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Chris Smith - We Remember!

ISSUE 228 | SEPTEMBER 2026



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Village Voice

Community magazine for
Wombourne, Swindon, Penn & Kinver

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

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it's a fact!

- ★ We thought that this was quite an interesting snippet. The bridge across the Smestow Brook is particularly unusual because it is Grade II Listed by English Heritage. The bridge was built in the late 18th century and is described as being *“of red brick with ashlar dressings and comprises three segmental arches with alternate raised voussoirs, two keeled ashlar cutwaters and plain parapet string to coped parapet. Abutments sweep forward”*. Halfway across the bridge is the sign (right). The Motor Car Act 1903 introduced driving licences and speed limits.



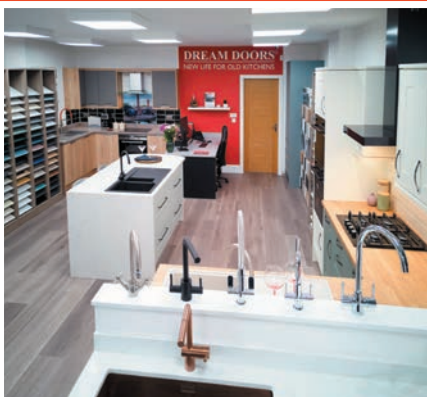
- ★ The Seisdon Union Isolation Hospital in Bratch Common Road, Wombourne was created to house up to 24 smallpox and diphtheria sufferers. Visitors were only allowed to speak to them through a hatch.
- ★ In August 1938 Major Geoffrey Stewart-Smith of Heathlands, Kinver was tragically killed in a glider accident. He was a passenger in a two-seater plane which was being given a winch tow at an airfield near Shrewsbury. Unfortunately, the hook attaching the cable to the glider failed to disengage causing the aircraft to plummet to the ground. Stewart-Smith suffered a dislocated neck and died instantly.
- ★ It is said that the Smestow Brook was originally called the Tressul—hence the names of local villages Trescott and Trysull. However, by the 14th century it had changed its name to Smetheslall (or the place of the Smiths).

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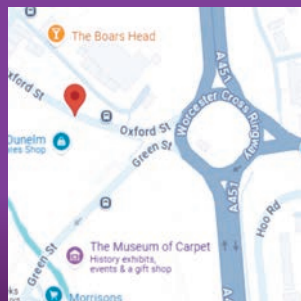
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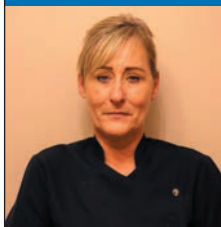


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BRAINTEASERS

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 56.

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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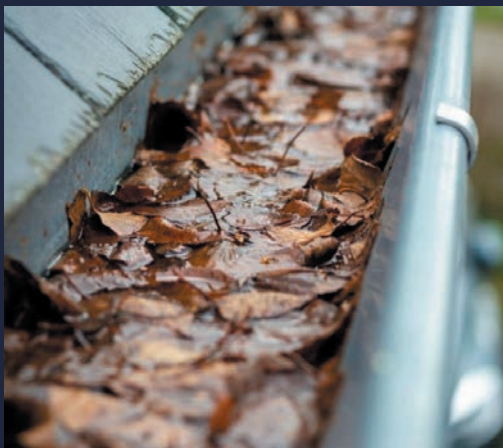
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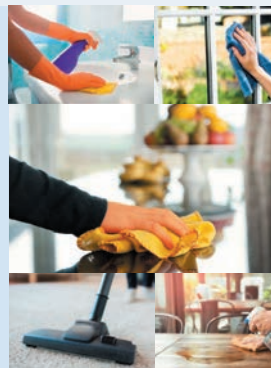
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THE SENTENCE OF THE COURT!

Almost 200 years ago courts never bothered with 'community sentences' or 'conditional discharges'. Criminals convicted of theft, for example, were much more likely to—at best—be deported to Australia or often sentenced to death. For example, in March 1831 John Swatkins (22), Thomas Lloyd (53) and Thomas Timins (19) were each sentenced to death for "*maliciously and feloniously setting afire a stack of barley*" belonging to Richard Williams of Wombourne. A similar sentence was handed down a year later when Thomas Scriven of Himley was found guilty of stealing one ewe sheep from Thomas Chadwick of Kingswinford. More common in those days, however, was transportation to Australia.

In 1833 William Walker (42) was sentenced at Stafford Assizes of stealing sheep at Wombourne, the property of William Perry. He was transported for life.



A Wombourne resident, John Jones, was convicted of pickpocketing William Wells at Wolverhampton Races and was sentenced to seven years transportation. This was the same sentence given to George Allen (13) who stole a pair of boots. Between 1787 and 1868 (when transportation finished) well over 162,000 men, women and children had been taken to Australia. Until 1842 most went to New South Wales whilst for the following 25 years they were sent to Van Diemens Land (Tasmania).



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The borings proved unsuccessful as the bore rods broke leaving the diamond tipped rods (worth £200 each), lost deep underground.

A second test boring was made some distance away and this proved that a sizeable coal seam was present some 600 yards below the surface. Work immediately began in clearing the site and in February the first shaft of what was to become Baggeridge Colliery was sunk.



The process of making the boring was slow and tortuous with a number of problems having to be overcome before in July 1902, the first seam of coal was discovered. Similar problems (including flooding and roof collapses) occurred when the second shaft was sunk in 1910 and for a long time it seemed that the Earl's investment in the enterprise was doomed to failure. However, such was the ingenuity and determination of the colliery teams that solutions were found and the Baggeridge Colliery became one of the largest and most productive pits in the country, producing coal in prestigious amounts until its closure in 1968.

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HAGLEY WOMBOURNE RUBERY

it's a fact!

- ★ In September 1866 the following advertisement appeared in the local papers: *"One pound reward—lost, a red cow with white hind leg, star on forehead and marked in the right ear—information to be given to George Cole, Upper Penn. Any person detaining her after this notice will be prosecuted"*.
- ★ In 1795 the Staffordshire Advertiser described the different types of goods manufactured throughout the county. Whilst Wolverhampton was said to be the centre of lock-making and Walsall and its surrounding villages (including Bloxwich) were primarily involved in the making of shoe buckles and saddlers' ironmongery, so Sedgley, Smethwick and Wombourne were identified as areas of nailmaking. There was also a comment that *"a great number of children as well as men are employed in making the finer and lighter sorts, which they do equally well."*
- ★ September 1885 saw Joseph Watkins, a farmer from Kinver, in court at Brierley Hill charged with maliciously and wilfully shooting Joseph Chance, a School Border officer. Chance and a friend were out gathering mushrooms and on the way back they crossed over some of Watkins' land. Whilst there Watkins confronted them and demanded the mushrooms but Chance refused to hand them over. Watkins then fired one barrel of his shotgun at Chance, with the pellets striking him on the thigh, calf and hand. Chance showed Watkins the wounds but all the farmer said was *"I wish I had given you more"*. Having heard the outline of the case the magistrates decided to send it to the forthcoming Assizes at Stafford where Watkins was fined £10.



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There is no doubt that here in the West Midlands many of us enjoy a good pie (or two), both savoury or sweet. Some years ago a national survey was carried out into the nation's favourite pies which made interesting reading. The survey by luxury pie maker Charles Bigham in support of British Pie Week showed that the nation's favourite pie by a country mile was the good old Steak & Kidney. This was followed by Steak & Ale,



Shepherd's Pie and Chicken & Mushroom. The rest of the top ten included Cottage Pie, Fish Pie, Pork Pie, Steak & Mushroom, Chicken, Ham & Leek and Steak & Potato Pie.

Undoubtedly if the survey had been confined to the West Midlands two other candidates would have been Desperate Dan Pie (which was available at Tipton's Pie Factory) and also the increasingly ubiquitous Balti Pie (now available in a pub near you).

The survey (which was carried out amongst some 2000 individuals across the country) also showed that in the sweet sector the traditional Apple, Lemon Meringue, Apple & Blackberry and Mince Pies were by far the most popular with very little interest in the likes of rhubarb, cherry or gooseberry pies. One point of controversy, however, is whether a pasty is a pie or not?

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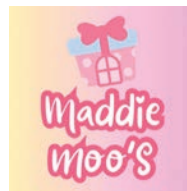


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INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SEPTEMBER

- 6th—1620:** The Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, Devon, carrying the Pilgrim Fathers to America.
- 10th—1771:** This day celebrates the birth of Mungo Park the Scottish explorer who published his *‘Travels in the Interior of Africa’* in 1799.
- 12th—1908:** Winston Churchill married Clementine Hozier.
- 15th—1830:** MP William Huskisson became the first rail fatality at the opening of the Liverpool Manchester Railway.
- 19th—1356:** The Black Prince, the eldest son of Edward III, led the English to victory over the French at the Battle of Poitiers.
- 21st—1327:** This day saw the death of Edward II who was murdered with a red hot poker by his jailers.
- 24th—1776:** The first St. Leger horserace was run at Doncaster, Yorkshire.
- 25th—1818:** The first transfusion of human blood was performed at Guy’s Hospital, London.
- 26th—1580:** The Golden Hind arrived in Plymouth Harbour having sailed around the world under the captaincy of Sir Francis Drake. Drake plundered a few Spanish ships en-route to keep morale high!
- 28th—1745:** ‘God Save the King’ was sung for the first time at London’s Drury Lane Theatre.
- 29th—1758:** Horatio Nelson was born.
- 30th—1938:** Misguided British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, said after meeting Hitler in Munich, *“I believe it is peace for our time”*.

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BIG SCREEN MEMORIES

One of the best known and loved entertainment facilities in Penn was the Penn Cinema in Warstones Road. It opened on 27th December 1937 with the showing of the Marx Brothers classic *A Day at the Races* and was an immediate success regularly attracting capacity audiences of over 1,100 patrons.

The cinema had been built by the Penn Cinema Company, a consortium of local businessmen put together by B.T. Davies, a Birmingham-based accountant. The building itself was designed by architect Roland Satchwell who decreed that wherever possible local materials should be used—hence bricks from Baggeridge Brickworks were used in its construction.

During the War the building was not only for the showing of films but also as a base for the local Home Guard unit, the ARP wardens and police.



End of an era...the demolition of the Penn Cinema in 1973. Photo Nigel Caddick.

After the end of hostilities a full programme (including very popular matinees) of films was recommended and indeed throughout the

next decade or so audience numbers continued to hold up despite the coming of television.

As well as cinema-goers the building also welcomed the congregation of a local church every Sunday evening and played host to a number of 'one off' events, the most notable of which was a midnight showing of I'm *Alright Jack* as a fundraiser for Boys Clubs. The film was introduced in person by one of its stars, Richard Attenborough.

One of the potential problems facing the Penn Cinema management was the obtaining of suitable films to show. For many years a very successful Saturday morning children's club attracted audiences of up to 350 but these had to be stopped in mid 1963 as it had become increasingly difficult to obtain films appropriate for the audience.

The situation became worse in the early 1970s when the availability of films for evening performances also became limited. This, with plans to redevelop the whole site meant that the days of Penn Cinema were inevitably drawing to a close. Indeed, the decision to close came in 1973 and the final film—*Ooh, You Are Awful* starring Dick Emery—was shown on 24th March of that year with the sale of the building to property developers following very shortly afterwards. Within months the building was demolished and a MacMarket supermarket replaced it. This supermarket then became a branch of International Stores before again changing its name to Somerfield in 2011 and then in 2016 it was acquired by the Co-op.

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it's a fact!

- ★ In 1915 Dorothy Bills, the daughter of Kinver's well-known chemist and parish clerk, was awarded the prestigious Jacob Bell Memorial Scholarship, becoming the first woman to win it. Bell was the instigator of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and the scholarship was seen as one of the highest awards available in the pharmaceutical industry and allowed Dorothy to carry out research in the area of her choice.
- ★ In August 1757 it was reported that a gentleman called Robert Parr died at Kinver, "a small village near Bridgnorth". It was not only alleged that he was 124 years of age when he died but also that his father had died at the age of 109, his grandfather at 113 and his great grandfather (who was buried at Westminster Abbey) was 152 when he died.
- ★ On Friday, 21st April 1882 at the Wilden Ironworks in Swindon, a fight between two employees had tragic consequences. It seems that a man called Alfred Hammond became annoyed by a boy named Matthew Reynolds and threw a heated piece of iron at him. The iron hit him in the groin and within just a few minutes he bled to death. Hammond was charged with murder.
- ★ Hidden in the depths of the archives from 1930, we found this amusing account of the Wombourne Floral Fete organised by the Women's Institute. It saw an extremely strange mixture of attractions. As well as a "Grand Display of Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables and Handicrafts" there were also motorcycle novelty races, whippet races (including a whippet versus pigeon challenge) and a series of boxing bouts involving local boxers and 'Harry Curzon's Midgets'.



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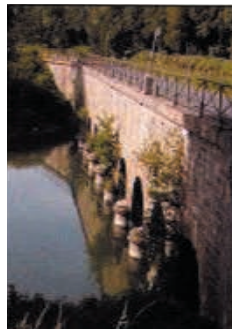
TRYSULL & SEISDON—the Disney Connection

At first glance there seems to be no obvious direct connection between two small South Staffordshire villages and the largest and most popular visitor attraction in Europe.

However, in fact Trysull & Seisdon are twinned with the French village of Conde Sainte Libiaire, a small village that is situated right next to Disneyland Resort Paris. Indeed many of the 1418 inhabitants of the French village are employed in the complex or the numerous surrounding hotels. Conde Sainte Libiaire is a commune within the Seine-et-Marne department in the Ile-de-France region, close to Paris. At the centre of the village is the 17th century Roman Catholic church Eglise de Saint Martin et Saint Libiaire (seen below)



although its prosperity owes much to the Canal de Meaux à Chalifet which flows through the village. The bridge carrying the road over the canal (seen here above is much photographed and was a key target for the American troops moving through the area during the liberation of France during World War II. At one point a massive force of American heavy tanks gathered to protect it against the German army. Historically the leading industry in the area was the manufacture of scarves (although this finished in the 1960s) and today the leisure industry is by far the biggest employer followed by agriculture.



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HIMLEY PARK'S MYSTERY SKELETON

Our good friend Alan Peace has very kindly sent in another article drawn from his varied experiences whilst working as Himley Park Senior Warden. I do hope you enjoy it.

A local history group from Wolverhampton had been carrying out research in Himley Park trying to locate the exact location of the original 14th century chapel. This was removed in 1764 when the Earl of Dudley had all the properties making up Himley Village demolished and relocated to their present locations.

Using ground penetrating radar the group located what they thought was the location of the chapel and they were given permission to do an exploratory dig. They hit the footings of the south east corner of the building on the nail and in the inside corner, in addition to some wonderful floor tiles, they unearthed a skeleton complete with bronze shroud pins. The fact that the body had been buried inside the building would indicate that it must have been someone of importance but we have no idea who it was.

Once the necessary photographs and measurements had been taken the remains were left in peace and the hole was filled in and the turf replaced. This is when things became really entertaining! Because an undocumented skeleton had been unearthed, which could possibly have been a recent murder victim for all anyone knew, the coroner had to be informed and two or three weeks later two police officers came to my office in Himley Hall. They had been sent by the coroner's office to photograph the skeleton in-situ. That was obviously a bit of a problem with it having been covered up again but I took the officers over and they actually photographed the grass. In fairness there wasn't really anything else they could do as we certainly had no intention of digging the hole out again. All the available evidence, however, pointed to the remains being from the 14th century so nothing further was done.

Alan Peace Himley Park Senior Warden 1985-2012



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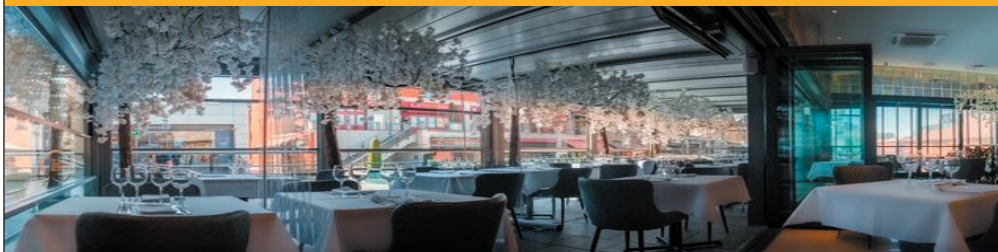


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OUT AND ABOUT: LUCARELLI

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 Dorian, 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.
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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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Over the years there have been many varied and wonderful remedies for some of even the most minor ailments that affected people. Some, indeed, are still used whilst others—having no doubt proved remarkably ineffective—have disappeared without trace...until now! Here are a few from the 1850s (although we don't suggest that you try them!).

Raw onion was applied to wasp and bee stings to reduce the pain and swelling. To be properly effective, though, the onion had to be rubbed on with a clockwise motion.

In order to cure rheumatism it was said that a potato should be placed in the sufferer's right hand pocket and kept there for a month and a day.

Chilblains were sometimes treated by holding down the patient whilst their foot was thrashed with a substantial sprig of holly!

A spider's web was used to stop bleeding and to heal wounds, especially cuts.

A mixture of beetroot, sugar and old ale were made into a tonic wine that was used to cure anaemia (as was cold tea).

The milk from dandelion stems was frequently used to cure warts...although it was said that the dandelions must be picked before noon otherwise the warts would double in size.

In many cases the remedies here were passed on down the generations from grandmother to mother to daughter. Few were written down and, as with all oral history much has changed and indeed been forgotten over the years.

Although many of the suggested actions were part of local traditions, it is surprising how widespread across the country they proved to be—and how many of them had more than a grain of truth in them.

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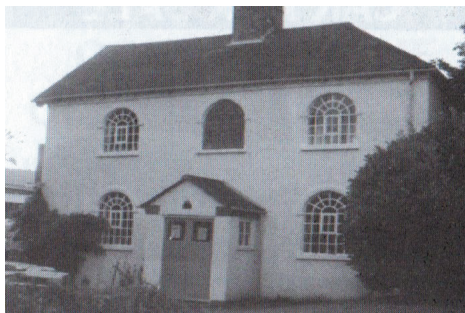
MRS DALTON'S DAY SCHOOL

Few people realise that the Wombourne Institute and 'Hand In Hand' was originally built as far back as 1833 as a school.

Since 1806 the village had a Sunday School which was held in rooms rented by a Mr Aston but these soon proved inadequate. Sarah Dalton, who lived in Lloyd House, donated the money needed to build a new school which was completed in 1833 and the first pupils attended on 4th March 1834.

The building was used in this way until 1863 when a new school—again much larger—was constructed. The deeds of the house stated that it must be used for community use and it became the meeting place for the Mutual Improvement Society, a group led by the vicar. A small library was installed and concerts, talks and debates were held within its walls. Later the building became the Men's Institute before being converted, for a short time, into a clinic.

Today of course, it is the headquarters of a number of voluntary organisations as well as being the parish offices.





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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.

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

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it's a fact!

- ★ **The Wodehouse at Wombourne was the venue for a huge garden party in September 1888. Attending the garden party were members of the Wednesbury Senior & Junior Liberal Association, the Wednesbury Library Club and the Tolstoi branch of the ladies' league plus Liberals from Darlaston and Tipton—a total of more than 1200 guests who were conveyed by a fleet of over 100 vehicles to the house which, at that time was the residence of the Hon. Philip Stanhope MP. Refreshments and entertainment were laid on and a number of keen fishermen were given special permission to fish in the Wodehouse's lake. Later there were a number of rousing political speeches before the crowds were transported back across the Black Country.**
- ★ **June 1891 saw Charles Malpass, a soldier from Kinver, appearing at Brierley Hill Police Court charged with assaulting Arthur Drew at the Red Lion Inn at Bobbington. Drew said that he was at a function at the pub and at around 11.45pm he saw Malpass lying on the floor near the door. He said that Malpass seemed to be drunk and lashed out at him, hitting him on the head four times with his belt. Other witnesses, however, said that Drew and his friends had called Malpass a "Zulu" and tripped him up. The case was found not proved.**
- ★ **The Venerable John Sugar was born in Wombourne in 1558 and became a martyr in 1604 when he was hanged for being a Catholic priest. He had studied at Oxford University before becoming a Protestant minister in East Anglia. He then embraced the Catholic faith. He was arrested in 1603 and spent a year in prison in Warwick before being taken to the gallows.**

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PRESTWOODCAVENURSERY



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
M	T	M	S	R	A	W	R	A	T	S
R	N	A	S	S		T	E	T	K	M
O	E	W	M	E	J	I	E	I	O	L
F	V	D	E	A	O	M	N	G	O	I
R	E	E	N	T	J	E	S	I	B	F
E	M	U	I	R	O	T	I	D	U	A
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2. FILMS
3. MAGIC
4. DIGITAL
5. POPCORN
6. MUSIC
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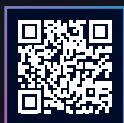
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BRAINTEASERS ANSWERS

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 54.

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



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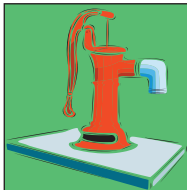
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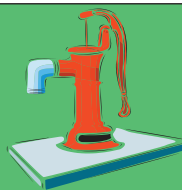
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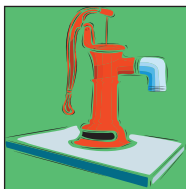
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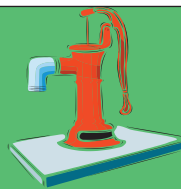
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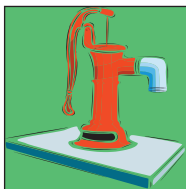
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DATES OF LUNCHESES

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24th NOVEMBER 2026

Phil Downing – Harvington Hall

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**Nicholas Baker – The Enville estate
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30th MARCH 2027

Mary Bodfish – Darling Elizabeth

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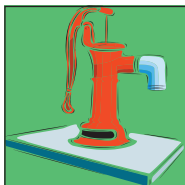
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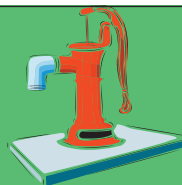


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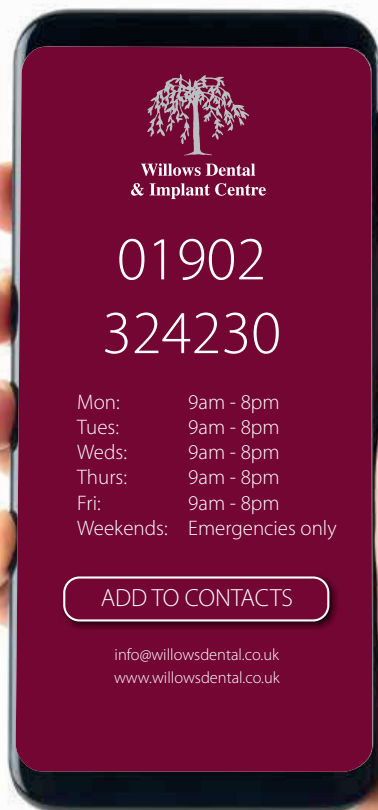
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