

FREE

Village Voice

Chris Smith - We Remember!

ISSUE 227 | AUGUST 2026



Community magazine for Wombourne, Swindon, Penn & Kinver

WOMBOURNE LIQUOR & DRINK



📍 22 Windmill Bank, WV5 9JD

☎ Contact: 07398 172362

🕒 Opening Time: 11am-9pm



- ✓ Huge Selection of Beer, Wine & Spirits
- ✓ Competitive Prices
- ✓ Friendly Service

A Local Convenience Shop with Snacks, Groceries, Essentials & More

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



01384 866688 / 07817 904477



villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk



www.villagevoice-online.co.uk

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

© Village Voice Magazines Ltd 2026



MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION
OF SMALL BUSINESSES

VILLAGE VOICE MAGAZINES LTD
ARE PROUD SPONSORS OF



DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Cover photo © Bigstock

The publishers cannot accept loss, damage or omission caused by error in the printing of any advertisement or editorial. Village Voice Magazines Ltd. does not endorse any advertising material within this publication. Please note that no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system or transmitted in any form without the prior written consent of the publishers.

Village Voice

Community magazine for
Wombourne, Swindon, Penn & Kinver

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



IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 Win 2 x tickets to the fabulous Robin Club in Bilston.
- 6 Brainteasers
- 14,24,48,59 It's A Fact!
- 22 How to care for the bees in your garden.
- 32 For our Wordsearch competition this month, we were asked if we might repeat the 2 x £50 B&Q vouchers. We have a very kind advertiser and reader of Village Voice who was more than happy to oblige.
- 46 Our 'Recipe of the Month' this time comes from Karen Hayes with her delicious recipe for chocolate cake.
- 52-53 RNLI are celebrating their 25th Anniversary.
- 62 Brainteasers Answers and Competition Winners
- 64-67 The Parish Pump: Keep up to date with what is going on in your area.



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.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

AMBULANCE, FIRE OR POLICE 999 OR 112
NON EMERGENCY—POLICE 101

HEALTH

NHS 111
RUSSELLS HALL A & E DEPT 01384 456111

TRAVEL

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT 0871 222 0072
NATIONAL EXPRESS COACHES 0871 781 8181
NATIONAL RAIL LINE 0345 748 4950
TRAVELINE WEST MIDLANDS 0871 200 2233

HELP LINES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 01384 482929
CARE & DISABILITY ADVICE LINE 08080 486 486
CHILDLINE 0800 11 11
SAMARITANS 116 123
STOP SMOKING HELPLINE 0300 123 1044
VICTIM SUPPORT 01384 241511

UTILITIES

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

COUNCIL SERVICES

DUDLEY MBC 0300 555 2345
LIBRARIES - SEDGLEY 01384 812790
GORNAL 01384 812755
COSELEY 01384 812775

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR COPY

Each month over **2,000** copies of this edition of **Village Voice** are delivered throughout **Wombourne, Swindon, Penn and Kinver.**

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“

Ask me about our fantastic Energy Saving Glass.

”



Have Your Windows Steamed Up?

Replace the pane, not the frame!

All glazing backed by our

**25
YEAR
GUARANTEE**

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

Janet Beard



We are a
Checkatrade
Member



Get a **FREE** Quote

Your trusted local expert

cloudy2 CLEAR
WINDOWS

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

Faulty locks, handles or hinges?

Priority freephone

0800 61 21 118

www.cloudy2clear.co.uk

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





Rightio Electricians

01902 489 870



We work in the
West Midlands

Walsall, Wolverhampton,
Birmingham, Dudley,
Coventry
and all surrounding areas.

► **COMPETITIVE RATES** ◀

- ✓ Fast Response
- ✓ All Work Guaranteed
- ✓ Highly Experienced

OUR SERVICES

- ⚡ Full / Part Rewires
- ⚡ Sockets & Lighting
- ⚡ Fuse Board Changes
- ⚡ Showers Installed
- ⚡ Inspection & Testing
- ⚡ Fully Qualified Electrician
- ⚡ Landlord safety Certs. EICR

► **12 Month** ◀
guarantee
on labour!

► **OAP** ◀
Discount
Available upon
request at time
of booking
Subject to Eligibility

► **Same-Day** ◀
Emergency
Response
Subject to
engineer
availability



Nationwide Coverage • Local Engineers • Trusted Across the UK

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

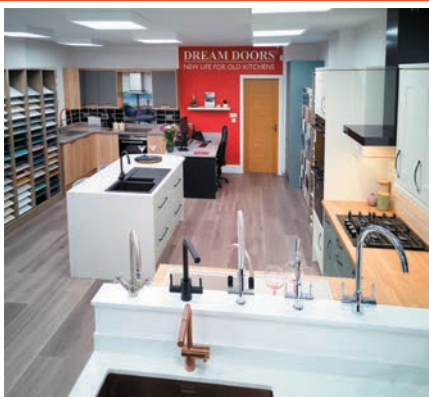
Answers, if needed, are on Page 62.

THE UK'S #1 KITCHEN MAKEOVER COMPANY

Find Your Perfect Fit *in our showroom*

Up to 50% less

than a new fitted kitchen
by simply replacing
the doors and worktops



01384 956119 | 01562 541208

dreamdoors.co.uk | dudley@dreamdoors.co.uk | 86 Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, DY8 5NA

BUY FLOORS DIRECT

FREE UNDERLAY ON ALL CARPETS OVER £17.99 SQ/MT



The Amy

Amy

3+2 **£1,499**

3+1+1 **£1,699**

**GET AN
EXTRA
10% OFF
INSTORE
WITH THIS
VOUCHER**



Stratus

3+2 **£1,199**

3+1+1 **£1,499**



Emily

3+2 **£1,499**

3+1+1 **£1,699**

www.buysofasdirect.co.uk

BUY SOFAS DIRECT



All Sofas Handmade in the Black Country



Luxury Carpets
for any room
from £11.99sq/mt

FREE UNDERLAY ON
ALL CARPETS OVER
£17.99sq/mt



12mm Laminate
flooring from
£39.99 per pack

LVT Plank or
Herringbone flooring
from £32.99sq/mt

FANTASTIC OFFERS ON SOFAS, BEDS, LIVING AND DINING FURNITURE AND CARPETS

Large showroom | Free car parking | Established 1985

BUY SOFAS KIDDERMINSTER NOW OPEN

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

Merry Hill Opening hours

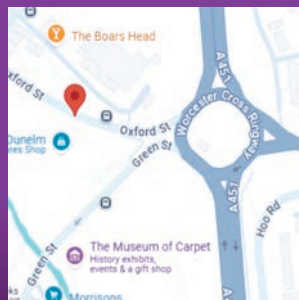
Monday – Saturday 9am-6pm | Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm



Merry Hill: Pedmore Road,
Brierley Hill, DY51 1P



Rowley Regis: 1 Marlow Street,
Rowley Regis B65 0AY



www.buysofasdirect.co.uk



Spotterless Cleaning Services

Tel: Suzanne - 07975 954435

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



SPOTTERLESS
07975 954435



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

ACCIDENT-PRONE CLAVERLEY!

If you lived in the mid 19th century and were accident-prone then Claverley probably was not the best place to live if reports in the local paper were to go by...

November 1861 saw **Thomas Tasker**, a worker in the employ of Mr Cooper of Hilton, badly injured when he was helping move a steam threshing machine. He stumbled and fell underneath its wheels and the engine passed over his body severely injuring him.

Then on Thursday, 24th August 1866 there was not one but two accidents. Firstly **William Downes**, the bailiff to Thomas Wilson of Farmcote near Claverley was badly injured when showing a young apprentice how to use a horse rake. During the demonstration the horse reared up and Downes was thrown to the ground breaking his shoulder. Later that same day an even more serious accident occurred when a **Mr Jones** fell from a hayrick just outside Claverley. He was killed instantly.

Accidents in the home were equally prevalent. In March 1867 the four year old son of **Thomas Sariben**, the local postman, suffered very bad burns on his legs, arms and body when he fell into the fire alight in his house. Similarly Tuesday, 20th April 1869 was another bad day—the young daughter of **Edward Shenton** of Grippes Green near Claverley slipped and broke her leg whilst out playing with friends. This was followed on the same day when a man called **Adams** (an employee of Mr Bowen of Chesterton) was thrown from his wagon, breaking both his legs and causing other injuries. Finally, in October 1871 another wagon driver (called **James Davies**) who was employed by John Wilson of Claverley was returning from Wolverhampton with a load of iron fences when he fell off the wagon and fell under its wheels. He was seriously hurt suffering several injuries although he did eventually make a full recovery.



NBB Waldrons
Solicitors

Trusted Legal Expertise Since 1867

Moving Home With Confidence

Making your property move as straightforward and stress-free as possible.



Speak To Our Kingswinford Team Today

01384 888 771 | lawyers@nbbwaldrons.co.uk
nbbwaldrons.co.uk

Office Locations

Birmingham | Cheltenham | Dudley | Kingswinford | London | Merry Hill | Walsall | Worcester

NBB Waldrons is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority [SRA No. 561439].



TREE & LANDSCAPES *Specialists*

*We are a trusted professional company with a great reputation to uphold
Over 20 years experience • No job too big or too small*



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

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

Contact us today on **01384 848344**
E: info@treeandlandscapespecialist.co.uk
www.treeandlandscapespecialist.co.uk



My Clean Gutters

100%
SATISFACTION



GUTTERING
FROM
£39

ALL ASPECTS OF ROOFING WORKS UNDERTAKEN



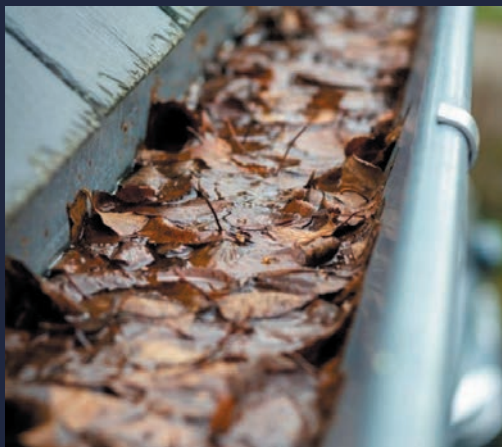
Freephone: **0800 0463373**

Birmingham: **0121 652 0374**

Mobile: **07376 915 527**



My Clean Gutters



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

DAY TOURS

Sun 30 Aug Gloucester & Forest of Dean £24
Sat 5 Sept Mystery Tour £25
Sat 12 Sept Bradford-On-Avon & Frome £26
Sun 20 Sept Ely & Cambridge £27
Sat 26 Sept Selby & Doncaster £26

Sat 3 Oct Blackburn & Preston £27
Sun 11 Oct Clifton & Weston £25
Sun 18 Oct Nottingham & Sherwood Forest £25
Sat 24 Oct Peak Autumn at Westonbirt £45
Sun 1 Nov Llangollen & The Horseshoe Pass £25



YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RUN COMPANY

PICKING UP THROUGHOUT

WOLLASTON, WORDSLEY, WALL HEATH
KINGSWINFORD

PLUS Wombourne & Kinver for Holidays

QUALITY HOLIDAYS 2026

21 Sept	GRANGE-OVER-SANDS & LAKE LAND	5 days	£655
5 Oct	DUNSTER & EXMOOR	5 days	£660
19 Oct	SUFFOLK COAST & CONSTABLE COUNTRY	5 days	£620
8 Nov	HUNSTANTON (Thursford Xmas Spectacular optional)	5 days	£675
29 Nov	ADVENT at SALISBURY CATHEDRAL	2 days	£200
7 Dec	LOOE & FESTIVE CORNWALL	5 days	£500
27 Dec	TWIXMAS in BOURNEMOUTH	4 days	£430
29 Jan	WINTER WARMER in TORQUAY	4 days	£385
7 Feb	OVERNIGHT in BATH	2 days	£215
15 Feb	WEYMOUTH & DELIGHTFUL DORSET	5 days	£460
7 Mar	FRENCH FANCIES & VERSAILLES	5 days	£960

Price includes dinner, bed & breakfast and excursions.

it's a fact!

- ★ Local residents were asked to look out for a stolen cart in 1876 after a burglary at the Seven Stars Inn in Seisdon. The cart, the property of George Caswell, was taken from an open shed at the pub and was described as *"a dog cart, dark plum colour picked out with red stripes, plates of perforated zinc painted white on sides and back, wreaths and turned pegs on body, oil cloth on bottom with maroon spots, straight ash shafts plated underneath with bevelled tire, iron inch and a half in width."*
- ★ Throughout the first English Civil War which raged from 1642 until 1646, each area was expected to give a weekly amount towards the expenses incurred by the King's army. In December 1644, for example, the amounts demanded were: Wolverhampton £7/14s, Pattingham £4, Upper and Lower Penn together £4/6s/8d, Sedgley £6/10s, Wombourne £3/9s/10d and Trysull & Seisdon £4/13s/4d.
- ★ In 1917 a Mr Starling, an ex-police sergeant and tenant of the Red Lion Inn in Bobbington appeared in court for the non-payment of his water rates levied by Seisdon RDC. He argued that he had a well in his garden capable of supplying the whole village with sweet pure water and that he had no need of the water from the Council. On that basis he refused to pay. The court decided, however, that whilst they had some sympathy for his stance he did indeed have to make the required payment. They did not impose any fine or costs. Starling had the final laugh, though, as the council's supply for the village failed the following year and he was able to charge them for allowing them to use his well to provide water to the village for two months!

THE RED LION

— WOMBOURNE —

OPEN ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!

Have you seen our newly refurbished
“Garden Terrace”, available every day.



Contact: WhatsApp 07974303052 or 01902892270,
for bookings and enquiries.



**NEW
WEBSITE
COMING
SOON**



Maddie Moo's

Cards, Gifts & Occasion Partyware



Welcome to Maddie Moo's

We offer an extensive range of high end cards, gifts, bags, chocolates and balloons all at a reasonable prices. See also our new range of Elegant Bags and Accessories from Alice Wheeler.

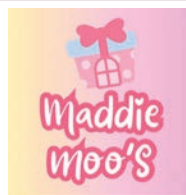


24 Windmill Bank, Wombourne WV5 9JD

Open Monday-Tuesday – 9.30am-5.00pm

Wednesday-Saturday – 9.00am-5.00pm

Why not pop in to see us or see us on 



WOMBOURNE DIY



— YOUR LOCAL — HARDWARE STORE

Welcome to Wombourne DIY where we offer all your essentials for those projects you have in mind. Ranging from painting, gardening, tools and even cleaning products.

Why not pop in store or find us on Facebook or tiktok.



Open Monday to Saturday 09:00–17:00; Sunday 10:00–15:00
22 Station Road, Wombourne, Wolverhampton WV5 9EL

GARAGE DOORS ROLLER SHUTTERS TRELLIS GATES

Rings Security Shutters & Gates Limited

Why Choose Rings Security Shutters and Gates Ltd?

- Full Range of Products
- Aesthetically Pleasing, Mechanically Efficient
- Fully Trained Staff
- Adding Protection and Value
- Compliant to industry Standards
- Colours, Sizes and Operation Flexible to Customer



**Nationwide
Emergency Cover**
24 Hours
365 Days a year



Call us for a free quotation 01384 394600
www.ringssecurityshutters.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

The boggy marshland at Himley Plantation was once used to cultivate reeds that were used for thatching barns and farm buildings (it was not of sufficient quality to be used on houses).

The Quarter Sessions held at Stafford in October 1592 included a charge against Henry Mitchell of Wombourne "for not using Archery according to the Statute presented by Robert Foden, Constable of Wombourne". Unfortunately the records do not show whether or not he was found guilty or what the punishment (if any) was.

When Dudley Priory was closed down in 1536 (as part of the reformation of the monasteries by Henry VIII) its annual income was put as £36/8s/ 0d. Almost a third of this income came from land and tithe holdings in Wombourne and Trysull.

In 1847 a rabbit catcher was employed at Himley Hall at a cost of £14 shillings a week and a rat catcher was 12 shillings a week. Thirty eight Wombourne men died in the First World War and a further 18 were killed in the Second World War.

In 1947 Himley Hall and 200 acres of the estate were sold to the National Coal Board for £45,000.

In 1477 it was recorded that a "lease for life by Henry Paskyn of Duddeley and Joan his wife to Roger Page of Duddeley and Joan his wife...a tenement in Wombourn...at the rent of two red roses at Midsummer" was signed between the parties above, witnessed by Roger and William Wodehouse and John Walker.

The Orton Hills are a series of hills, each with their own name. There are amongst others: Reed Hill, Round Hill, Cane Hill, Ladywell Hill, Hall Hill, Church Hill and Pickerills Hill.



SoleWise

CLINIC

51 Planks Lane
Wombourne
WV5 8DX

Home visits available

-  **Qualified BSc Podiatrist**
-  **HCPC registered**
-  **DBS checked & insured**

FOR ALL YOUR FOOT RELATED ISSUES

- ★ Diabetic foot health checks
- ★ Verruca treatments
- ★ Ingrowing nails
- ★ Nail Surgery
- ★ Fungal Nails & skin
- ★ MSK biomechanics
- ★ Accupuncture for podiatric conditions
- ★ Routine podiatry; nail cutting, thinning, hard skin removal, corn removal
- ★ Offloading high pressure areas
- ★ Deluxe pedicures

RETURN ROUTINE PODIATRY £40

Did you know you can claim podiatry on your health care insurance?

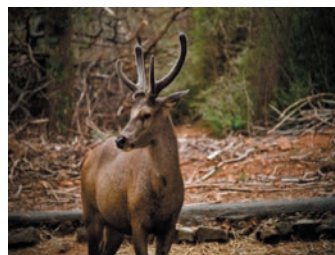
Accepting health care insurance plans here at solewise clinic.



Bookings by appointment only on 07359 861 455
Or alternatively visit www.solewiseclinic.co.uk

CONSERVATION LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

It is known that in 1168 the Royal Forest of Kinfayre (Kinver) covered many thousands of acres of what is now Staffordshire, the West Midlands and Worcestershire. It stretched from Seisdon and Trysull into Tettenhall, across Penn, Wombourne and Himley into Kingswinford, Amblecote, Wollaston and Pedmore and then across to Chaddesley Corbett, part of Kidderminster, Enville and Bobbington.



It was a Royal hunting ground and was visited by various kings including William II, Henry II and King John. As well as sport (hunting), the forest was an important food source and in 1256 Henry II ordered 40 stags and 15 bucks to be killed, salted and sent to London for him. The timber within the forest was not only for fuel and important building materials but also as gifts, especially to the local churches. In 1234, for example, the Vicar of Wombourne was given *"ten trees for making beams for his church which had lately suffered a fire"*. However there was no planned re-planting and with an increasing number of trees being destroyed (James I sold 1500 in 1609 alone) there was little cover for the wild animals and soon the deer in particular had all disappeared. Indeed, by 1647 there was virtually no forest left and much of the land had either been abandoned or given over to agricultural use.

✓ BUMPER SCUFFS



✓ PAINTWORK SCRATCHES



✓ KERBED ALLOYS



✓ MINOR DENTS



ChipsAway

Scratches and scuffs won't dent your pocket

Save up to **50% on conventional**
body shop repair costs -
call us now to discover how
much you could save!

For a **free estimate** call **Paul Mansell**

0800 028 7878

07964 688614

paul.mansell@chipsaway.co.uk

www.chipsaway.co.uk/paulmansell

ChipsAway repairs are:

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

MAMMOTH MATTRESS EXTRAVAGANZA



- ◇ HUNDREDS OF MATTRESSES
- ◇ FULL RANGE OF SIZES
- ◇ WE DELIVER FREE OF CHARGE
- ◇ WE EVEN TAKE AWAY YOUR OLD MATTRESS FREE OF CHARGE
- ◇ ODD BEDS & MATTRESSES TO CLEAR FROM JUST £69

**CALL IN TODAY TO SEE OUR RANGE
BUT HURRY - IT WON'T LAST FOREVER!**

**COME AND SEE OUR SHOWROOM FILLED WITH HUNDREDS
OF BEDS, MATTRESSES, THREE PIECE SUITES, CHAIRS,
CARPETS, DINING AND BEDROOM FURNITURE**

**Dreamworld
Furniture**



VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

8 STALLINGS LANE, KINGSWINFORD DY6 7HU

TEL: 01384 295660

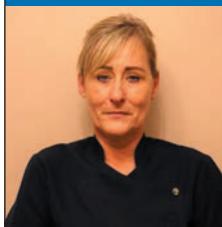


IF YOU CAN'T GET TO US WE CAN COME TO YOU

www.dreamworld.furniture



Foot Health Care



Lisa Culbard DIP CFHP VRFHP

**Fully Qualified and Insured
Foot Health Practitioner**

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



Treatment carried out in the comfort of your own home.

Home visits £30 no hidden costs.

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

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

For appointments call Lisa on 07989 410801 L.Culbard@sky.com

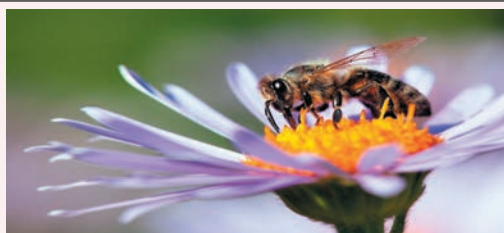
August can be a difficult time for bees but we can make it easier for them.

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.



SCARECROW WEEKEND

— IN —
KINVER VILLAGE

SATURDAY 5TH
— AND —
SUNDAY 6TH
SEPTEMBER

9.30 TILL 5

TRAIL MAPS £1

FROM
POTTERS CROSS POST OFFICE

COUNTRY KATE

OLDE HOUSE SWEET SHOP

AND THE BUS SHELTER

BOTH DAYS

FUN FOR
ALL THE
FAMILY! ❤️

FOLLOW THE TRAIL
DISCOVER THE SCARECROWS
AROUND THE VILLAGE! ❤️

♥️ COME ALONG AND ENJOY
THIS FANTASTIC VILLAGE EVENT! ♥️



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK
KINVER

SPONSORED BY
CANCER RESEARCH KINVER
— AND —
ENVILLE FUNDRAISING GROUP





Wheeler's

Gas, Plumbing & Heating Ltd

Experienced and reliable Gas, Plumbing and Heating services working in the Black Country and surrounding areas

**5% discount
for OAP's
No call out fee**

Proud members of

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE 07377 453081

it's a fact!

- ★ At the beginning of the 20th century the village of Kinver had neither a safe water supply nor an adequate sewage system—and yet the incidence of infectious diseases was much lower than other areas where the sanitary conditions were better. Indeed, in 1908 the overall death rate in Kinver was just 12.3 per 1000 population against 13.2 per 1000 throughout the whole Seisdon district.
- ★ In February 1948 the Staffordshire Mental Hospital Board proposed that a new hospital with accommodation for 1,500 mental health patients should be built in Seisdon. The plan, however, was dropped when it became clear that the necessary budget was not available.
- ★ In the 1950s local people rarely took holidays abroad – the furthest that most would venture was the Channel Islands. In Wombourne they would often use the Don Everall Aviation service that initially ran from Wolverhampton's Pendeford Airport using Dragon Rapide aircraft. Later services also ran from Staverton near Cheltenham and Birmingham's Elmdon Airport. The company also ran a series of travel agencies called Don Everall Transglobe.
- ★ In 1844 the Stewponey Agricultural Society held its very popular annual turnip hoeing competition. This involved the nine competitors hoeing a quarter of an acre of turnips in the shortest time. The winner was John Timmings who worked for John Hill of Wombourne who completed the task in 1 hour 50 minutes. Second was William Crook who took just two minutes longer. He worked for Captain Dickins of Woodford Grange and was just 13 years of age.

FIVE WAYS INN



LOYALTY CARD

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

BathamS
PRIZEWINNING ALES

LIVE SPORT

sky sports

TNT SPORTS

BathamS
PRIZEWINNING ALES

LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT EVERY WEEK

375 Himley Road, Gornal DY3 2PZ ☎ 01384 252968



Rightio Drainage Experts

01902 489 873



We work in the
West Midlands

Walsall, Wolverhampton,
Birmingham, Dudley,
Coventry

and all surrounding areas.

COMPETITIVE RATES

- ✓ Fast Response
- ✓ All Work Guaranteed
- ✓ Flexible Appointment Times

OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Blocked Drains
- ✓ Blocked Toilets
- ✓ Blocked Sinks
- ✓ Blocked Showers
- ✓ Blocked Baths
- ✓ Kitchen Waste Pipes
- ✓ Appliance Blockages
- ✓ Drain Repairs
- ✓ Drain Replacement
- ✓ CCTV Survey
- ✓ Saniflows

Labour Guaranteed

Backed by
Rightio

Subject to Terms & Conditions

OAP Discount

Available upon
request at time
of booking

Subject to Eligibility

Same-Day Emergency Response

Subject to
engineer
availability

Accredited by:



Nationwide Coverage • Local Engineers • Trusted Across the UK

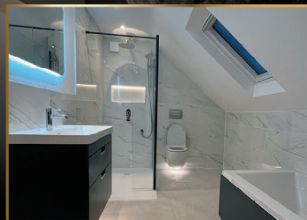
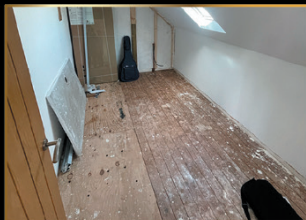


ROUND OAK INTERIORS

YOUR DESIGN YOUR WAY

Round Oak Interiors is a family run, independent business with over 20 years experience. We pride ourselves on being able to provide a fully personalised and expert service which is unrivalled by larger retailers.

We specialise in kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and other living spaces with an expert installation team that can cover any project big or small.



WHY CHOOSE ROUND OAK INTERIORS?

- Free design consultation & planning service with lifelike visuals.
- Stress-free project management for projects large or small
- High-quality products at competitive prices
- Age Friendly registered business & trusted advisor
- Accessibility & disability adaptation specialists
- Truly personal service from start to finish



Bathrooms



Bedrooms



Kitchens

visit roundoakinteriors.co.uk
email roundoakinteriors@gmail.com



Call us today
01384 837527



Round Oak Interiors



Visit our Showroom
141 Dudley Rd, Brierley Hill, DY5 1HG

gornal accounting

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

richard hall house, bridgnorth road,
wombourne, west midlands wv5 0af
tel: 01384 233221

email: admin@gornalaccounting.co.uk

Arthur's Jewellery and watches

Hand Made Gold
& Silver Jewellery

REPAIRS, RE-MOUNTS &
PRIVATE COMMISSIONS

ARTHUR ALSO BUYS GOLD

**FINE WATCHES
BOUGHT & SOLD**
including Rolex, Omega,
Breitling, Cartier

The Craft Centre, Halfpenny Green Vineyard,
Tom Lane, Bobbington DY7 5EP

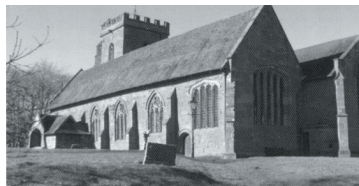
01384 221567

07856 898558

FURY AS CHURCH CALL FOR FUNDS

There was a great outcry amongst landowners in Kinver in 1939 when it was suggested that under an Act of Parliament passed in the reign of Henry VIII they were liable for the upkeep of the parish church (which at that time was in a very poor state of repair).

The details were unearthed by the Vicar of Kinver, the Rev. J.A. Mercer, who found that prior to the 14th century, much of the land around Kinver was owned by monasteries and that an annual tithe was due from them. When the King dissolved the monasteries he then sold the rights to the tithes to the Whorwood family. In return the family were made responsible for the provision of (and to pay for) a parish priest and also the upkeep of the church itself. Over the years the Whorwoods sold off much of their land and other families took responsibility of the church's upkeep. By 1741 the three main families involved were the Foley's, Caswells and Hurtles. As time went on, however, the land was further divided into smaller parts and the number of landowners increased. Having uncovered this the Rev. Mercer wrote to all local landowners reminding them of their responsibilities, an action that caused a very considerable outcry. One or two of, by now very concerned, landowners took legal advice and soon it became clear that the responsibility to maintain the church had ceased many years before and that they would not be called upon to pay.



PR

— BARBERSHOP —
— WOMBOURNE —

NEW OPENING TIMES



MONDAY | 8:30AM - 5:30PM

TUESDAY | 8:30AM - 5:30PM

WEDNESDAY | 9:00AM - 5:30PM

THURSDAY | 8:30AM - 5:30PM
LATE NIGHT APPOINTMENTS
(6:00PM - 7:30PM)

FRIDAY | 8:30AM - 6:00PM

SATURDAY | 7:30AM - 3:00PM



WALK-INS ARE WELCOME
THROUGHOUT THE WEEK



TWO BARBERS WILL BE ON APPOINTMENTS
FRIDAY & SATURDAYS
DOWNLOAD NEARCUT APP TO BOOK

WE ARE BACK OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK



Tel: 01902 894613
 45 Planks Lane, Wombourne, WV5 8DX
 Email: spinesclinic@hotmail.co.uk
 Web: www.spinesphysiotherapyclinic.co.uk

Adam Chamberlain Kyle Perkins

Treatments offered include Physiotherapy,
 Acupuncture, Exercise, Electrotherapy
 and Massage.

Clinic established in Wombourne in 1990.
 Medico Legal work undertaken.
 Recognised by most major Insurance Companies.
 Member of the Health Professionals Council.



FAMOUS EVENTS IN HISTORY IN AUGUST

- 1st—1740:** ‘Rule Britannia’ was sung for the first time in public in Thomas Arne’s ‘Masque Alfred’.
- 3rd—1926:** Britain’s first set of electric traffic lights appeared on the streets of London.
- 7th—1840:** Britain bans the employment of climbing boys as chimney sweeps.
- 11th—1897:** Birth of best-selling children’s writer, Enid Blyton, whose books have been among the world’s best-sellers since the 1930s, with more than 600 million sold.
- 13th—1964:** Peter Allen and John Walby become the last people to be hanged in Britain.
- 16th—1819:** The Peterloo Massacre took place in Manchester at St. Peter’s Fields.
- 18th—1587:** Birth of Virginia Dare, the first child of English parents to be born in the Roanoke Colony in what is now North Carolina, USA. What became of Virginia and the other early colonists remains a mystery to this day.
- 20th—1940:** Winston Churchill on referring to the RAF pilots, said: *“Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few”*.
- 22nd—1485:** Richard III becomes the last English king to die in battle at Bosworth Field.
- 24th—1875:** Matthew Webb (Captain Webb) started his attempt from Dover in Kent, to become the first person to swim the English Channel. He reached Calais, France at 10.40am the following morning, having been in the water for 22 hours.
- 27th—1900:** Britain’s first long distance bus service began between London and Leeds. The journey time was two days!

G-KRAFT UPHOLSTERY

— TAILOR MADE FURNITURE —



Luxurious upholstery hand crafted locally and individually tailored to your requirements

Tel: 07557989548

Email: info@gkraftupholstery.co.uk

Website: gkraftupholstery.co.uk

Visit our showroom in
The Old Mill Antiques Centre
49 Mill street
Bridgnorth
WV15 5AG



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 **Mon day, 2nd Aug st 0**. Good luck!

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

HIDDEN WORDS

- 1 DECOR
- 2 PRODUCTS
- 3 HOUSE
- 4 NAILS
- 5 GARDEN
- 6 VOUCHER
- 7 ART
- 8 BRUSHES
- 9 SHEDS
- 10 OUTDOORS
11. STORAGE
- 12 PAINTS
- 13 PLANTS
- 14 ORGANISE
- 15 SCREWS
- 16 CLEANING

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

ADDRESS:

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

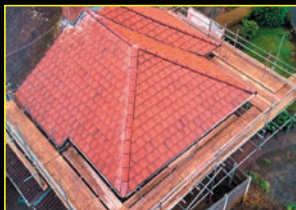
EMAIL ADDRESS:.....

SEND TO: B&Q VOUCHERS COMPETITION, 50 REDHALL ROAD, DUDLEY DY3 2NL



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

A ROOFING COMPANY YOU CAN TRUST!



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



CALL US FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION

07973 116 365 – 07739 564 133

PUTTING ON THE STYLE

When it comes to hairstyles if you think that we are fashion crazy today it's worth having a look back over history to see some of the styles that were popular in days gone by.

In the 1400s, for example, blonde was all the rage—as was plucking out all the hair at the front of the head to artificially raise the hairline. One hundred years later (in Elizabethan times) the fad was for ladies to have heavily powdered white faces adorned with bright red wigs. In order to accommodate the hairpieces it was not unusual for ladies to shave off their natural hair. The 1770s saw perhaps the most bizarre styles as shown by our illustration below. Hair was allowed to grow as long as possible and then it draped over a wire frame-



work that sat on top of the head. The hair would then be adorned with all manner of items—bows, feathers and lace for instance. Lady Ga-Ga eat your heart out! The Victorian era saw a backlash against such outrageous (and impractical) styles and curls and plaits were very much the fashion. The first signs of the more modern styles becoming popular came in the 1920s when the 'bob' and 'permed hair' came to the fore. This was also the era

when - for the first time—cinema (and later TV) actresses became the style icons and set fashion trends for thousands of other women throughout the country.

TOTAL MOBILITY

by POWERLINK, Unit 17, Market Centre, Blackheath
(Open Monday, Friday, Saturday)

TEL: 01384 255019 or 07831 246292 anytime

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.POWERLINKMOBILITY.CO.UK

MOBILITY SCOOTERS
(NEW & PRE-OWNED)
FROM

£350



**FULL RANGE
OF MOBILITY
AIDS AVAILABLE
INCLUDING**

✦ **ROLLATORS**

✦ **TRI WALKERS**

✦ **STAIRLIFTS**

✦ **WHEELCHAIRS**

✦ **ADJUSTABLE BEDS**

✦ **RISE & RECLINER CHAIRS**



M.R.W

Painting and Decorating

Wallpapering & painting specialist

A cut above the rest

Precision craftsmanship
and flawless finishes
for your premium
interiors.

t: 07800 712 860

e: martin.mrw@mrwdecorators.co.uk

w: mrwdecorators.co.uk

 M.R.W. Painting and Decorating

 [m.r.wpainting](https://www.instagram.com/m.r.wpainting)





MT SKIPS

U Fill em w

A range of skips at quality prices!

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

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

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

They will even wait while yo load it!



Fenc
fro

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

PS LTD ve MT um



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

Affordability – Reliability and a first-rate customer service.

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

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

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

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



Spot the yellow car, send us a photo and get £10.00 off
(offer ends 31st August 2026)



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

Open 7 days a week closed Sundays!

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





BACP Registered

Kinver based

Trauma informed counsellor specialising in supporting survivors of sexual abuse.

Other areas of support:

Trauma, PTSD, self-harm, self-esteem, domestic abuse, anxiety, depression, stress.

Therapy for:

Adults, couples, young people (14+).

Discover more
on my website:



Email: jwcounselling@icloud.com Phone: 07769 485 853

MEMORIAL TO FATED SHIP

As well as the usual memories to those from the parish who died in the two World Wars, St Bartholomew's Church in Penn also has a memorial to the 24 men who died when HMS Gossamer, a minesweeper of the Halcyon Class, was sunk by German aircraft in June 1942.

The ship was on convoy duty in Russian water when, whilst it was at anchor in Kola Inlet, it was attacked by a Junkers 88 aircraft. It scored a direct hit on the ship which caused major damage to the vessel's starboard side. Within eight minutes the ship had sunk with the loss of life of three officers and 20 ratings (several more ratings were badly injured and one died later). Fortunately Russian motor boats were able to rescue many of the crew who were transferred to HMS Hussar. In total over 150 of the crew were saved including Eric Morris from Penn. Eric was the leading light behind the creation of HMS Gossamer Association for those who had served on the ship and had endured those Arctic convoy duties. The memorial in the church was placed there by the Association and includes the names of all those who lost their lives in the sinking of the ship. Their ages ranged from 22 to 48 and they came from all parts of the United Kingdom—from Kent, London, Portsmouth, Barnsley, Glasgow, Bournemouth, Birkenhead, County Cork in Ireland, County Durham, Lichfield, Aldershot and Shropshire. In 1989 Eric Morris arranged a re-union of the survivors of that fateful day and 12 attended at the Roebuck on Penn Road, the first time that they had met up for almost half a century.



HMS Gossamer which was sunk in June 1942.

Katie Fitzgerald's

WWW.KATIESSECRETGARDEN.COM



KIKI DEE & CARMELO LUGGERI



Saturday 12th September
Doors 6.30pm



WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM

Katie Fitzgeralds, 187 Enville Street, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB (entrance on Mamble Road)



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

SALE NOW ON



**Bridging Connections
with Somfy's**



Compatible Solutions

30 Years
ANNIVERSARY
1993 | 2023

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

*Free Parking
That's a promise!*

CALL US ON 01384 273769

VISIT US IN STORE STREAM ROAD, KINGSWINFORM DY6 9NT

LOOK AT US ONLINE
WWW.CASTLEBLINDS.CO.UK

EMAILSALES@CASTLEBLINDS.CO.UK



Keep conversations flowing with healthy hearing

At our Hear In clinics,
we offer:

- Hearing Checks
- Ear Wax Removal
- Advanced Hearing Aids
- Ongoing Aftercare
- & Support
- Tinnitus Advice



FREE
Hearing
Assessments

SCAN ME



HAGLEY WOMBOURNE RUBERY

MULTI-TALENTED VICAR WITH KINVER CONNECTIONS

In the 1890s Kinver was regularly visited by a vicar who not only wrote 159 books during his lifetime but also wrote a hymn that even today is regularly heard in churches far and wide. He was also responsible in 1919 for films crews descending on the village. The man in question was Sabine Baring-Gould.

Baring-Gould was born in 1834 to a high ranking cavalry officer and his wife, the daughter of an admiral in the British fleet. For the first few years of his life young Sabine was taken by his parents on many overseas trips including a Grand European Tour. The family returned to England in 1840 and four years later Sabine went first to King's College in London before studying at Clare College, Cambridge. After finishing at university he decided to work with the children of poor families living in the slums of Cambridge until 1863, after the death of his mother, he decided to take holy orders. After being ordained he was appointed as curate in a small parish in Yorkshire where he met and married Grace Taylor, a 16 year-old illiterate mill-girl. Despite their different backgrounds the two enjoyed over 50 years together of marriage during which they had no less than 15 children. Later, on the death of his father, he became the Lord of the Manor of Lewtrenchard in Devon and eventually became its vicar. He was something of an amateur archaeologist and was respected for his work particularly on Dartmoor and in Wales and France. He was also an avid collector of folklore and amassed a considerable collections of folk songs from Devon and Cornwall.

These were published under the title *Songs Of The West*. During his time as a churchman he wrote an amazing 159 books including several works of fiction which proved extremely popular. For many years he was accepted as the most published author in the country. One of his best known stories was turned into a silent move called *Bladys of Stewponey* which was set in Kinver and was loosely based on the murder of local farmer Benjamin Robbins and the subsequent hanging of his killer William Howe. It seemed sensible, therefore, for the filming to take place in and around Kinver, leading to film crews being based in the village for several weeks in 1919. Sadly, no copies of the film (which was quite widely shown to good reviews) seem to have survived although stills from it do exist. However good his literary skills were, how-ever, Sabine Baring-Gould will perhaps always be known for his musical talent, being the writer of both the hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers* and the folk song *Widdecombe Fair*. Indeed it was said that the first people to sing both these were the children of Kinver because, although firmly based in Devon, Baring-Gould spent much of his time in Kinver, staying with his old friend Rev. John Hodgson who was vicar of the parish. Although he tended to keep himself to himself whilst in Kinver. Baring-Gould could often be seen up at the Rock House on Kinver Edge where he spent many hours talking to the families who lived in these strange habitations.



It also seems that he journeyed over to Lye where he spoke with some of those living in the mud huts on Lye Waste (he clearly describes the area in one of his books *Nebo The Nailer* named after a well-known local publican). It was said that he influenced many around him—not just through his religious belief but also his literary talents. George Bernard Shaw is believed to have been inspired to write *Pygmalion* (which was later to be made into a film and stage show called *My Fair Lady*) after a conversation with Baring-Gould. Sabine Baring-Gould died in January 1924 and was buried at Lewtrenchard alongside his wife in his own churchyard.

A BOOK FOR ANY OCCASION

It is said that Sabine Baring-Gould published a book for any occasion: Here are just a few:

NOVELS: *The Golden Gate, Through Flood and Flame, Red Spider, The Pennycomequicks, Guavas The Tinner.*

POETRY: *The Silver Store, The Turk and the Tory.*

BIOGRAPHIES: *Lives of the Saints, A memorial of Horatio Lord Nelson, Virgin Saints & Martyrs, The Life of Napoleon Bonaparte, A Study of St Paul.*

NON-FICTION: *Historic Oddities & Strange Events, Conscience & Sin, the Trials of Jesus, The Deserts of Southern France, A History of Sarawak Under its Two White Rajhas, The Tragedy of the Caesars, How to save fuel.*

CHILDRENS BOOKS: *The Iclander's Sword, Christ Of Allsorts*

In addition there were numerous short stories (some of which were later included in compilations) such as *A Book Of Ghosts, Monsieur Pichelmerre & Other Stories* and *In A Quiet Village.*

BEACON NURSERIES & PLANT CENTRE

**We have over 3,000 shrubs
in stock including:**

**Magnolias, Azaleas,
Cordylines, Heucheras,
Hostas, Ferns
and many more**

From £3.95

WE ALSO STOCK COMPOST

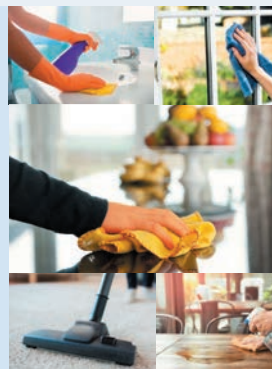
**ROWAN ROAD, SEDGLEY
Tel: 01902 882933**

Lisa's Cleaning Services

*Providing a professional, quality, reliable service.
DBS checked, insured and references available*

Services Offered:

- Kitchen Cleans
- Bathroom Cleans
- Mopping
- Dusting, Polishing
- Vacuuming
- Changing Bed Linen
- Deep Cleans
- Window Cleaning



 **07873 707740**

 **lisatimmins1975@gmail.com**



Are proud to support **Our local community**
Legal services are better local

Wills | Lasting Power Of Attorney | Probate

Brierley Hill **01384 79731** Wombourne **01902 894187**

www.stephensonsthelawyers.co.uk | info@stephensonsthelawyers.co.uk

PRISON FOR POOR LAW CHEAT

In November 1835 a man called John Belsh was brought before a magistrate at Sedgley on a charge of vagrancy and endeavouring to obtain money under false pretences.

It appears that Belsh was found at Wombourne the previous week when it seemed that he was extremely ill. He was taken to a public house kept by a Mr Noake where he was put to bed, apparently in great distress. Indeed, Noake said that the following morning he thought that Belsh was about to die. Belsh showed him an abdominal tumour that he said was the cause of his illness. Noake did, however, notice that Belsh "*did eat his food well*" and had the same breakfast as his family. Noake's daughter insisted that medical assistance should be sought and so Mr Brown, a surgeon in Sedgley, was called. After examining the unwell man Mr Brown diagnosed a strangulated hernia and said that a small operation was required. Belsh, though, refused saying that he would not have it unless his father who lived in Lancashire was present. In order to provide him with parish funds that he might travel to Lancashire, the overseer of the Poor in Wombourne was called—but he remembered that a similar story had been told by a vagrant in Penkridge. He contacted his opposite number in the village and found that a man of the same description as Belsh (but calling himself Pearce) had received 12 shillings in order that he could travel to Birmingham and then to Lancashire. At the time he said he was a sculptor. Having heard that Belsh had already used the same excuse before, the magistrate sentenced him to prison for three months with hard labour. During his period of imprisonment it was found that Belsh had used the same story many times before and the medical journal *The Lancet* had published details of his scam in order to warn other doctors across the country. It was said that Belsh had travelled the country for more than two years obtaining money in this way.



SEPTEMBER

AT THE ROBIN



LIVE WIRE

THE AC/DC SHOW

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER
JUST LIKE LUTHER
LUTHER VANDROSS TRIBUTE

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER
THE ELO ENCOUNTER
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**



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

01902 401 211



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....



Stairlifts

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



Mobility Bathrooms

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

**Serving Wombourne
and Surrounding Areas.**



01384 912314

www.chapterlivingsolutions.co.uk



Rightio Plumbing & Heating

01902 690 935

We work in
**Wombourne,
Swindon, Penn, Kinver
and all surrounding
areas.**

► COMPETITIVE RATES ◀

- ✓ Fast Response
- ✓ All Work Guaranteed
- ✓ Flexible Appointment Times

► 12 Month ◀

Guarantee on labour!
Excludes blockages

► OAP Discount ◀

Available upon request at time of booking
Subject to Eligibility

► 1-2 Hour ◀

Emergency Response time!



650921

OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Boiler Breakdowns
- ✓ Boiler Servicing
- ✓ Radiators & Pipes
- ✓ Tanks & Cylinders
- ✓ Toilets & Taps
- ✓ Leaks & Bursts
- ✓ Showers
- ✓ Clearing Blockages
- ✓ Pipework Replacement
- ✓ Gas Safe Certified

it's a fact!

- ★ A memorial to landowner Richard Bayley Marsh in the church of St Benedict Biscop in Wombourne is the work of the famous Victorian sculptor Sir Francis Chantry. Two of his most best-known statues are of Prime Minister William Pitt (in London's Hanover Square) and King George IV in Trafalgar Square.
- ★ The church register for Wombourne for 1636 shows that *"In this year happened a terrible fire at Swindon which in the space of one hour consumed and burnt downe seaven dwelling houses and other buildings, together with a great quantity of corne, wool, bedding, brasse, pewter, wearing apparel, implements of husbandry and other things to the value of two thousand pounds and upwards. The fire happened as it pleased God, through sparkes flying out of Mr Lidiat's Forge which settled on the thatch of John Mathew's barne and being carried with a great wind, it was so sudden and unresistable that it could not be quenched. It happened upon the 16th June about three of the clock in the afternoon."*
- ★ Until 1902 most of the water used by the population of Swindon came from a public well at the southern end of Church Road. After this date mains water pumped from the Bratch at Wombourne was made available to the population of Swindon.
- ★ Throughout the mid 1860s Lady Stamford, the owner of Enville Hall held "penny readings" at her home where local residents could attend poetry and music recitals. These proved very popular and for one meeting—which was held in the ballroom—it was said that 450 people attended.

OUR SERVICES

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

BOOK NOW



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO:
07876 612785



ADAMS
LOCKS & MAINTENANCE LTD
07876 612785

FREE QUOTES
FULLY INSURED



Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)

High quality CBT treating mental health problems.



Work related stress? Anxiety? Depression?

Low self esteem? Compulsive behaviours?

Anger issues? Adolescent behavioural

problems? OCD? Panic attacks?

Phobias? Emotional distress?

Contact a BABCP Accredited Psychotherapist Directly



Wassell Grove Lane, near Hagley.

Contact: enquiries@equanimitycbt.co.uk

0844 6931282/07854331133 for a *free* 20-minute consultation.

B.A.B.C.P. Accredited CBT Psychotherapist.

www.equanimitycbt.co.uk

Approved Health Care Provider for:

Allianz, Aviva, AXA Healthcare, BUPA, CIGNA and WPA.

Imagine

Dry Carpet Cleaning



Dry Carpet, Upholstery & Hard Floor Cleaners

"no soggy carpets or wet dog smell".

- ✓ **Spills & spots - gone**
- ✓ **Smells & odours - removed**
- ✓ **Deep cleans & lifts carpet pile - like new**

**4 great solutions for
your home**

- ✓ **Dry carpet cleaning**
- ✓ **Upholstery cleaning**
- ✓ **Hard floor cleaning**
- ✓ **Wooden floor cleaning**

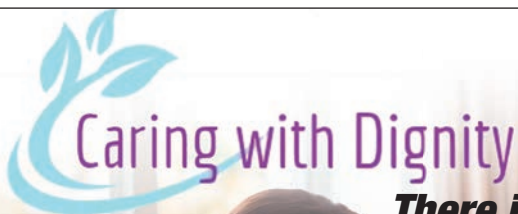
**Get Main Room Cleaned
save 50%
on all further rooms
+ Free Stain Guard**



**Leather Cleaning
Specialists**
Restoration & Recolouring



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



There is no place like home!



Tipton based, providing care in the following areas:
Kingswinford, Wall Heath, Wombourne, Penn, Wolverhampton,
Sedgely, Dudley, Wordsley, Stourbridge

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

-  Personal care
-  Shopping
-  Welfare checks
-  Housework
-  Cooking and Cleaning
-  Hospital buddying
-  Day & night time sitting service
-  Companionship

Electronic recording family members can access at any time for peace of mind.

WE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING:

- Children 0-18
- Adults 18 years and over
- People living with autism, learning disabilities or both
- People living with dementia
- People with mental health issues
- Physical health problems
- Continence support

CONTACT US TODAY – manager@caringwithdignity.co.uk

T: 07711 408527 | 07862 726527 | 0121 493 5158 | 0121 493 5159

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.

ON THE HOME FRONT

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

FOOT HEALTH PROFESSIONAL JOANNE STALLARD MCFHP MAFHP

Registered Member of the British Association
of Foot Health Professionals

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

Supporting diabetes & Arthritis

Tel: 01902 443726 or 07983 529420

Castlecroft Rd, Castlecroft, W-ton.



Ashley Reade - Electrician

✓ Emergency & Domestic Electrician

- ✓ Sockets & Lighting
- ✓ Fuse Board Upgrades
- ✓ Fault Finding & Repairs
- ✓ Mains-Interlinked Smoke Alarms

07736 515021

✉ arsparkselectrical@gmail.com

Facebook: [@arsparkselectrical](https://www.facebook.com/arsparkselectrical) Instagram: [@arsparkselectrical](https://www.instagram.com/arsparkselectrical)



We Build It Ltd is a family-run business based in Shropshire.

- Manufacturer of the Bio-Pure Sewage Treatment System
- Suitable for both residential and commercial applications
- We offer servicing contracts for all makes and models of sewage treatment systems and pumpstations
- Our services help ensure compliance with Environment Agency regulations and support your Consent to Discharge obligations.

Contact: sales@webuildit-ltd.co.uk or **01746 781 782**

Stuart's Handyman Services

Carpentry

"A handy man to know!"

Household DIY

Kitchen and Bathroom fitting

Plumbing and ground-works

Tiling walls and floors...



Experienced kitchen & bathroom fitter. Jobs small or large, reliable and good quality work carried out. For free quotes call Stuart Phillips on

Phone 01746 768840 Email: stuart@stuartshandyman services.co.uk

Mobile 07818 883757 Website: www.stuartshandyman services.co.uk



- NO FIX - NO FEE
- FULLY INSURED
- AFFORDABLE
- COLLECTION / DELIVERY AVAILABLE
- FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATIONS

www.wv5powertoolrepairs.co.uk

E: workshop@wv5powertoolrepairs.co.uk

T: 07867 460 705

Dog Walking & Day Care Service
Wombourne Based
Competitive Rates

Pawfect WALKS
DBS Checked
Fully Insured
Call 07503001465

DWSA Member

WhatsApp: Facebook:

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

**JUST £10 + VAT
PER MONTH**

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

ovenblitz
midlands



Local oven cleaning specialists

Ovens, Hobs, Extractors, Microwaves, BBQs

Website - www.ovenblitzmidlands.co.uk

0800 773 4870 / 07757 099529

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



ON THE HOME FRONT

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

ON TAP PLUMBING



- DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
- PLUMBING MAINTENANCE
- REPAIRS
- INSTALLATIONS

QUALITY WORK. TRUSTED SERVICE.



07783709801



Ontapplumbing25@outlook.com

millennium garage

SMESTOW INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
WOMBOURNE WV5 8AY

Established 1986

SPECIALIST IN ALTERNATOR & STARTER MOTORS
MOT TESTS £40 + NO RETEST FEE

Free local collection service available
OE QUALITY PARTS USED

01902 894978

THE SHAGGY DOG

Pet Grooming for Cats & Dogs

A complete range of Grooming Services for
all sizes of Dogs & Cats:

- Pick-up & Drop-off Service
- Home Visits
- We also have a great range of gifts at our three shops



SEDGLEY
Bilston Street
DY3 1JA

GARDEN VILLAGE
Bridgnorth Road,
Shipley WV6 7EZ

PLAZA MALL
Dudley Market
Place

Call: 01902 661377 or 07848 039795

ORION SECURITY SYSTEMS

MOB: 07958 500386

KEITH MIDDLEBROOK

Email: orionsecuritysystems@outlook.com

INTRUDER ALARMS—SMOKE ALARMS

DOOR & WINDOW LOCKS

SAFES—SECURITY LIGHTS—INTERCOMS

ACCESS CONTROL—CCTV

INTRUDER ALARM SPECIALISTS

NEW SYSTEMS INSTALLED—EXISTING SYSTEMS MAINTAINED

FREE QUOTATIONS—FULLY INSURED

ALL WORK GUARANTEED

WOMBOURNE TYRES

Tyre Dealer & Repair Shop



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

All tyres available • Any Car • All Brands available

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

01902 896 166 – Hours 9am-5pm

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



YOUR LOCAL FRIENDLY ELECTRICIAN

• 24 hr Emergency call out • Electrical Installation

• Smart lighting, power and heating controls

• Reduced rates for OAP's • Fault finding

• Free inspection on first visit • Fully Qualified – Fully insured

Call Paul on 07999 047445 ✉ mrsmartspark@gmail.com

Jayne's Flowers

Gornal-based florist



All types of floristry work undertaken

Over 30 years experience

In-house florist for J R Jones Funeral Directors



07737 600541



jaynepickerill135@gmail.com

CLEAN & CARE 4U

cleancare4u@gmx.co.uk

CLEAN & CARE

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

CLEANING & CARE

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

Find us on Facebook

cleanandcare4u

07598 299726



// FASCIAS & SOFFITS // FELT ROOFS
// ROOF REPAIRS // SLATE ROOFING
// CLEANING, TILING & REPAIRS
// FIRESTONE RUBBER ROOFING
// CURE IT FIBRE GLASS ROOFING



Get rid of your Flat Roof worries...



SCAN ME

**// ALL ASPECTS OF
ROOFING COVERED //**
// FULLY INSURED //



// FREE QUOTES //

07714 899321

E: DENSONGARETH@YMAIL.COM



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

Are proud to support **Our local community**
Legal services are better local

House buying & selling | Re-Mortgages
First time buyers

Brierley Hill **01384 79731** Wombourne **01902 894187**

www.stephensonsthelawyers.co.uk | info@stephensonsthelawyers.co.uk

it's a fact!

★ It was found that a man arrested at Enville point-to-point races in April 1923 was a victim of mistaken identity. The man—Thomas Mullins of Walsall—had been accused of ‘welshing’ on bets taken the previous week at a race meeting at Fradley, near Lichfield. It was said that he had taken a large number of bets on a race at very generous odds and when over 50 people came to claim their winnings they found that he had disappeared. Despite the fact that a police officer and six civilians identified him as being the man taking the bets at Fradley, Mullins denied it and said that it was a case of mistaken identity. He produced a number of witnesses of his own to say that, whilst he had indeed been at Fradley, he had not acted as a bookmaker or taken any bets. The magistrates felt that the case had not been proved beyond reasonable doubt and dismissed the charge.



★ A report in November 1936 of the diamond wedding celebrations of Mr and Mrs Alfred Cooper of Lower Penn included some interesting background details including that Mr Cooper started work at the age of 9 in 1860—he earned 4d a day scaring crows from a local farmer's fields.

★ For many years in the early 19th century there was a significant dyeing industry in Kinver. It was said that by using the water at the confluence of the Smestow and Stour rivers the dyers could get a rich scarlet cloth whose colour would not fade.

CANAL WITH A HIDDEN HERITAGE

The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal which runs through Wombourne, Swindon and Kinver is often said to be one of the most interesting inland waterways in the country. Here are just a few facts about it:

- The canal itself is 46 miles long with a total of 43 locks along its length.
- It was built between 1766 and 1772 and was constructed under the guidance of the famous engineer James Brindley who had built the first canal, the Bridgewater (named after its sponsor the Duke of Bridgewater) in 1761.
- It was an important part of Brindley's 'Grand Cross' of canals designed to link the River Mersey with the Thames and the River Severn with the Trent.
- The canal starts at its junction with the Trent & Mersey Canal at Great Haywood and travels down to Stourport where it joins the River Severn. For most of its route it follows the contours of the land.
- The Bratch locks at Wombourne have been heralded as a three lock triumph in canal engineering. Originally designed as a three lock 'staircase' with a drop of 30 feet from top to bottom, it underwent major re-construction in 1927.
- Between Wombourne and Swindon there were many wharves at the side of the canal where sand extracted from nearby quarries was loaded into barges to be taken to various forges and foundries around the country.
- One of the earliest tunnels on the canal network in the UK was constructed behind Dunsley Hall on the outskirts of Kinver. The tunnel is 23 yards long.

Nicholas Barwell & Co. Ltd

Accountants & Tax Advisors

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

Tel: 01902 897141 Fax: 01902 897242

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



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

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

INITIAL FREE CONSULTATION

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

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

PRESTWOOD CAVE NURSERY

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

The nursery will be open during August and September – Friday, Saturday and Sunday (+ Bank Holiday Monday 31st August) 10am until 4pm.

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



PRESTWOODCAVENURSERY

SUMMER SHRUBS AND HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Great for filling the gaps in your borders



07703 529004 cave.carter@yahoo.com

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

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

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:

$$2^6 - 63 = 1$$

5. They are arranged alphabetically—Eight, Five, Four, Nine, One, Seven, Six etc.
6. Ton
7. Mother-in-law
8. Four score and ten

**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 32.

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.

Registered Charity No: 1131604 • www.pattinghamchad.org

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’.

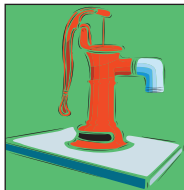
Those years ago it was an entertaining evening with Roy Sidney George Hattersley, ‘Politics is a tough business!’ and when first a Sheffield councillor ‘was younger than some of their dustcarts’.



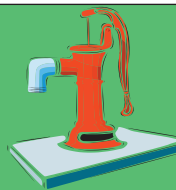
Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and M.P. for Birmingham Sparkbrook, seen visiting the party conference in Brighton on October 1st 1991

By John Sparry, Ridge Cot, 15 Enville Road, Wall Heath
Mobile: 07831 342209

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



The Wombourne, Swindon, Penn & Kinver PARISH PUMP



POPULAR



Carthia - The Midnight Dash

Of the many stories about the Titanic one that remains rarely told in detail is the story of Captain Rostron and the Cunard ship Carpathia that raced to the Titanic's rescue.

With no procedures or prepared plan Captain Rostron raced to the aid of the Titanic.

Join us to discover Carpathia's story.

Wombourne Library
Tuesday 29th Septmber

2:00pm-4:00pm (arrive for 1:45pm to be seated)

Free (Booking Essential)

Please contact Wombourne Library 01902 506055 email
wombourne.library@staffordshire.gov.uk to book your tickets



STAFFORDSHIRE
HISTORY FESTIVAL



National
Year of
Reading
2020



YOUR
LIBRARY
Staffordshire
County Council

THE NEXT PARISH PUMP WILL
BE IN THE **SEPTEMBER 2026**
EDITION AND THE
COPY DEADLINE IS

Thursday, 20th August 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

KINVER AND BOBBINGTON LUNCH CLUB

meet on the last Tuesday of the month for
five months (see below). The group meet
at The Fox Inn, Bridgnorth Road, Stourton
DY7 5BL at 12.30pm to eat at 1.00pm
and then have a speaker.

The programme for 2026-27 starts at the
end of October. The group's aim is to
raise funds for local charities.

DATES OF LUNCHES

27th OCTOBER 2026

Jim Seaton – SVR

24th NOVEMBER 2026

Phil Downing – Harvington Hall

23rd FEBRUARY 2027

**Nicholas Baker – The Enville estate
and World War II**

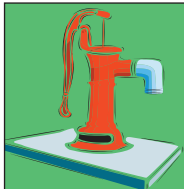
30th MARCH 2027

Mary Bodfish – Darling Elizabeth

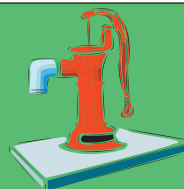
27th APRIL 2027

**Alan Peace - Why You Should Never
Work with Children or Animals.**

**If you would like any further
information please contact
Clive Corbett on
0790 6653 104**



The Wombourne, Swindon, Penn & Kinver PARISH PUMP



Staffordshire
History Centre

Embroidering the Past:

Samplers and stitchwork
in the Staffordshire
Museum Collection

Helen Johnson
Staffordshire History Centre

Tuesday 6 October, 2026

Wombourne Library, 2pm

Please contact Wombourne Library to
book your place: 01902 506055
wombourne.library@staffordshire.gov.uk



Staffordshire
County Council



Sit and Sew, Crochet or Knit Group

Fortnightly on Thursdays

10 am-12.30 am

The Guide Hall

Mill Lane, Wombourne

Everyone welcome, experienced

handcrafters or beginners.

Bring along sewing, crochet

or knitting of your choice

or just join us for

coffee, biscuits and a chat.

£6.00 a session

No charge for first visit

Call Babs 07902622894

or Erica

ericawiddowson@hotmail.co.uk



**IT BUDDY available at
Wombourne Library**

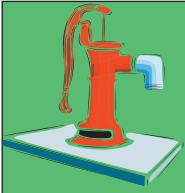
Every Wednesday

1.00pm-4.00pm

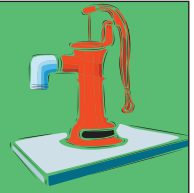
Free bookable slots



**Please contact Wombourne Library
for more information
on 01902 506005**



The Wombourne, Swindon, Penn & Kinver PARISH PUMP



CAMPAIGNING WITH CANCER RESEARCH UK



I became a fundraiser with Cancer Research UK in 2004 when my first wife died of breast cancer and I became a Campaigns Ambassador in 2009. Ambassadors help raise awareness of cancer with the public and politicians and I spent the 7th and 8th July in London for the launch of the latest campaign – Unlock Cancer Breakthroughs. Cancer is one of those things that people don't like to think or talk about but it is vital that we do as it is still the biggest cause of death in the UK and affects

one in two people at some time in their lives with over 420,000 receiving a diagnosis every year. That figure is projected to top 500,000 by 2040.

Cancer Research UK is campaigning to Unlock Cancer Breakthroughs as currently the UK is falling behind other developed countries in the world. Research in the UK is being held back which means that treatment takes too long to reach patients who need it.

Unlock faster clinical trials: Clinical trials that are necessary before treatments are made widely available take too long to set up and the process must be streamlined and workforce capacity improved.

Unlock global talent: We have world-beating scientists in the UK but a complex and costly immigration system makes it difficult to bring in other highly skilled scientists to work alongside them. In 2023/24 it cost over £870,000 in visa fees to bring scientists in from abroad.

Unlock investment: Thanks to research and treatments, Cancer survival rates have doubled since the 1970s but there is still much to do. We need the government to commit to long term, protected increases in research funding in order for people in the UK to benefit from world-beating first class treatment. Every £1 invested in research generates an estimated £2.80 in benefits to the economy, so it makes economic sense.

If you would like to find out more please visit: cruk.org/UnlockCancerBreakthroughs

Alan Peace Cancer Research UK Campaigns Ambassador, Kingswinford and South Staffs



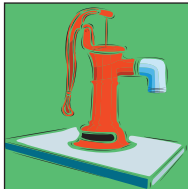
The OVER 60's CLUB

meet at **THE GREEN MAN, High Street,
Swindon, Dudley DY3 4NR**
on **Monday afternoons between
1.15pm and 4.15pm.**

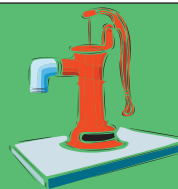
If you are looking to meet new friends then why not consider popping along to join this friendly and fun loving group and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits, bingo and a raffle.

For further information please contact

Lorraine on **07855 200 736.**



The Wombourne, Swindon, Penn & Kinver PARISH PUMP



There is a lot going on in Wombourne Library throughout August—here is just a flavour of what is on offer—for more details please call 01902 506055 or e-mail Wobourne.library@staffordshire.gov.uk

Duck Craft and Storytime

Friday 14th August 10.00am – 11.00am

Listen to the story of the Naughty Duck and then make a craft.

Suitable for age 2-6. 50p per child. Booking essential.

Leaping Llamas

Monday 17th August 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Make a llama that can jump around!

Suitable for age 4+. FREE, donations welcome. Booking essential.

Lego Building Fun!

Monday 24th August 10.00am – 11.30am

Come along and create something amazing with Lego!

No booking required, just drop-in. Parental supervision required when children are using the Lego due to small parts.

Mini Coral Reef

Wednesday 26th August 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Create your own little coral reef complete with fish!

Suitable for age 4+. FREE, donations welcome. Booking essential.

Autism Friendly Storytime and Shaker Craft

Friday 28th August 10.00am – 11.00am

Listen to the story of the giraffe who can't dance and make a rain bottle shaker to dance along with.

Suitable for age 2-6. 50p per child. Booking essential.

National Trust

Wolverhampton Centre

Supporting Wightwick Manor and Moseley Old Hall

Enjoy a variety of interesting talks, evening performances by historical actors, indoor events and coach outings. Something of interest for everyone.

A warm and friendly welcome
awaits anyone wishing to join us.

Meetings are held on
Friday mornings 10.30 am—12 noon fortnightly between
September and April
at
Pavilion, 412 Stafford Rd. Wolverhampton. WV10 6AJ

For more information contact
Chairman Mrs. Marlene Longman
on
01902 893433 or marlene.longman@googlemail.com



in support of **National
Trust**



HIMLEY CROQUET CLUB

*are looking for
new members!*

BENEFITS OF CROQUET

PLAYED OUTDOORS – FRESH AIR AND SUNSHINE

GOOD FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND FITNESS

SOCIALISING – ALL DEMOGRAPHICS WELCOME

***WE'RE CURRENTLY OFFERING FREE TRYOUTS
OF THE GAME WITH ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED
IF INTERESTED PLEASE CALL DAWN ON 07951 546 014
LOCATED IN THE GROUNDS OF HIMLEY HALL***

RICHARD ALLEN-ZOARDER

POWERED BY
exp UK

BESPOKE ESTATE AGENT

Nikon

10780



RICHARD ALLEN-ZOARDER
BESPOKE ESTATE AGENT

YOUR LOCAL PROPERTY EXPERT

SALES
LETTINGS
MANAGEMENT
SURVEYS

0800 112 3677



ADVERTISERS' INDEX

ACCOUNTANTS

Nicholas Barwell & Co
Gornal Accounting

69
28

BARBER SHOPS

PR Barbershop

29

BLINDS & AWNINGS

Castle Blinds & Awnings

40

CAR REPAIRS & SERVICE

Chips Away

20

CARD & GIFT SHOPS

Maddie Moo's

16

CARE SERVICES

Caring with Dignity

51

CARPET CLEANING

Zero Dry Time

50

CLUBS

The Robin, Bilston
Himley Croquet Club

4&45
68

COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL THERAPISTS

Equanimity CBT

49

COUNSELLORS

Jayne Wheeler Counselling

38

DECORATORS

M.R.W. Painting & Decorating Ltd

35

DENTAL SERVICES

Willows Dental & Implant Centre

OBC

DIY OUTLETS

Wombourne DIY

17

DOUBLE GLAZING

Cloudy 2 Clear Windows

5

DRAINAGE CONSULTANTS

Rightio Drainages

25

ELECTRICAL CONSULTANTS

Rightio Electrical

6

ESTATE AGENTS

Richard Allan-Zoarder

69

EVENTS

Kinver Scarecrow Weekend

23

FOOT HEALTHCARE

Foot Healthcare

22

FURNITURE

Buy Sofas Direct
Dreamworld Furniture

8-9
21

GARAGE DOORS & SECURITY SHUTTERS

Rings Security Shutters & Gates

18

GAS, PLUMBING & HEATING

Whealers Gas, Plumbing & Heating
Rightio Plumbing & Heating

24
47

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Solewise Clinic
Foot Health Care
Spines Physiotherapy Clinic

19
22
30

HEARING & AUDIOLOGY

Hear in Wombourne

41

HOME CLEANING SERVICES

Spotterless Cleaning Service
Lisa's Cleaning Service

10
43

JEWELLERY

Arthur's Jewellers

28

KITCHEN & BATHROOMS INTERIORS

Round Oak Interiors

26-27

KITCHEN DOORS

Dream Doors

7

LIQUOR & DRINK STORES

Wombourne Liquor & Drink

IFC

LOCKS & SAFES

Adams Locks & Maintenance Ltd

48

MOBILITY

Power Link
Chapter Living Solutions

34
47

MUSIC VENUES

Katie Fitzgeralds
The Robin Club, Bilston

39
4&45

NURSERIES & PLANT CENTRES

Beacon Nurseries & Plant Centre
Prestwood Cave Nursery

43
61

PUBLIC HOUSES

The Red Lion
The Five Ways Inn

15
25

ROOFERS

My Clean Gutters
Pedmore Roofing Services
GMD Roofing & UPVC

13
33
56-57

SKIP HIRE

M T Skips Ltd

36-37

SOLICITORS

Waldrons Solicitors
Stephensons Solicitors

11
44&59

TRAVEL

Phillips International Travel

14

TREE & LANDSCAPE SERVICES

Tree & Landscape Specialists

12

UPHOLSTERERS

G-Kraft Upholstery

31

WILL & ESTATE PLANNERS

Perfect Wills & Estate Planners

IBC

PLEASE MENTION

Village Voice

WHEN USING THE SERVICES
OF OUR ADVERTISERS
THANK YOU.

— ON THE —
HOME FRONT
PAGES 54-55

- Joanne Stallard
Foot Health Professional
- Pawfect Walks
- Wombourne Tyres
- Stuart's Handyman Services
- Orion Security Services
- We Build It Ltd
- Millennium Garage
- The Shaggy Dog
- Healing Hands Homecare
- A R Sparks Electrical
- WV5 Power Tool Repairs
- Jayne's Flowers
- Mr Smart Spark
- On Tap Plumbing
- Ovenblitz

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

CALL TODAY!

VILLAGE VOICE is published by Village Voice Magazines © 2026

A Basic Will Does NOT Protect Your Family Home

Trusts Do!

Join us for a FREE Seminar at our **Wombourne Office**
Kildonan, Maypole Street WV5 9JB
call 01902 271 951 to secure a place.

Our team will assess your requirements and discuss
the most effective service for your situation

- ✓ Property Protection Trust
- ✓ Flexible Life Interest Trust
- ✓ Family Asset Protection Trust
- ✓ Lasting Power of Attorney for Property & Financial Affairs and Health & Welfare
- ✓ Vulnerable Persons Trust
- ✓ Probate Applications

Does Your Will do Enough to Protect your Loved Ones?

Putting Family Assets First



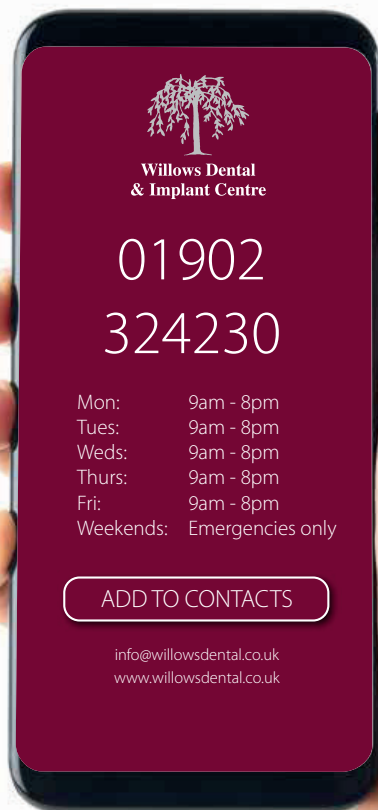
Perfect Wills & Estate Planners, protecting families for future generations

As much as we love to see you, we know the feeling isn't always mutual.

Because, at some point you, or someone you care about, might need a friendly, caring and available dental experience on your terms.

As well as offering you all treatments under the same roof, we can also provide 0pc finance and same day emergency appointments.

So why don't you put our number in your phone just in case?



Willows Dental
& Implant Centre



01902 324230
www.willowsdental.co.uk

