-a small Gothic Timepiece, does not strike, a blue and white bundle Handkerchief and a blue and white Necktie. Supposed by tramping beggars.*”

Another case of stolen property was also publicised in December of the same year: “*Stolen between 26th and 28th ultimo from the engine-house on the Himley Fire Brick Company at the Oak Farm, Kingswinford:- a large square Brass 15 inches long and a 6 square, with hole 3¼ inches in diameter through it, 90lb weight; a 6-inch brass stop Valve and Seat about 20lb; a 1-inch brass packing Cock 4lb; a steam Whistle 2lb weight; and two journey Brasses 3 inches in diameter 5lb each; Whoever will give such information and evidence as shall lead to the apprehension and conviction of the offenders and shall receive Three Guineas reward from the Kingswinford Association for the Prosecution of Felons.*”

An interesting case was included in the Gazette in June 1876 after a convict had been released from prison: *Description of JAMES ASHCROFT, a convict license holder who left Wordsley, Staffs on the 8th instant, without giving notice to the police: 31 years of age, 5 feet 4 inches high, fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes and has a mark of a cut on the left side of forehead. He was sentenced to 7 years penal servitude at Stafford Quarter Sessions on 17th October 1870 and on his release from prison went to Wolverhampton, the place of his committal. Since he absconded a letter had been received from him by a*

person at Wordsley which bears the Gloucester postmark but it purports to have been written from Liverpool. Information to be given to Superintendent Adams, Brierley Hill." A later press report tells how Ashcroft was detained in Bristol about three weeks after this whilst he was trying to stow away on a ship heading for America.

Wall Heath between 3rd and 8th instant; a bay hack Mare, aged, 14 hands high, white blaze down the face two white hind fetlocks, the property of Thomas Brettle Esq. Dudley. Information to be given at any police station in the County of Stafford."

Finally, there were also notices about individuals who had gone missing and were considered at risk, as this one from 1874: "Missing :- CHARLES ASQUITH of Wordsley. Aged 34, inveterate drunkard who, when in alcohol, believes himself to be Saint Paul. Height 5 feet 9 inches, dark brown hair and long brown beard flecked with grey; last seen wearing long black overcoat and black trousers with stout boots. It is feared some ill has befallen him."



The original Police Gazette in the UK was copied in a number of countries including Australia and the U.S. The American publication, however, was more like a newspaper and included a lot of sports news as well as details of wanted criminals.

Bearing in mind in the UK the Police Gazette was circulated nationally it is somewhat surprising that sometimes stolen items of relatively low value were included in its columns: "Stolen at Camphill, Wordsley between 24th and 26th instant:- a man's dark brown mixture donkey Jacket, pockets on hips and one outside breast pocket, lined with blue striped lining; and a man's black single-breasted diagonal pea Jacket, one outside breast pocket, and two inside skirt pockets, lined with small black striped lining; both part worn."

The stealing of livestock of all descriptions, however was always reported as this report from 1871 shows: "Stolen from a field at

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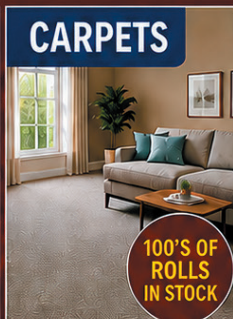
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WINES: SOME 'IRRESISTIBLE' FAVOURITES

A review by Trevor Langley

There are some wine productions that can be classed as irresistible. For this quest I searched for a range of wines and found a most acceptable list, that were indeed, labelled 'Irresistible'. Various types of wines satisfy numerous people, be it a dry white, off-dry production, sweeter delectation or perhaps something sparkling.

EXPLORERS SAUVIGNON BLANC (12% vol), from Marlborough, New Zealand, I found to be dominated, exceptionally well, with the fruity flavours of gooseberries. This dry wine is extremely popular, satisfying many white wine lovers, constantly.

VIOGNIER ST GABRIEL PAYS D'OC (13% vol) hails from France. This dry, fully-flavoured wine production has the pale gold colours and excellent bouquet enticing to the mouth's pleasures. Floral and ripe stone fruits are most evident.

BACCHUS (12% vol), from Kent, England, is a further, very popular dry white wine. I rated this production highly, having overtones of elderflowers and goose-berries. Fresh, and again with an aromatic pleasure for the nasal senses, this wine has countless devotees.

SOLO (12.5% vol). This dry Garnacha pink pleaser comes from Spain. The pale pink colour adds 'interest' to many dining tables. Old bush vines provide the red fruits for this delectation.

EIGHT ACRES (11.5% vol), from Kent, England, is highly-rated by many dry, sparkling rosé, wine lovers. Ripe, juicy red fruits are very noticeable, for the mouthfeel and the palate's delight. Again, this elegant wine adds delicate colour to a lot of dining occasions.

PROSECCO (10.5% vol) is hugely popular around the world. Both the sparkling white and sparkling rosy productions are regularly a feature at celebrations, parties and events. Italy is one of the countries, renowned globally, for wine productions of high-quality and their Prosecco wines are always in demand.

All of these wines can be very much enjoyed on their own, as well as accompanying numerous foods, such as white meats, fish, seafoods, salads and more, admirably.

I located these wines at a Co-op store, all in their 'IRRESISTIBLE' range. I found the Co-op ranges of wines, including a good number of award winners, to be most excellent. Knowledgeable advice is always available, in stores, if required. Take time and pleasure, to find your favourites. Web: www.coop.co.uk



**COMING UP IN THE
SEPTEMBER EDITION:
"Out & About: Lucarelli"**



As always,

Enjoy!

Trevor Langley

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BRAINTEASERS ANSWERS

1. Backache
 2. The values of letters are A=1, D=6, E=5, G=3, H=9, L=4, O=7, P=0, M=8 and S=2
 3. QUIVER—all the words have their first and last letters consecutive in the alphabet.
 4. The answer is easy—but only if you are a mathematical genius! Move the first 6 so that the sum reads:
5. They are arranged alphabetically—Eight, Five, Four, Nine, One, Seven, Six etc.
 6. Ton
 7. Mother-in-law
 8. Four score and ten

$$2^6 - 63 = 1$$

**MORE BRAINTEASERS WILL
BE COMING YOUR WAY IN OUR
SEPTEMBER EDITIONS.**

COMPETITION WINNERS

The answer to our Wordsearch Competition in the **JULY** edition was either **MIDLANDS** or **THROUGH** which was misspelt. The two lucky winners who each receive a **FAMILY PASS** to **THE WEST MIDLAND'S SAFARI PARK** are:

JAMES BICKER of **KINGSWINFORD** and
JESSICA MAY-BLACKHAM of **WOLVERHAMPTON**

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.



Help make the St Chad's Poppy Display...

Calling all knitters and crocheters...

We are planning a POPPY installation at St Chad's Church, Pattingham this November and we will need lots of poppies. If you would like to help, please contact **Tracey** on **07804 039 330**, or email traceyelizabeth.tw@gmail.com. We will supply the wool, a poppy pattern and any helpful guidance.

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*Find
out more*



August can be a difficult time for bees but we can make it easier for them. In August, solitary leafcutter bees may still be nesting and on sunny days they may choose to shelter from the sun in long grass and shady spots. What can you do to help? Why not set up a bee box or nesting tubes to create



homes for nesting solitary bees; allow some areas of your lawn to grow long to offer them shelter from the sun; ensure that you have a range of plants suitable for the bees to enjoy in late summer such as Asters, Heathers and Sedums.

In Britain, 26 species of bees have been recorded but some are now extinct or have a very restricted distribution. At peak strength in summer months a bumblebee nest will have between 50 and 400 worker bees. There are about eight social bumblebee species and four cuckoo species that are common in gardens. In most cases only young fertile female bumblebees (queens) overwinter, unlike honeybees, which overwinter as colonies feeding on honey stores. Thanks to the rich diversity of plants and flowers, gardens are some of the best habitats for pollinators. The best form of encouragement for bees is to provide nectar and pollen-rich flowers throughout the year. That, coupled with suitable nesting sites in your garden is an excellent way in which to provide for bees who play such an important role in our gardens.

it's a fact!

- ★ **In 1968 the windsock used at Halfpenny Green airport was donated to the International Red Cross to be used in Biafra on an emergency airstrip used for aircraft bringing vital aid to the country which had been formed out of part of Nigeria.**
- ★ **In 1923 a Kingswinford woman—Beatrice Anne Laughton – was awarded £15 damages and costs against Albert Edward Kay for breach of promise. When it came to deciding the amount of damages Kay—an ex-soldier who had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Croix de Guerre in the First World War—pleaded poverty in the hope of keeping the damages to a minimum.**
- ★ **Originally Kingswinford had two toll gates—one on Stourbridge Road and the other on Dudley Road. Everyone (excluding churchmen attending services and farmers going to market) had to pay the appropriate toll to use the road. The amount of each toll was based on the type and size of vehicle being used.**
- ★ **In 1916 the children attending St Mary's Sunday School in Kingswinford put on an operetta entitled "Cinderella" for five nights. The performances for the first two nights were in the School room which was not only sold out but many people were turned away at the door. The following day it was repeated at Wordsley Hospital for the injured soldiers who were being cared for there and then the last two performances took place at the One & All Institute in aid of the Adult School fund. Stars of the play were Kathleen Cook as Cinderella, Thomas Turner and William Phillips as the Ugly Sisters Clarinda and Miranda and Gilbert Horton as the Baroness.**

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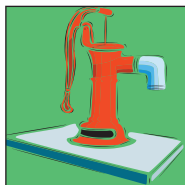
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The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

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WALL HEATH FLOWER CLUB

Wall Heath Community Centre,
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DEMONSTRATORS FOR 2026/27

25th August - SOCIAL

29th September

Claire Bond - *"Autumn Treasures"*

27th October

Elaine Hale—*"Rhythm 'n Roots"*

24th November

Debbie Davies— *"Charismata"*

26th January 2027

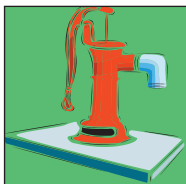
Debbie Wellington—*"For the Love of
Colours"*

23rd February—AGM

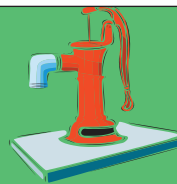
Visitors always welcome to pay at
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The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley **PARISH PUMP**



WALL HEATH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Envile Road, Wall Heath DY6 0JT

Telephone: 01384 273744 :

Email: wallheathcommunityassoc@gmail.com

3rd September, Thursday at 2 Club, 2pm. Brian Dakin aka Billy Spakemon, Billy returns to the club to entertain us with his humorous tales, stories and songs of growing up in the Black Country.

9th September, The Wednesday Club, 2pm. Sue Stevens, contemporary and pop music.

17th September, Thursday at 2 Club, 2pm. John Hutchins, Black Country Historian. John will be giving a talk on the rise and destruction of "The Crooked House" "pub, Himley.

23rd September, The Wednesday Club, 2pm. Deb Jones "A musical journey through Europe". A mainly classical journey featuring Strauss and Mozart in Austria, Vivaldi in Italy and "The Sound of Music". Deb also tells us about those countries.

1st October, Thursday at 2 Club, 2pm. Sophie, "The Travelling Willow Weaver". Sophie will be demonstrating and talking about her skilled craft of working with willow. There will be willow items for sale.

14th October, The Wednesday Club, 2pm. Ian Bott, "A Grave Subject". A macabre and entertaining look at the Black Country way of death.

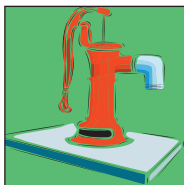
MORE MASCOTS PLEASE is a Community Interest Company (CIC) located in the heart of the West Midlands region. The aim of More Mascots Please (CIC) is to make a difference to the lives of disabled, disadvantaged and life limited children, based in the Black Country and Birmingham areas, who require a little extra support and assistance to get through their everyday lives.



*Founder of More Mascots Please (CIC), Ceri Davies
BEM and Chase look-a-like Mascot.*

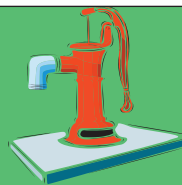
With the help of our magical mascots, More Mascots Please (CIC) intends to facilitate as many events as possible for children and young people. Our role is to fundraise for children's equipment, trips and small gifts. We would love to link up with new sponsors, fundraisers and people who have a passion in organising large events such as parachute jumps and runs. We are also looking for individual children who might need specialised equipment.

If this is of interest to you or you need more guidance please contact Ceri Davies at More Mascots Please (CIC) on 07946 571964 or email her at ceri@moremascotsplease.co.uk or see their website at www.moremascotsplease.co.uk



The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

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19th August: NO MEETING

2nd September—Silversmithing:

Penny Wheat gives a talk on teaching silversmithing for 36 years at Stafford College.

16th September: Act on Energy:

Janet Hailey talks about energy efficiency.

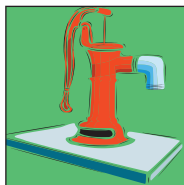
Visitors are most welcome to come along and hear how we organise this very friendly group.

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The Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

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FUN • FRIENDS • TEDDY BEARS • MEMORIES

OR WHATEVER by John Sparry

‘A little tyke from Sheffield’

The fascinating story of how Enid, the future mother of Roy Hattersley, left the marriage for which she was being prepared by Roman Catholic priest, Frederick Hattersley, after he fell deeply in love with her, and how they lived happily ‘ever after’, is a real life account of a situation usually found inside the covers of novels such as ‘The Thorn Birds’.

Roy Hattersley, MP, Member of the House of Lords, writer and journalist—and indefatigable supporter of Sheffield Wednesday, has died, aged 93.

That tingling tale of the romance which led to Roy’s early entry into politics—his mother, Enid, became Lord Mayor of Sheffield, and mentored the development of the Crucible Theatre, now centre for all things snooker—were just some of the Hattersley discourse during, some years ago, his time on stage at Stourbridge Town Hall delivering his contribution to the series of Celebrity Lectures.

My own appreciation of Roy comes not only from some of his excellently written books of essays and memoirs—try ‘A Yorkshire Boyhood’ and ‘Who Goes Home’ - but also that we’re both too late for Christmas being born in different years, but on December 28th. Holy Innocent’s Day! I might add!

I am indebted to my friend, Malcolm Pillar, for the article in The Guardian on Roy Hattersley: apparently when in a department led by Barbara Castle, she called him ‘*an able, tough, unscrupulous little tyke*’.

When he was on the Stourbridge stage, my question to him, having listened to his regular appearances on Radio 4’s ‘News Quiz’ was why had Private Eye’s ex-editor, Richard Ingrams, ceased contributing? (I always chuckled when the Private Eye man surprised himself by announcing in headline form ‘INGRAMS KNOWS ANSWER, SHOCK!’

‘No worries’ said Roy ‘people give it a rest as they please’.

Those years ago it was an entertaining evening with Roy Sidney George Hattersley, ‘Politics is a tough business!’ and when first a Sheffield councillor ‘was younger than some of their dustcarts’.



Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and M.P. for Birmingham Sparkbrook, seen visiting the party conference in Brighton on October 1st 1991

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

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it's a fact!

- ★ There were reports of a hit and run accident published in the local papers in June 1876. It seems that five year old Walter Husselbee of Wordsley suffered a compound fracture of his leg caused when he was playing at the side of the road. He was hit by a passing man on horseback who did not stop nor give assistance to the young boy who had to be admitted to the Guest Hospital in Dudley.
- ★ In July 1907 the monthly meeting of the Kingswinford Rural Council had a considerable amount of business to attend to. First on the agenda was the Medical Officer's report in which it was stated that the Glynne School had to be closed because of an outbreak of measles. Second was the Sanitary Inspector's report in which he requested permission (duly given) to start proceedings against the owners of premises in Cottage Street, Kingswinford who were slaughtering pigs without a licence. The main part of the meeting, however, was taken up by discussions concerning a claim by the local canal company against the council. It appears that the council had constructed a sewage pipe across the canal but it had proved to be faulty and the canal company was obliged to effect considerable repairs to ensure that sewage did not leak into the canal. They therefore were claiming back the cost of this work from the council. After discussing the matter at some length at the meeting the councillors refused to accept responsibility and dismissed the claim despite being told that court action would inevitably follow.
- ★ Number 14 Portway Close in Kingswinford was the 5000th council house to be contracted by the Brierley Hill Urban District Council.

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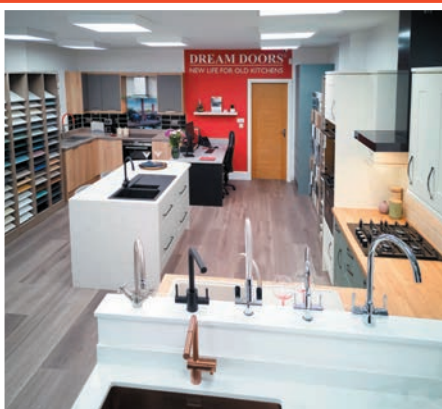
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