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Chris Smith - We Remember!

ISSUE 240 | SEPTEMBER 2026



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Village Voice
is published monthly by
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Village Voice

Community magazine for
Kingswinford, Wall Heath & Wordsley

Cover story

The end of September will once again see MacMillan Coffee mornings being held countrywide. The event raises in excess of £25 million a year for this excellent cause. Why not check out their very informative website at coffee.macmillan.org.uk/about/search for details of events planned near you. It also gives you the chance to register with them and host your very own event – the website will give you information on hosting, coffee morning resources and recipes. It will also enable you to request a fundraising kit to ensure that your coffee morning runs smoothly.



Gail



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Please note that the closing date for our competition this month is **THURSDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER 2026**. Entries received after this date will not be entered into the draw. Please ensure your name, address, telephone number and email address are included on your entry.

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Each month over **2,000** copies of this edition of **Village Voice** are delivered throughout **Kingswinford, Wall Heath and Wordsley**.

Extras are given to libraries and selected shops in each area. Be sure to look out for your copy.

DO YOU RUN A NON PROFIT MAKING CLUB OR SOCIETY? ARE YOU ON THE LOCAL COMMITTEE OF A CHARITY?

Would you like some **FREE** publicity for forthcoming events or to recruit new members? Give us a call, send us an email or drop us a line here at **VILLAGE VOICE** – we would love to help. See our contact details on page 3.

COPY DEADLINE

Please note that the copy deadline for the **OCTOBER 2026** edition of **VILLAGE VOICE** is **FRIDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER 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 **Friday, 23rd October 2026 – GOOD LUCK!**

Congratulations to **PATRICIA TUCKER** of **COSELEY** who was the lucky winner of the two tickets on offer in the **AUGUST 2026** edition.

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

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BRAINTEASERS

We do hope that you like these Brainteasers—with a little luck you should be able to come up with the answers. If not, the answers can be found on page 68.

1. Imagine you are a contestant in a quiz show. The host gives you the chance to open one of three boxes—A, B or C—in front of you. In one box is a cheque for £1 million and in each of the other two is a £1 coin. You have a free choice and choose Box A. The host knows in which box the cheque is and opens box B to show a coin. He gives you the opportunity to stick with your choice or to change to Box C. What do you do?
2. In the equation $SEND + MORE = MONEY$ each letter stands for a different number. Can you work out the numbers?
3. One evening there was a power cut and the four people watching the television suddenly found that there was nothing to do but actually talk to each other. One of them said: *“Did you know that sitting here is a mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, nephew, niece, aunt, uncle and a couple of cousins—and yet we are all blood relations?”* How can that be?
4. If you were to write every number in words (one, two, three etc) what number would be the first one with an “A” in it?



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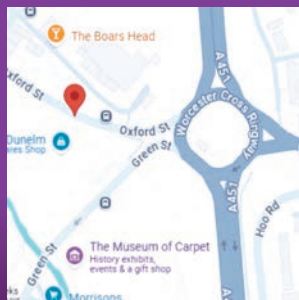
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FROM WORDSLEY TO BURMA

One of the most illustrious sons of Wordsley was Sir Edgar Joseph Holberton who was born at Greenbank Villa in May 1874.

The son of a local solicitor John Lidstone Holberton and his wife Emily, Edgar enjoyed a formal education at Sherborne College and Magdalene College, Cambridge before joining the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation in Rangoon.

At this time—1899—the company was one of the most powerful on the Indian sub-continent and, indeed, had sparked the Third Burmese War which led to Britain annexing the country. This came about following increasing interest from France and resulted in a massive fine being imposed on the company by the Burmese government for allegedly harvesting too much wood from the forests. The government refused to reconsider its position and, such was the political power of the company, the British Army moved in.

From 1899 until 1908 Holberton steadily rose through the ranks of the company until he eventually became a director of the main company as well as the manager of the tea growing division. As well as these duties from 1918 until 1920 he was Chairman of the Burma Chamber of Commerce, during which time he was awarded a CBE.

In 1921 he relinquished his role within the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation but stayed on in India until 1923 as a Member of the Council of the State of India. In 1921 he received his knighthood in recognition of his work for Anglo-Indian commerce.



A Lagonda 16/80 from 1934, just before the company called in the receivers. Some 261 were manufactured using a 1991cc Crossley engine and many—like this one—were later converted from saloon models to tourers. A similar car was auctioned and fetched almost £40,000.

He returned to England and in 1934 he became Chairman and Managing Director of Lagonda, the luxury car company. Unfortunately the company was in a parlous state and, despite Sir Edgar's efforts, the receivers were called in the following year. Subsequently the company was sold and continued to produce cars, before being acquired later by Aston

Martin. Initially the company had been sold to Alan Good (who persuaded W.O. Bentley to leave Rolls Royce and join him in the venture) and during the period 1935-1947 a number of classic Lagonda models were launched.

Meanwhile after his forced retirement from Lagonda, Sir Edgar spent his latter days quietly in London where he died in 1946.

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WARTIME DEATH OF TEENAGER

In 1915 Kingswinford was rocked by the news that Laura Horton (36) of Water Street had been charged with the murder of her 18 year old daughter Elizabeth Lavinia Horton.

On 27th September in that year Laura stabbed Elizabeth with a kitchen knife after a row over the youngster being out late. The mother immediately went upstairs and told her eldest son, Gilbert, what she had done and he was despatched off to call a doctor and the police. Elizabeth—gravely injured—was taken to hospital and when the police arrived her mother was charged with unlawful wounding and taken into custody.

Unfortunately some five days later the young girl died as a result of her injuries and the charge against Laura was changed to murder. At the magistrates' court hearing evidence was produced that Elizabeth had been something of a "wild child" and had been very disrespectful and disobedient to her mother. Furthermore a post mortem showed that the girl had suffered a miscarriage some 10 days prior to her injury and that the argument between mother and daughter was caused because she had gone to Brierley Hill Wake and had stayed out very late, the latest of a series of many such episodes. After due consideration the magistrates decided that a charge of manslaughter was more appropriate than one of murder and Laura was committed to stand trial on this charge at Stafford Assizes the following day.

She pleaded not guilty to manslaughter but guilty of maliciously wounding Elizabeth. This plea was deemed acceptable to the prosecutor and the manslaughter charge was dropped.

The Judge said that the case was a difficult one to sentence as it was clear that there had been considerable provocation involved.

Finally the Judge decided to sentence Laura Horton to nine months imprisonment with hard labour—but also gave her a very stern warning to rein in her temper in the future.

— POEMS FROM — A BLACK COUNTRY BLOKE



JOHN HOMER

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

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

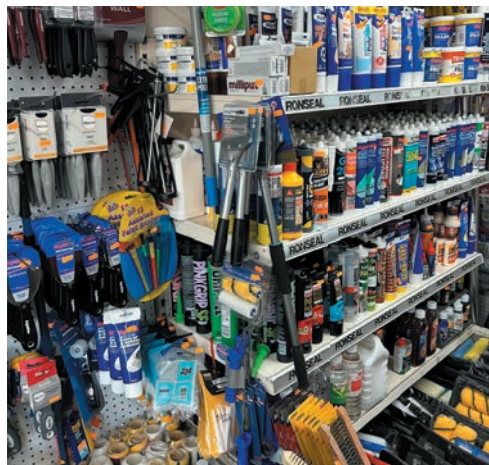
He has now put pen to paper to produce a book of poetry '**Poems from a Black Country Bloke**' which is dedicated to all things Black Country—a wonderful collection of poems about his youth and life in general.

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

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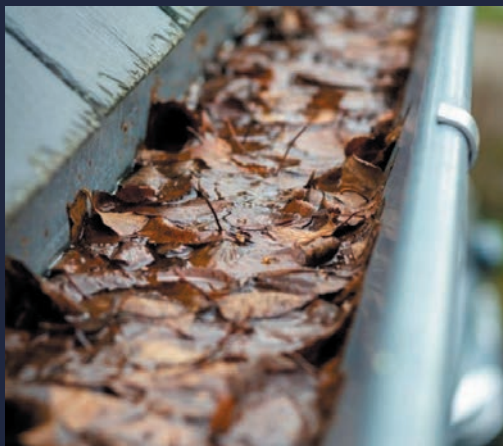
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it's a fact!

- ★ In the late 19th century it was not unusual for some men to have at least two unrelated careers at the same time. Dr Guy Grindlay, for example, was the best known GP in the Audnam area and Medical Officer of Health for Kingswinford for more than 30 years. As part of these duties he was the chief medical officer for the Isolation Hospital in Stallings Lane as well as Wordsley Workhouse. Quite separate from his medical activities, Dr Grindlay was chairman of local brickmakers Harper & Moore. In this capacity he regularly spent time in all the production departments talking to the men employed in every section of the company.
- ★ Wall Heath was once the venue for 'Cobham's Flying Circus', a very spectacular series of stunt flying exploits. A crowd of over 20,000 people flocked to the old aerodrome off the Mile Flat in April 1935 to witness the event which also included a parachute jump by Helen Naomi Heron-Maxwell. 
- ★ In the mid 1800s one of the most notable residents of Wall Heath was local architect William Bourne who designed a number of churches and public buildings in and around the Black Country. One monument that he did design was erected in Halesowen and he engaged Henry Beeson of the Victoria Marble & Stone Works to undertake its production. Unfortunately the work was sub-standard and had to be done again. In apologising for the delay Bourne told his client *"Beeson is in some respects the most foolish man I know but I have never found him to be dishonest."*

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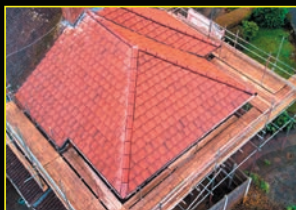
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it's a fact!

- ★ From 1860 until around 1894 much of the water used in the Kingswinford area had been pumped all the way from the outskirts of Lichfield despite the fact that the quality was somewhat variable and the supply subject at times to lengthy disruption. Eventually it was decided to sink some boreholes at Ashwood in the Smestow Valley and the resulting water supply totalled almost four million gallons a day. The Hinksford pumping station further down the valley was brought into service in 1899 and provided a further one million gallons a day for the use of residents across Dudley.
- ★ In 1900 the Brierley Hill & District Football League comprised 13 teams—Woodside Rovers, Groveland Villa, Brockmoor Harriers, Tipton Lancers, Pensnett Victoria, Amblecote Rovers, Old Park Unity, Kingswinford Wanderers, Netherton Red Rose, Woodside Wanderers, Dudley St George's, Dudley Christ Church and Gornal Excelsior.
- ★ In 1916 there was a vicious argument raging between the two district councils of Amblecote and Kingswinford. The clerk of Amblecote Urban Council wrote to his opposite number in Kingswinford complaining about the accumulation of waste paper on the Kingswinford side of Brettel Lane. A reply was quickly forthcoming suggesting that as the paper had blown from the Amblecote side of the border it should be the Amblecote Council that was responsible for removing it. After several weeks of claim and counterclaim the problem was finally resolved by the two councils providing an equal number of men to clear up the mess.



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We came across an interesting tale of a Kingswinford man who fought at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

Elijah Pagett was born in 1792 and was baptised at St Mary's Church at the end of that year. His parents were Joseph and Mary Pagett. At the age of 17, Elijah enlisted in Captain George Crozier's Company of the 44th Regiment of Foot. In his papers he was described as being 5ft 5in tall with dark brown hair, grey eyes and a fair complexion. His Regiment took an active part in both the Peninsular War between 1812 and 1814 and also in the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium where Wellington's forces inflicted a great defeat on Napoleon's troops in 1815.

During the Battle of Waterloo Pagett was injured—it is recorded that he suffered a gunshot wound to his left leg—and indeed did not return to England straightaway until he had recovered some of his strength and mobility. He was discharged in 1816 with a pension of 9d a week and he settled in Tipton where he became a leather worker (although he was also described as a “shoemaker” and “cordwainer” as well). In 1859 his wife, Jane, died in their house in Guns Lane, West Bromwich where they had moved three years earlier. Elijah and Jane had brought up eight children all of whom continued to live in the area. Later Elijah was to spend some time in a retirement home for soldiers in London before returning to West Bromwich where he died in 1878. He is buried at All Saints Church, West Bromwich.



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WHEN THE CIRCUS CAME TO TOWN



Although the Big Top has always been a regular feature in and around the Dudley area, April 1935 saw a very different type of circus come to town. The occasion was the visit of Cobham's Flying Circus to the Mile Flat at Wall Heath. Over 20,000 people travelled to the makeshift aerodrome to see a variety of planes—including an Avro Tutor, De Havilland Dragon, Gipsy Moth—and a Handley Page—put through their paces in spectacular displays.

Highlights of the shows were a parachute jump by Naomi Heron-Maxwell and stunt flying by Geoffrey Tyson whilst a number of lucky visitors had the chance of taking a pleasure trip over Kingswinford, Pensnett and Gornal before returning to Wall Heath.

Such was the draw of this attraction that special buses had to be laid on to bring the thousands of spectators to the Mile Flat and on both days of the displays the 'Sold Out' signs were hoisted. Indeed, the thousands who travelled to Wall Heath were joined by many, many more who watched from vantage points in Sedgley and Upper Gornal. Despite the success Cobham's Flying Circus never returned to Wall Heath although it did give other performances in Wolverhampton and Walsall.



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Our good friends at the Odeon Cinema have very kindly given us 2 x family passes to the Odeon Cinema at Merry Hill, Dudley. There are lots of great films due to be released in the coming months so our winners will have a wide selection to choose from. But remember – if you don't enter then you can't win!

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

Alternatively send us an email at villagevoice@hotmail.co.uk

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

The winners will be the first two correct entries drawn at random after the closing date of **Thursday, 24th September 2026**. Good luck!

E	F	R	E	N	O	C	C	P	O	P
C	J	O	J	C	I	S	U	M	I	T
N	P	O	O	G	O	R	S	N	B	B
A	S	D	A	D	T	A	C	L	K	F
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R	N	A	S	S		T	E	T	K	M
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P	P	J	C	D	J	N	O	E	D	O

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3. MAGIC
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7. TIME
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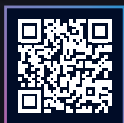
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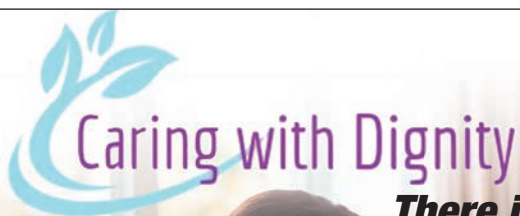


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ONE COMMUNITY UPDATE BY SHAZ SALEEM

Hey wonderful people of Kingswinford and Wall Heath, I'm very proud to be part of the Village Voice writing a monthly blog to highlight amazing community groups and community champions.

The Big Showdown

The Big Showdown... was just that!!! Me and Patrick Harley promised two things: 1. Give respect to boxing and 2. Raise an incredible amount for the Mayor's chosen charities. The 700 strong crowd will tell you we delivered as we gave them a show to remember!!!

Firstly a huge thank you to everyone who supported us on this incredible journey, secondly Patrick deserves all the respect and credit for an awesome night of entertainment!!! The final amount will be announced soon, but thank you all for helping us make history!!

A huge thank you to Wayne Evans, staff at Dudley Borough Halls, L.A Motors, Esquire, UK, Fortnocks Health Club, The Sports Shop & Custom Clothes, Stanley Fish and Chips, Don Dudley Arms, and Bhangra Smash Up for supporting me!!



Supporting The Bert Bissell Memorial Society

I'm proud to serve as Vice-chair for the Bert Bissell Memorial Society. Bert Bissell was an incredible man who dedicated his life supporting others, especially the young. He climbed Ben Nevis an amazing 107 times... I'm only a 97 behind! This year is the 81st anniversary of VJ Day plus the 101st anniversary of Bert's Bible Class. Members of the Bert Bissell Memorial Society led by Alderman Steve Waltho MBE took on the annual climb of the mighty Ben Nevis in honour of the late great Bert Bissell.



Upcoming community events

Every Saturday 7pm - listen to the One Community Show on Black Country Xtra ● **11th and 25th September** - **Kuppa Club** - 9.15am to 11am at Wall Heath Tavern ● **6th and 20th September** - **Kingswinford & Wall Heath Litter Pick** - 10am ● **Kingswinford in Bloom** meet every Saturday and Sunday 10am by the library

Contact me

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

FILM STARS LINK TO HIMLEY



Whilst looking through the family tree of the Earls of Dudley there are a remarkable number of famous actors and actresses associated with the family. Probably best known was the wife of the 4th Earl of Dudley, William Humble David Ward. She was Maureen Swanson who starred in various films including “Moulin Rouge” and “A Town Like Alice”. She admitted to an affair with Stephen Ward who was central to the Profumo Affair involving (amongst others) Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies. Earlier in the family history the 2nd Earl of Dudley (William Humble Ward) married Gertie Millar who was a well-known singer, dancer and actress of the 1920s and known as one of the ‘Gaiety Girls’ after the theatre in which she regularly appeared. It was said that she was one of the most photographed women in the Edwardian period.

Her great grand-daughter was Rachel Ward, the celebrated model and actress who starred in the TV series “The Thorn Birds”.

William Dudley Ward, the great grandson of William Humble Ward, 10th Baron, had two daughters, one of whom was Penelope Dudley-Ward (seen above left) who became a leading actress in the 1930s and 1940s. She married twice, her second husband being film director Carol Reed. Their daughter was Tracey Reed who went on to star in the film “Dr Strangelove” and has been married to three actors—Edward Fox, Neil Hallett and Bill Simpson (of “Dr Finlay’s Casebook” fame). The late actor Oliver Reed was her step-cousin.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Roman encampment at Greensforge, just outside Wall Heath, was first excavated in 1927 by a group of pupils and old boys of Wolverhampton Grammar School.

The Kingswinford area has a long history of rebellion against authoritarian religion. In the early years of the 17th century two men appeared at the Quarter Sessions charged with assembling in “conventicles at Wordesley” and in 1624 William Milward, a Kingswinford tailor, was in court accused of preaching at one of these “conventicles”.

The first turnpikes on roads in the Black Country were established by the Turnpike Act of 1727. This allowed tolls to be charged on the road from Wednesbury to Brettell Lane via Great Bridge, Dudley and Brierley Hill.

The demise of Walter Mills Coaches of Gornal saw the end of an era for many locals who remember taking trips with the company to Blackpool, Weston Super Mare, Barmouth and other favourite seaside resorts. Most local companies and churches used the firm’s coaches for their annual day trips as did local schools going on ‘field trips’.

The Kingswinford Amateur Dramatic Society was formed in 1951—but only lasted a matter of three years.

After the Second World War Kingswinford Wanderers FC had a short (and somewhat inglorious) history playing in the Worcester-shire Combination League. In their five seasons they never once managed to finish above halfway in the table.

For many years at the top of Summerhill was an institution called ‘The Sunshine Home for Blind Babies’. It closed in the early 1960s.

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INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SEPTEMBER

- 1st-1969:** Military officers overthrew the Libyan government. The Libyan Arab Republic was then proclaimed under Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.
- 2nd-1666:** The Great Fire of London began in Pudding Lane and raged for 5 days. Amazingly, only 9 people were killed.
- 3rd-1838:** Anti-Slavery Leader Frederick Douglass began his escape from slavery by boarding a train in Baltimore dressed as a sailor. He rode to Wilmington, Delaware, where he caught a steamboat to the free city of Philadelphia and then took a train to New York City where he came under the protection of the Underground Railway network.
- 12th-1624:** The first practical submarine was publicly tested on the River Thames in London for King James I. Three thousand spectators, including King James I himself, stood to watch. The power of the submarine depended entirely on human effort in the form of underwater rowers.
- 19th-1893:** New Zealand became the first country to grant all women the right to vote. Despite this victory, New Zealand women still had a long journey ahead of them to achieve political equality. Women only gained the right to stand for Parliament in 1919, the first female Member of Parliament was not elected until 1933, and the number of female MPs did not reach double figures until the mid-1980s. Even today, women are still under-represented in Parliament.
- 22nd-1735:** Sir Robert Walpole, often viewed today as Britain's first Prime Minister, moved into 10 Downing Street. Walpole was First Lord of the Treasury for over 20 years, which is an unusually long period of time to be in office. Walpole moved into 10 Downing Street after insisting that it became the residence of the First Lord of the Treasury, rather than it being given to him personally.

Your Local Councillors

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

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

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TEAM BELOW

Cllr Phil Atkins

Tel: 07929 662888

Email: cllr.phil.atkins@dudley.gov.uk

Cllr Ed Lawrence

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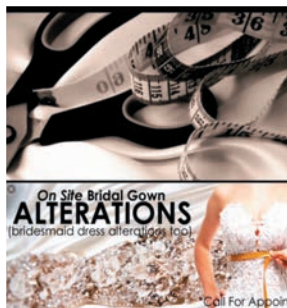
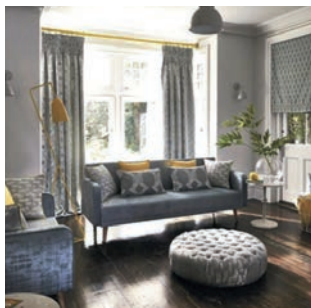
★ At Worcester Summer Assizes in July 1869 an interesting case was heard involving a Mr Price “a gentleman rider and farmer” and Messrs Webb, Sparrow and Jones who were steward of Worcester Races. Price was claiming £28 from them, the prize money for the Wordsley Stakes held at Worcester Races three years before. He had entered a horse which had won two out of the three heats of the race but had not been paid his winnings. He spoke to Sparrow who said that there had been an objection by a Mr Dimmock whose horse had won the other heat. Price later gave the stewards a letter from Dimmock withdrawing his objection but still Price did not receive his prize money. The stewards maintained that they were not the stakeholders and therefore could not pay out the prize. They were, however, unable to say who was the stakeholder. The court held that even if they did not hold the stake (which in itself was unusual) it was clearly their duty to know who did and that therefore they were liable to pay the £28 prize money. Judgment was given to Mr Price.



★ On 16th September 2007 an official opening of the re-vamped King George VI Park was held and, as part of the celebrations a letter from the Queen wishing all those involved “a memorable and enjoyable day” was read out before a new mosaic at the entrance to the park was officially unveiled by the Deputy Mayor Dudley.

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Pumpkin Cake



*This month's recipe has been supplied by the lovely **Helen Beeston-May** from **Windmill Bakery**.*

INGREDIENTS

- 200g butter
- 200g castor sugar
- 200g self raising flour
- 4 eggs
- Vanilla essence

Buttercream

- 500g icing sugar
- 250g butter

PREPARATION

- Grease and line 2 x 6" tins with greaseproof paper
- Place the 200g of softened butter and 200g of castor sugar into a bowl and beat to a creamy consistency
- Slowly beat in 4 eggs, one at a time with a small amount of flour each time and add a few drops of vanilla essence
- Sift in the rest of the flour into the bowl and hand mix
- Divide the mixture between tins and bake for approximately 20 minutes until the sponge is golden. The cake should spring back when gently pushed in the middle
- Allow to stand for 5 minutes and then turn out onto a wire rack to cool
- Sandwich one on top of the other with jam in the middle and carve the cake to resemble a pumpkin shape

BUTTERCREAM ICING

- Carefully mix together icing sugar and softened butter until light and fluffy and add the colouring. Put the mixture into a piping bag and pipe all over the cake to resemble a pumpkin.
- Use green buttercream for the stalk or you can use a small amount of sugar paste



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THE MANY ADVENTURES OF CHESTER (THE DIVA)!



Where have the years gone? One minute a carefree puppy jumping all over the place and into everything and then with a snap of the fingers here he is all ready to go to Dog School!

I believe his owner had quite a battle with the Diva because he had set ideas of what he wanted to wear and unfortunately they didn't match up with what the school requires. Here he is though looking smart and all full of promise for the years ahead of him—it will be interesting to see what exactly he makes of it all...and, of course, someone should have a word with his teachers just to pre-warn them of his “diva” tendencies! Anyhow, good luck Chester—all of your fan club are well and truly behind you on this journey and are cheering you on every step of the way. I fear the most important question has yet to be asked “*just how long will Chester stay at school?*”.

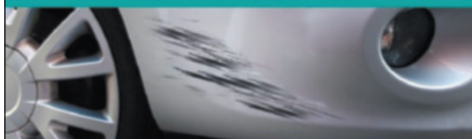
FULL OF HISTORY

There is a tremendous amount of history attached to Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley. Consecrated in December 1831, its past is full of interesting facts:

- ◆ Originally the tower housed only one bell but in 1836 a further five were added at a total cost of £236.00.
- ◆ Although space had been left for a clock in the tower, budget constraints meant that a timepiece was not installed until 1836 at a cost of £130, most of which had been collected by private subscription. The present clock dates back to 1926 when the original one was replaced.
- ◆ The graves of two of the most important glass designers of the area—John Northwood and Frederick Carder—are buried in the churchyard.
- ◆ The Reverend Charles Girdlestone became Rector of Wordsley in 1847. He was related to Admiral Lord Nelson and, allegedly, to Charlemagne, King of the Franks.



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MANY CONGRATULATIONS HIMLEY SAILING CLUB

A fantastic £108,736 raised over the last 50 years for the RNLI

Over the last 50 years Himley Hall Sailing Club, one of the smallest sailing clubs to be affiliated to the RYA have raised £108,736 for the RNLI.

The club which is situated in beautiful historic parkland laid out by Capability Brown has a lovely 1920's thatched clubhouse, purpose built changing rooms and a new starters hut for sailing races which was rebuilt two years ago following an arson attack. The park is owned and administered by Dudley Council who are extremely supportive of the Club's work. Although they are a small club they have regular training activities and awards, welcome schools and host many local scout groups, have competed nationally and support local events. The Club have enjoyed a visit from the Princess Royal who is President of the RYA and this year Sara



Sutcliffe who is Chief Executive of the RYA.



Soon after the club was formed in 1970 (at a time when the club had many more members) a team attended a 24 hour race at a club in Bedfordshire and decided that this was possible at Himley as a charitable event and the RNLI was chosen for its affinity to sailing and water-based activities.

From 1976 onwards a 24 hour race was held with many teams competing and camping out near the lakeside and clubhouse. Despite falling numbers and financial difficulties club members have always been adamant that this must be held every year and all proceeds must go to the RNLI. The Club have worked closely with the Kingswinford and Brierley Hill branch of the RNLI who have always been most supportive and join in with the food provided at the end to help raise funds and with many other events. More recently the Club have received support and help from regional RNLI staff.

Both Himley Sailing Club and the RNLI are desperately in need of new members. If you are interested in learning to sail or are returning to sailing, please contact the sailing club via their website at www.hhsc.weebly.com. If you are interested in assisting the RNLI please contact Alan Price on 07860 472222.

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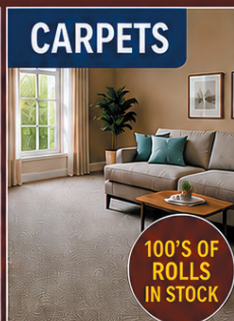
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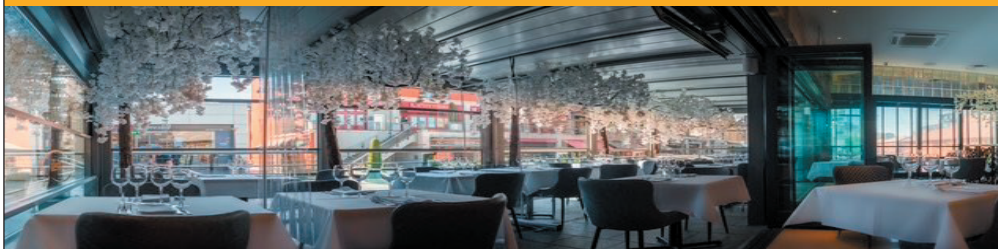
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OUT AND ABOUT: LUCARELLI

A review by Trevor Langley



It is said to be a good idea, for the heart, mind and soul, to get ‘out and about’ – maybe to somewhere that has not been visited for a while (possibly years). Perhaps a favourite village, town or city, from past times comes to mind with a return to view if it is the same, similar or has changed beyond all recognition. I located multi award-winning Lucarelli restaurant (Est. April 2021) in Birmingham, at a scenic canal-side setting. I had been recommended Lucarelli, for providing elegance, style and authentic Italian cuisine to a high standard. Pristine table settings greet the eye, with crisp white linen.

To commence I chose BURRATA E ASPARAGI (Toasted Altamura bread with fresh Apulian burrata, fresh tomatoes, roasted asparagus) from the Antipasti (Starters) list on the main menu. This aroused my taste buds and gave me undoubted confidence in the courses to follow.

For the ‘main event’ I selected POLLO ALLA CALABRESE (Supreme of chicken, roasted peppers, Calabrian ‘Nduja – Italian spicy pork sausage, spicy tomato sauce) from the Old Italian Favourites part of the main menu. This dish arrived in style and aromas enticed me on to the mouth’s pleasures. Flavoursome, and with a succulence that increased my confidence, the sensation of tastes, for the complementing flavours of ingredients, showed that the very experienced kitchen personnel certainly know how to impress diners. Head Chef is Doriano, who, with the brigade, all ensure that diners enjoy a most memorable dining time. Other choices included Pasta, Risotto, Meats, Seafood and Pizza variations, plus sides. ‘Compliments to Chef’ – absolutely!

TIRAMISU (had to be) is my favoured dessert – Splendid! Quality wines/drinks have all requirements covered. Classic Italian Liqueurs, Coffees, Teas and more are also listed. Gift vouchers are available – perhaps surprise someone special? Parties, receptions, plus corporate events etc are easily arranged. Thank you to Pasquale, for his genuine welcome and to Simone, for exemplary service throughout. Highly recommended.

**Lucarelli, 117 Wharfside Street, Mailbox, Birmingham B1 1RF. Tel: 0121 665 6762.
E-mail: mailbox@lucarelliholdings.co.uk Web: www.lucarellirestaurant.co.uk**

**Lucarelli’s sister restaurant with rooms (Est. June 2019) is also award-winning and located at
58 – 60 Seagar Street, West Bromwich B71 4AN. Tel: 0121 532 1552.
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Trevor Langley

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

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

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

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

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

What is an MTD for income tax quarterly update?

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

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

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

Who must submit quarterly updates?

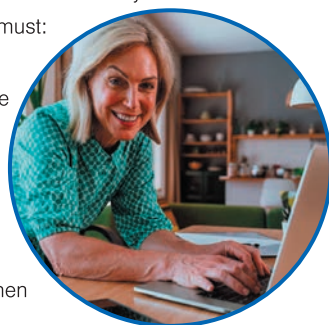
MTD for income tax is being introduced in stages, depending on your level of qualifying income in the previous reported tax year:

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

Qualifying income is income from self-employment and property rental *before* expenses are deducted.

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

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



What are the quarterly update deadlines for 2026/27?

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

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

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

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OR WHATEVER by John Sparry

Gone Fishin'

When the Tesla trillionaire, Elon Musk's team of robot roofers, painters and decorators first unload the solar-powered builders' carts on the planet Mars, in preparation for the erecting of pressurised flatpack prefabs for those unable to get on the housing ladder in either Dudley, Dusseldorf or Dixville Notch, there could be a caveat from the world of real estate.



As a confirmed subscriber to the 'IMCIU Society' (it-might-come-in-useful) my scrapbooks include this spot from the News of the World, November 27, 1988. 'Angling fans are hooked on a New York firm's offer of fishing rights on Venus and Mars. United Planet Commission gets £11 for a fifty yard stretch and says, 'Business is booming'.

Temperatures resembling these during a 'melt' in the furnaces at the Earl's Round Oak Steelworks, and in addition, rivers flowing with sulphuric acid rather than water, seemed to negate Venus as a piscatorial paradise.

However, despite little digging machines already prospecting on Mars, one hopes

the long-held belief in the existence of canals on the Red Planet has not been entirely dis-counted.

In any event we may be able to appoint a great, great grandson of James Brindley to program the robots. As his canal-building ancestor used to tell fellow-waterway engineers treating the clay at the bottom of the cut, "Puddle it, puddle it!".

Anorakian note: 'Cut' was the proper word employed by those intrepid engineers of old. Black Country folk, who don't care for too much change, kept it along with their cups of tay.

Mid-term note: Dixville Notch is usually first in delivering its vote in Presidential Elections.

By John Sparry, Ridge Cot, 15 Enville Road, Wall Heath
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(Sorry folks, no texts or voicemails accepted—I just can't cope with that!)

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Kingswinford in Bloom

Meet THE Team



ANNETTE

Age: 66

Occupation: Retiree

Any previous gardening experience? No

What, in your opinion has gone well for Kingswinford in Bloom?

The mixture of colours in the planters and we've managed to keep on top of the snails, so lack of snails has to be mentioned.

What is your favourite planter in the village and why?

All of the wooden planters outside each shop, because everyone is different.

If money was no obstacle, what else could the Bloomers do for Kingswinford?

A more accessible HQ / tool station central to the village.

What have you gained personally from volunteering for Kingswinford in Bloom?

Friendship is the main one, I've learnt some things about plants but having a laugh with people on the same wave length is great.



MARK

Age: 64

Occupation: Between jobs – open to opportunities

Any previous gardening experience? No

What, in your opinion has gone well for Kingswinford in Bloom?

The village looks a lot nicer and definitely cleaner.

What is your favourite planter in the village and why?

I'm equally fond of all of them, the wooden planters and the tiered planters and now we have extra planters around the Christmas tree on Townsend Place.

If money was no obstacle, what else could the Bloomers do for Kingswinford?

A better watering system or watering station. Better security in the village would be good to stop people littering.

What have you gained personally from volunteering for Kingswinford in Bloom?

I have gained a sense of well being and have met some lovely people who are like minded.



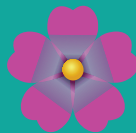
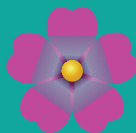
ANN

Age: 67

Occupation: Local hairdresser.

Wanted to give my support helping the village to look better. I enjoy helping people and pottering in my own garden. The planters make the village look more alive and puts the community in good spirits.





EVAN

Age: 18

Occupation: Student

Any previous gardening experience? No

What, in your opinion has gone well for Kingswinford in Bloom?

In my opinion getting more people into gardening has gone well for Kingswinford in Bloom.

What is your favourite planter in the village and why?

My favourite planter is all of them because they all look stunning.

If money was no obstacle, what else could the Bloomers do for Kingswinford?

If money wasn't an obstacle I would put a fruit and vegetable garden in the village so that children could enjoy picking the fruits.



RACHEL

Age: 45

Occupation: Teacher

Any previous gardening experience?

I've learnt lots about gardening from mom and dad and love my own garden.

Investing just an hour of every week makes a positive difference to the village, making it a pleasant place to shop and drive through. Plus, the Bloomers are a lovely group of people.

What, in your opinion has gone well for Kingswinford in Bloom?

The watering rota over the hot Summer and the Bloomers' dedication to watering all of the planters. Also, growing all the flowers and plants for the Autumn throughout the Summer. It's quite a strategic operation behind the scenes!

What is your favourite planter in the village and why? My favourite planters are the ones outside the library because they were the first ones I planted.

If money was no obstacle, what else could the Bloomers do for Kingswinford? If money was no obstacle, investing in hanging baskets and stands. A few of these dotted around would brighten up Kingswinford even more.

What have you gained personally from volunteering for Kingswinford in Bloom? Meeting fun people, getting a dose of fresh air every Sunday, seeing the difference a small investment of time makes.



ANN-MARIE

Age: 56

Occupation: Emotional Wellbeing Worker

Any previous gardening experience? We have kept an allotment for over 20 years growing vegetables and fruit.

What, in your opinion has gone well for Kingswinford in Bloom?

The tiered planters look especially good this year. I love that the Bloomers are always striving to be better, learning from past experiences. Pete is a great Head Gardener.

What is your favourite planter in the village and why? I particularly like the planters by the library.

If money was no obstacle, what else could the Bloomers do for Kingswinford? If money was no obstacle I would have outside taps installed in the village for easier watering !!!

What have you gained personally from volunteering for Kingswinford in Bloom? Working full time, I'm not able to commit as much time as others but there is no judgement just a friendly welcome every time.

I have also learned more about different flowers that have helped me with planting pots at home.

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Back in 2016 we put together a series of ‘Unanswered Questions’ which seemed not to have any rational answers. Here are a few more for you to think about:

How do you know you’re not living in a simulation?

What happens after we die?

Is there such a thing as objective morality, or is everything relative?

How do you know your perception of the colour blue is the same as everyone else’s?

Would you rather know all the questions or all the answers?

If you describe something as indescribable, haven’t you already described it?

Isn’t good health just a slower rate at which to die?

If you punch yourself and it hurts, are you weak or strong?

What shape is your field of vision?

If the past is gone and the future hasn’t happened, does the present really exist?

What is nothingness?

Can two identical objects exist?

If you replaced every part of a ship one by one until none of the original remained, then built a second ship from all the original parts, which one is the real ship-and at what exact point during the replacement process did it change?

Can you trust a memory if you can’t tell when it started?

Can an all-powerful being create a rock so heavy it cannot lift it?

How can you ever reach a destination if you have to get halfway there first, then halfway again, and so on forever?

How big is the universe and does it have an edge?

Why does anything exist rather than nothing?

If every possible outcome of quantum mechanics happens in some universe, are there infinite copies of you reading slightly different versions of this article right now?

What happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object?

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BRAINTEASERS ANSWERS

The answers to our Brainteasers this month need a little more explanation than usual. So here goes:

1. The answer to this puzzle has caused great controversy both in America and the UK. Indeed, in 2006 a full day's debate about the answer to the question was held at Oxford University. The generally accepted answer seems to be that you should change your choice. This is based on the fact that when you chose Box A initially you had a one-in-three chance of being correct. If you now change to Box C then you have a one-in-two chance of the £1 million cheque and so the odds

are better. We, however, are not convinced!

2. The numeric value of the equation is $9567 + 1085 = 10652$

3. This is much more straightforward. The four people were a man and his son, his sister and her daughter.

4. The answer (which surprised us) is "one thousand".

**WATCH OUT FOR MORE
BRAINTEASERS IN THE
OCTOBER EDITIONS**

COMPETITION WINNERS

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

HEATHER BRADLEY of **STOURBRIDGE** and
RUSS BANKS of **WOLVERHAMPTON**

You can find this month's competition on page 28.

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.



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FOOD, FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Many years ago we had the excavation of Dudley Market Place that led to us realising that the 17th century equivalent of fast food in the area was oysters. This made us think about food in general—what have been the trends over the years for fast food? And more than that, what did our local serve up? Here we take a closer look...

It has long been known that oysters were regularly eaten in Britain as far back as Roman times and whilst they were initially a delicacy around the coasts it was not long before oyster farms had been set up inland to provide plentiful supplies of this particularly nutritious food.



The freshwater oyster was not only very nutritious but could easily be served fresh simply by keeping it in a bucket of water.

As a takeaway fish and chips still ranks amongst the most popular but this classic pairing has a somewhat strange history. It is thought that when fried fish became particularly popular in Belgium in the 18th century local housewives were stumped when frozen rivers meant that no fish could be caught so they took potatoes, cut them into fish shaped pieces, fried them and served them not as an accompaniment to fish but as an alternative. By the middle of the 19th century the first “fried fish shop” had been opened in London and Charles Dickens had written about this new meal in his book



Oliver Twist. By the 1930s it was estimated that there were 35,000 fish and chip shops throughout the country (now there are about 10,500).

Of course, it is now said that Chinese food is the most popular takeaway food in Britain today accounting for about 25% of all takeaway meals. The history of the Chinese takeaway seems to suggest that the concept was originally imported from America where the first outlet of its kind was opened by a Chinese cook who had joined the California Gold Rush.

Today most Chinese takeaway dishes bear little resemblance to traditional oriental cooking—chop suey, for example was invented in the USA when a bowl of left-overs was presented to (and enjoyed by) a customer. Indeed he even came back for more!

Today close on the heels of Chinese takeaways in the popularity stakes are Indian

dishes. In fact Indian restaurants appeared over 60 years before similar Chinese restaurants but the introduction of Indian takeaways came about through the use of curry sauce as an accompaniment to chips. From that humble beginning the British taste for Indian takeaway dishes was born and the



Initially most Indian dishes were made very mild as it was assumed the Western tastebuds would not like anything too fiery. Today, however, many Indian meals are much hotter than would normally be served in India.

rest, as they say, is history.

And then, of course, along came takeaway burger outlets on the High Street (starting with Wimpy right through to McDonalds and Burger King) which made it seem that this is one of the most popular takeaways but in fact there are more pizza parlours out there serving the public than burger bars. The Italian was introduced into the UK by Italian immigrants in the 19th century and has never looked back.

But what of pub fare? Until 60 years ago the only food that you would get in a pub (unless it was also a hotel) were crisps, port scratchings and – if you were really lucky—a cheese sandwich or bap!

All that, of course, has changed dramatically over the past few years and the gourmet pub is clearly here to stay. Indeed there are pubs in the Black Country that have ostrich, kangaroo, wild boar and swordfish on their menus whilst salt ‘n’ vinegar crisps have been replaced by much more exotic savouries including nachos or sautéed bamboo shoots. Despite this, the favourite pub dish seems still to be steak and chips or pie and chips—although it is a close run thing with lasagne and even curry.

So what is the next trend on the horizon? What will be the next dish to tickle our taste buds? Unfortunately your guess is as good as ours! We have heard that light battered vegetables fried in olive oil are finding their way onto menus in London but will they really take off in the Black Country? We think not.

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ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER?

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

MICHELE BIRCH

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

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

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

Michele is a Creative Empowerment speaker offering talks on positive thinking, resilience, motivation and self-esteem. She also offers the opportunity to tailor her talks to cater for any given audience and is more than happy to talk to organisers about their requirements.

For availability, please contact Michele either by email at:
michelebirch6@gmail.com
or telephone on **0791 853 2284**

BARRY PICKEN

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

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

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

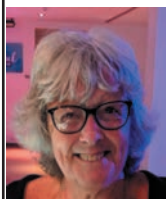
'They took their Lifeboat to the top of the mountain' - the Lynmouth Lifeboat January 1899

'Edith Cavell - heroine or spy'

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

All of the talks are given with a power point presentation

For availability, please talk to Barry either by email at:
bpicken119@aol.com
or
Telephone **07940 743807**



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

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

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

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

JOHN HOMER - A BLACK COUNTRY BLOKE!

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



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

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

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

Telephone: 01384 236827

Mobile: 07818 291578

Email: johnhomerwba@hotmail.co.uk

KAREN EVANS

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



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

'Where does my family come from?' -

Unlocking the secrets of DNA testing—this talk covers areas such as understanding how the test works in very general terms.

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

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



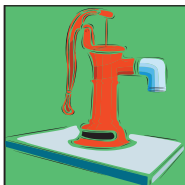
ALAN PEACE: Alan began his working life as a printer but has also been a youth worker and a professional climbing instructor. His high altitude climbing career has sent him around the world to places such as The Alps, Russia, Argentina, Norway, Italy, Morocco, Tanzania and Mongolia. He spent 10 years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

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

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

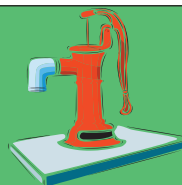
The 1000km Stroll—backpacking the South West Coast Path—Back in May 2021 Alan travelled to Minehead in Somerset to begin backpacking the 1000km long South West Coast Path in aid of Cancer Research.—an eight week expedition and the follow-up expedition the reverse way in 2022.

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



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12PM	👤	COMBAT OR RUN
1PM	👤	BOXING
2PM	👤	STRENGTH
3PM	👤	FITGAMES
4PM	👤	BOOTCAMP
5PM	👤	CARDIO-CORE (ERG)
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FREE ENTRY ALL WELCOME



WORDSLEY BRIDGE CLUB

Come and play, or learn to play, bridge at Wordsley Bridge Club. We meet in the upstairs room at Wordsley Community Centre on Wednesday Evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, and on Friday afternoons from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. We are a small friendly group and welcome all, whether experienced or wanting to learn the game. There is a small charge which includes a cup of tea or coffee and you will be guaranteed a game.

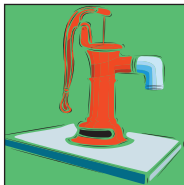
Contact Trevor Mansell on
01384 395110
or the Community Centre on

We are holding a Charity Fundraiser on Sunday, 27th September at JD Gyms in Brierley Hill to raise money for "Home Matters Dementia Support CIC". This is for people suffering with Dementia and their carers.

The charity is very close to my heart because my mom had this awful disease and I was her primary carer. The Class-A-Thon is open to anyone who wants to join our event, to do one or more classes.

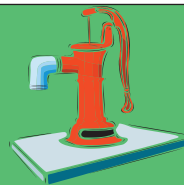
If you are interested, could you please register with me in-salon at Blaze Hair
37 Lapwood Avenue, Kingswinford DY6 8RP

Brett Harris
Managing Director, Blaze Hair and
Business Ambassador for Midlands
Air Ambulance Charity.



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WALL HEATH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Envile Road, Wall Heath DY6 0JT

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

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

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

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

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

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

WORDSLEY BELL RINGERS

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Eric Bayford on 07906 264 002



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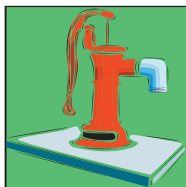
11.00am-3.00pm

Come along and see a wide variety of stalls selling handmade cards, Wooden items, Tree decorations, Keyrings, Purses, Candles, Crystal Art, Books, Home made Cakes, Jam preserves and much more. Stalls £15.

Stall availability and further details can be obtained from Daphne Darby

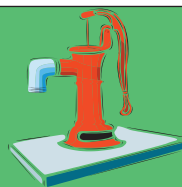
Telephone: 0753 0071 068

Email: wdarby@sky.com



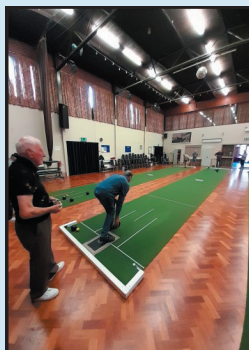
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MEN'S BOWLS AT WORDSLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE



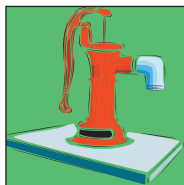
If you have time on a Friday afternoon, why not pop along to see us between 1.00pm and 4.00pm and join this highly popular group for Short Mat Indoor Bowls,

Cards and Dominoes.

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

All equipment is supplied. If you have never played before that is not a problem as the group welcome all abilities. There are subsidised subscriptions.

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



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



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27th October

Elaine Hale—"*Rhythm 'n Roots*"

24th November

Debbie Davies— "*Charismata*"

26th January 2027

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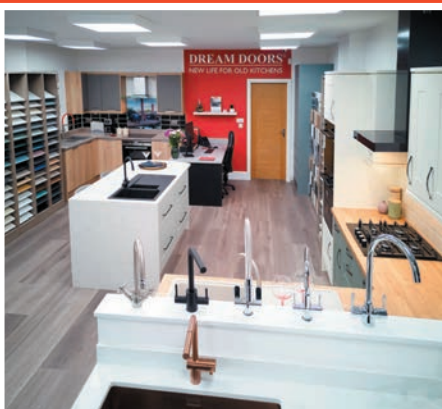
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