

Withington Parish Magazine



January and February 2017

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Editorial

By the time this edition is distributed the shortest day will have passed and little by little the day light hours will increase in the New Year. However, the light evenings are a long way off and as it is the season when we all are thinking about making New Year resolutions, perhaps one good deed that we should consider is to check upon neighbours who are housebound and possibly living alone. A short visit is a lifeline for some in the long dark days of winter.

The magazine continues to experience financial difficulties and I implore you to use some of the tradesmen featured. Please state that you saw their advert in the Magazine as we are dependent upon their continued financial support (I have recently used MC Electric - excellent service and would definitely recommend them). Please note that there are new advertisers featured in this edition.

I am sure that we all wonder what 2017 will bring on the national and international platform. There is so much beyond our control; natural disasters, war and famine. But think positive, we may not be able to resolve the world problems alone but collectively we can all make a difference. Let's try in 2017!

Happy New Year to you all.

Best wishes,

Margaret Thompson

DEADLINE FOR MARCH/APRIL EDITION - 7th FEBRUARY 2017

Email: Withingtonmagazine@gmail.com

St. Peter's Church News

Services in Withington and Westhild January and February 2017

Date	Withington	Westhild
Sunday 1st January	10.00 am Group Service	
Sunday 8th January	9.30 am Holy Communion	11.00 am Family Communion
Sunday 15th January	9.30 am Holy Communion	
Sunday 22nd January	9.30 am Holy Communion	11.00 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 29th January	10.00 am Group Service	AT LUGWARDINE
Sunday 5th February	4.00 pm Refresh	
Sunday 12th February	9.30 am Holy Communion	11.00 am Family Communion
Sunday 19th February	9.30 am Holy Communion	
Sunday 26th February	9.30 am Holy Communion	11.00 am Morning Prayer
Ash Wednesday 1st March	7.00 pm Holy Communion	

Dear Friends

A new year is upon us, new year is a time for making resolutions, for many of us, to go on a diet and also a time to think about a spring clean after all the Christmas decorations have been taken down! Perhaps it's also a good time to give our faith a spring clean, to clear away the things that clutter up our spiritual lives and concentrate on the important things, the things that deepen our relationship with God. So, our new year's resolutions for 2017 could include things like making an effort to pray every day or to read a passage from the bible every day, or joining a bible study group in order to discuss faith with other people.

In April there is going to be a confirmation service. Confirmation is when adults and young people stand in front of the bishop and 'confirm' their faith, their commitment to leading a Christian life. If anyone would like to know more about confirmation and how to prepare for it then please get in touch with either me or Paul and we'll be happy to chat to you.

In the meantime I wish you all a very happy new year!

Best wishes
Jane

Junior Confirmation Classes
(for those aged 10 and over)
Friday evenings
6.00 pm
Bartestree Village Hall
Starting 24th February

New House Group

Would you like to get together to discuss faith, life and the world and pray together?

At the Bartestree Cross Group of Churches we will begin a House Group which will meet once a month to explore the Bible and other books on faith, to pray together and see how faith relates to world and life issues.

If you are interested please contact Revd Paul Roberts for details of dates and places for meetings.

01432 850484 or
revdpaulroberts@gmail.com

St. Peter's Church News

Maintaining St Peter's Church

This lovely old building is for the use of everyone in the parish, not just for the regular congregation. Many people use it for weddings, christenings and funerals. We have an 'Open Church' policy so it is open every day, during daylight hours, for people to visit.

We would like to set up a group of volunteers to help maintain the church and churchyard. This is NOT to do major work but to do the simpler jobs to help reduce the need for major expenditure.

It could just be simple pruning, ivy clearing, gutter cleaning, weed killing etc. It has been suggested that the group could be called 'St Peter's Helpers'!

There is a **free one day course** on Friday 3rd February (see advert) to help people to get to know the church and help identify possible areas of concern (if any).

For further information contact one of the churchwardens; Kevin Hewison or Margaret Soutar.

Fundraising Programme for Charities and Church 2017

We welcome everybody to join these events. They are good social gatherings as well as fund raisers!

We aim to raise money for various Charities as well as for St Peter's Church, which needs money for both routine maintenance and to update its facilities. Venues vary, and include the Village Hall, the church and individuals' homes. The programme of events is still in planning stages, but will hopefully include many of the usual items such as concerts, coffee mornings, sales, quizzes etc. We are planning a Big Band event for hopefully in late Spring/early summer.

Muheza Coffee morning.....TBA Feb/ March (Home)

Film & Food (archive film, 1950s Hfds & Cider making.....Sat 25th February (VH)

More information from Ruth/Kevin 01432 850074, Margaret 01432 850448



Messy Christmas on 1st December saw lots of busy activity. The Christian theme of **Jesus as the Light of the World** led to decorating candle jars, icing decorations on biscuits, crowns of light, stained glass hanging decorations and more. Thank you parents and carers for working with the children at the crafts. It is both satisfying to the child and a great help to us!

Next Messy ChurchThursday 9th February

In the Village Hall 3.30 – 5.15pm

Lots of activities, games and crafts as usual. New friends welcome! Children up to top juniors with the adults.

Activities and celebration praise followed by eating together.

We would welcome more adult help at these lively sessions..... especially from mums and mum-aged adults! Many of us are more the grandma/ grandad age! If interested, talk to Margaret or Ruth. 01432 850448, 01432 850074. You do not have to be a member of our congregation.

Maintenance Survey and working party At Withington Parish Church, 3rd February 2017



Do you understand the architectural elements that make up your building?

Do you know how to spot and prevent common maintenance issues?

Are you able to lend a hand to keep this community building in good condition?

We are here to help you!

Join us at Withington Parish Church on Friday February 3rd 2017 as we learn to conduct a maintenance survey, carry out some maintenance tasks and finalise the maintenance plan.

Attendees will gain hands-on experience in conducting a survey and carrying out straightforward tasks, equally applicable at home.

The event is completely free of charge but booking is essential!

Please visit our website (www.spabmcp.org.uk) to register and for further details, including the programme.

You needn't be a warden, part of the parish or currently involved in looking after your building— everyone is welcome to attend.



For additional information or for help registering please contact Project Officer Kate Andrew (Kate.andrew@spab.org.uk, tel. 07776 188482)

www.spabmcp.org.uk

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St Peter's Church News

The 'Take a Book, Bring a Book' facility has been a great success and you have overwhelmingly responded to our request for more books!! We have of course now run out of space and could find room for another medium sized bookcase if you have one spare. We would appreciate a donation of one pound, if possible, when you take a book, donations in the safe on the wall please.

The **Moonfleet Ensemble concert** on October 29th in the Church was superb and we are very grateful to the Moonfleet Ensemble and especially the guest performers Clare and Robert on Viola and French Horn who asked for no fees and so helped us raise £230 for Church funds.

And Now For Something Completely Different

Do you wish that you could ask real questions about life and religion? Then this might be just the thing for you. **Next year on the first Sunday afternoon of each month**, instead of the normal morning worship we are holding a series of discussion groups and informal worship sessions. **We meet in church at 4.00pm and start with a cup of tea and a piece of cake** and take a topic that we want to share. So in February, March and April, we are thinking about:

A series of "F"s:

February 5th: Finding what is the most important thing in your life?

March 5th: Following what does it mean if you call yourself a Christian?

April 2nd : Fearing - what frightens us, and how do we cope when we are scared? The intention is to try to start where people are, with some sort of existential realities, and allow the opportunity to "think out loud" in a safe group about the authenticity of our beliefs, whatever they are, and the extent to which they affect/impinge on our daily lives.

Each of these "Refresh" sessions will end with a short time of quiet or prayer and a hymn or two.

FILMS & FOOD

Herefordshire on Film



2 films as shown at the Borderlines Film Festival 2016.....

"Golden Fire" – the history of Herefordshire cider from 1945
"Five Years in the Fifties" – from the Frank Dale Collection

Sat 25th February 7.30pm
Withington Village Hall
Hot Supper Included
Licensed Bar Available

Tickets £10 in advance, or £12 on the door.
Under 12s £6



Plus Cider Tasting

Tickets from Kevin/Ruth 01432 850074, Or Margaret 01432 850448

Raising Funds for St Peter's Church, Withington

St. Peter's Church News

Background Information on the 'Films & Food' evening on 25 Feb 2017



Golden Fire: The Story of Herefordshire Cider since 1945

Cider production is the beating heart of Herefordshire, and recent years have seen the county's pulse race as interest in cider, and craft cider in particular, has surged. But cider's role in Herefordshire's economy, culture and way of life goes deep into the past, and Rural Media; with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund; has brought together an exciting digital arts project all about the county's cider heritage from 1945 to the present.

Spanning the whole county, Golden Fire has created a new archive and exhibition of films, photography, oral histories and online content, alongside public exhibition of the Hereford Cider Museum's extensive existing archive material, telling the rich, contemporary and vivid story of the people, past and present, who make and ferment the "golden fire".

FIVE YEARS IN THE FIFTIES - 1950'S HEREFORDSHIRE ON FILM!

In 1953 local successful businessman Frank Dale bought a 16mm cine camera and for the next five years, filled 111 reels with film stretching over 11 miles. He looked closely at all aspects of his everyday life in North Herefordshire – the horses, country shows, farming, ploughing matches, carnivals and civic events and the visit of the Queen and Prince Philip to Leominster in 1957 to create one of the finest film archive collections of the period.

The North Herefordshire Archive Film Group and The Rural Media Company have now produced a wonderful short film called ***Five Years in the Fifties*** featuring some of the best parts of this unique collection. The film has been enhanced by an especially composed narrative by poet Philip Wells and a new score by Kim Humphreys.

Sat 25th February 7.30pm
Withington Village Hall
Hot Supper Included
Licensed Bar Available

Tickets £10 in advance, or £12 on the door.
Under 12s £6

Withington Village Hall

Chairman: Kevin Hewison Tel: 850074 Booking Secretary: Kathy Fields Tel: 851001

Treasurer: Paula Highley Tel: 851570

CHRISTMAS 2016 UPDATE

NEW CROCKERY has been bought and is in use! The previous crockery, the well-known 'Woods' Beryl style in green had been in use since the old hall was in existence and had been added to by a local family in 2000. However, it was becoming desperate, when there were only about 30 teacups but 150 saucers. The pottery was no longer being produced so we decided to start again.

FOR SALE. We therefore have on offer approximately 85 large plates, 150 tea plates, 150 saucers, 30 cups and assorted other pieces. Offers to the committee or could you sell these for us on eBay?

The new crockery is Athena Hotelware and is well used in the catering industry so is still being produced and can be replaced easily. There are large plates, medium plates, tea plates, stackable cups and saucers, bowls and mugs. With 100 of each piece there should be sufficient for all styles and sizes of catering in the village hall.

In addition, there is also new cutlery but this is not in use yet.

200 Club Winners

October Draw

1st No 89 Mr/Mrs Rowberry
2nd No 55 Katherine Lucas
3rd No 43 Ben Soutar
4th No 155 Carlton Lowe

December Draw

1st No 120 Ray Rice £100
2nd No 39 John Foley £50
3rd No 193 Jan Sayce £35

November Draw

1st No 111 Alan Davies
2nd No 28 Ann Foley
3rd No 50 Linda Jones
4th No 182 R Hinton (C)

Tickets for 2016-17 will be on sale from March 2017. If you have not had one and would like to buy one or more please contact the committee; Paula Highley, 851570 (Treasurer),

Kathy Fields, (Booking Secretary) 851001 or Kevin Hewison (Chairman) 850074

Repairing the Village Hall

Or how to keep the hall in good condition for users.

The hall is over 17 years old having been opened in October 1999 and at times things suddenly need repair or replacement. A recent example was the leak in the downstairs ladies toilet. This took some investigating and eventually the toilet siphons had to be replaced together with the overflow system. Then we found a leak in the boiler condensing pipe – another 4 hours of work needed.

All our non-electrical repair work is done by Nick Preece from Westhide trading as **L D Preece and Son Builders, 1 New Cottages, Westhide. 01432 851430.**

Without the excellent support of tradesmen such as Nick we would not be able to keep the hall functioning so efficiently. So, should you need repairs or other general building work, please contact Nick – we can recommend him.

Also thanks to Joe the cleaner who has made the hall his second home and does the day to day cleaning. Thanks Joe.

Memories by Bryan Davies

The Night of the Big Fight

As you may have by now gleaned from past accounts of my early life in Wales, before, during and after the war, there are many characters from my childhood who stand out above the rest and who have over the years found a niche in my memory and who will always remain there. One such character was a Mrs. Cowden who lived not far from us in an adjoining terrace overlooking the bay.

Small in stature with sharp mouse like features and perfectly respectable in most ways, she was nevertheless a formidable, fearsome person who had a razor sharp tongue which she used freely on a daily basis, with indiscriminate skill, to lash whoever had upset her. She had a talent for searing verbal attacks which usually caused most persons on the receiving end to wither into jelly kneed, pitiful remnants of their usual selves. I remember with undiminished clarity, that during that time in my life, the one thing to do was to steer clear of Mrs. Cowden. However, this proved to be rather difficult.

Mrs. Cowden had three children, two girls and a boy called Rowland. I can't recall a husband, or any other man come to that, occupying the same house. Rowland, about my brother's age, had formed a friendship with my brother, not totally appreciated by my brother or my mother as Rowland often found himself in trouble, usually of his own making. He would call for my brother every weekend to go out to play. My brother usually went, but clearly reluctantly so. Rowland had the same features and barbed tongue as did his mother. However, one thing Rowland did have and which we did not at that time, was a radio at home.

One of my passions then was 'boxing'. My brother and I followed every fight, usually in the daily paper my mother received. Later we had our own radio. We each had our favourite boxer.

In the mid to late thirties, the whole of Wales was gripped by the forthcoming heavyweight class world championship in America between Joe Louis (the Brown Bomber as he was known) and the Welsh champion, Tommy Farr from Tonypany in the Welsh Valleys. The snag was however, that we didn't have our own radio.

As the time for the fight approached, Rowland let slip that he would get up early (around 4.30a.m.) to listen to the fight. After learning that we had no radio, he very kindly invited my brother and I to join him at his house to listen to the fight. We had ensured that his mother would not be getting up so early to listen to 'such nonsense'.

So it was then, that around 4.30a.m. on that fateful day, my brother and I, both sleepy and very excited and not without some feeling of trepidation, found our way up the hill to Rowland's home. On knocking he answered the door promptly and invited us in to his cosy sitting room where the remnants of a fire still flickered in the hearth and where the radio sat proudly on the dresser.

Before the fight started, Rowland, who was totally geared up for the occasion, offered us a glass of 'Corona' pop and a slice of his mother's newly baked apple pie from the oven. I have to admit the pie was delicious and the first helping was quickly followed by a second and that by a third, until alas, the whole pie had been consumed. Tommy Farr's hopes of becoming World Champion had also disappeared after an exciting fight, as he lost on points to Joe Louis.

The following day, a Saturday, Rowland didn't call as usual, but I happened to look up the road towards Rowland's house when I espied Mrs. Cowden in full battle cry and war paint, wearing her slippers, curlers and headscarf, heading at some speed towards our house. Rapidly detecting that confrontation of some magnitude was heading our way I hastily summoned my brother and we both felt that immediate withdrawal from the scene was a matter of some urgency and that the most sensible thing to do was to slip out quietly, but with great alacrity, through the back door, leaving our poor mother to face the on-coming storm. I couldn't help wondering what had actually happened to incur Mrs. Cowden's wrath, but felt that to stay to find out was not the most sensible thing to do.

Later we returned home to find our mother sitting at the kitchen table, looking remarkably calm, but slightly pale. To my surprise, she stayed there and didn't head towards the kitchen wall mirror behind which she stored her "weapon of mass destruction", (a small cane). She clearly had coped very well with the situation, but I never found out what had taken place. I know however, that it was the disappearance of the apple pie, especially made for a competition on the Saturday, that was the cause for the visit.

Strangely enough, we saw very little of Mrs. Cowden or her son Rowland after that. He even ceased to call for my brother on a Saturday. Whether or not the story went around the village to be wary of the Davies pie gobbling brothers I shall never know, but as far as my family was concerned it all turned out well in the end!

Such is life!

Bryan Davies

Food For Thought

Slow Cooker recipes

Time saving, cheap to use and good for healthier meals, a slow cooker stew recipe is the perfect companion for busy mums.

Beef stew - combine a cheap cut of beef with chopped onions, carrots, swede, pumpkin, barley, a few splashes of Worcestershire sauce and some vegetable stock (enough to cover all the ingredients). Cook overnight and you will have the tastiest family beef stew ever the next day.

Sausage casserole—chop up sausages into bite-sized chunks and combine in your slow cooker with chopped tomato, a tin of plum tomatoes, onion, garlic and a tin of cannellini beans. Add enough vegetable stock to cover the ingredients and cook overnight.

Convert normal cooking times to slow cooker timings

If you want to convert an ordinary recipe to a slow cooker recipe, bear in mind that a usual cooking time of 30 minutes would take 4-6 hours in a slow cooker on a low setting; 1 to 2 hours would become 6 to 8 hours in a slow cooker; and 2 to 4 hours would take 8 to 12 hours. You can slow cook at a faster pace if you opt for a 'high' setting.

Have Your Say

AN ENDORSEMENT FOR ADVERTISING IN THE WITHINGTON MAGAZINE:

To whom it may concern.

I am writing on behalf of Mr Sam Morris (HIGHSHINE, the window cleaner).

We would like to thank you for all you have done for us over the past years regarding our advert in your local Parish Magazines. Thankfully we have come to a point where advertising isn't needed so concentrating on our regular customers.

We may decide to advertise in the future, if so we shall be sure to contact yourselves.

Withington Gardening Club

WITHINGTON GARDENERS REPORT



We had a very interesting talk and slides from Brenda Crump – who was one of the lucky florists to be chosen to decorate to 'Queens Barge'.

Up and coming events January 2017

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Jan 18 th | Herbaceous Borders – David Griffiths |
| Feb 15 th | Winter in the Garden talk by Mark Moir of Newent Plant Centre |
| March 15 th | Bugs & Beasties – a worm's eye view of the garden (Interesting)
By Richard <u>Fishbourn</u> |

All meetings start 7.30pm – New Members welcome

Contact: 01432 850371

DOG LOVERS WANTED...

- Do you miss the companionship of a dog around your home?
- Do you want to get more exercise and improve your fitness?
- Do you have a dog friendly home?

WHY NOT LOOK AFTER SOMEONE'S DOG WHILE THEY'RE AWAY

We are looking for dog lovers to look after friendly dogs on an occasional basis while their owners are away.
You will have great support from Barking Mad, lots of fun and all the benefits of having a dog without the permanent commitment.

Call Steve Gibbon
01547 529138
www.barkingmad.uk.com



Elizabeth Byworth Charity

**The next meeting to consider
applications is at the beginning of
March 2017.**

**If you are under 25 and live in Withington,
Westhite or Eau Withington and would like
some assistance with purchasing:**

**books, equipment, tools,
educational visits, uniforms, etc.**

please contact me at the address below.

APPLICATIONS should be made in writing
stating name, age and approximate cost of items
required and sent to the Clerk to the Trustees,

Margaret Soutar,
3 Duke Street, Withington.
HR1 3QD
or email: Margaret.soutar@btinternet.com

Westhide

Westhide

A Happy New Year to you all. The Christmas festivities go with a swing in Westhide – everyone has a great time, especially at the carol service in the church and carol singing around the village.

Thank you all very much to those who have helped over the past year whether cleaning, flower arranging, grass mowing, providing refreshments etc. etc.

A request please – going forward into the new year it would be good to have some new volunteers to help on the church flower and cleaning rota. Please contact Sheila or Judith to put your name forward.

After one of the best years for autumn colour we have had for quite a while, then a short snap of cold at the beginning of the winter we wait to see what the new year will bring weather wise. I am sure that as usual it will be a great topic of conversation.

Poetry Corner

My Mother's Chocolate Valentine

By Jack Prelutsky



I bought a box of chocolate hearts,
a present for my mother,
they looked so good I tasted one,
and then I tried another.

They both were so delicious
that I ate another four,
and then another couple.
and then half a dozen more.

I couldn't seem to stop myself,
I nibbled on and on,
before I knew what happened
all the chocolate hearts were gone.

I felt a little guilty,
I was stuffed down to my socks,
I ate my mother's valentine...
I hope she likes the box!

Kiddies Corner

Families tend to hibernate when the temperatures get colder, but there is plenty of winter fun for kids and parents to enjoy together.

Trace Your Family Tree

Help the kids learn about their family roots. They can interview you, their grandparents and other family members to hear the names and stories of people who have helped make them who they are today. Filling in the names on the family tree branches can keep their interest long after snowmen have melted and winter is gone.

Watch a Family Movie at Home

Why spend a small fortune taking the families to the movies when you can stay at home for an even better experience? Host an unforgettable family movie night that's more than a couple of hours sitting on the couch together. Let the kids create movie tickets, make snacks and open their own concession stand. After the movie is over, let their inner critics write movie reviews.

Start Scrapbooking

We all love our digital cameras. But then our pictures usually sit on a hard drive and are not viewed as much as the pictures we once took with our film cameras. Print your favourite pics and start scrapbooking with your kids. Theme your scrapbook pages for winter and holidays.

Create a Website With Your Kids

It's cold outside, so stay warm with the kids in front of the computer. Create a website together, even if you have no web design skills. You both can learn as you build a website that covers the life of their dog, a tribute to a favourite author or child star. There are lots of possibilities and learning how to maintain the website is just one of many learning activities that are fun.

Redecorate the Kids' Rooms

Kids spend a lot of time within their four bedroom walls during the winter. Since you are stuck inside, re-energize their rooms in the winter months. Work closely with them to choose colours, themes and accessories to give their bedrooms a new look. Try to relax some of your rules to give them ownership of the project.

Cook Together

Get the kids more involved in the kitchen. The young chefs can weigh and mix ingredients and clean up. Prepare soups and other winter recipes together to help your kids learn more about their food, nutrition values and healthy eating.

Donate to a Charity

Teach your kids how to be thankful. Many charitable organizations rely on donations and your kids could make up shoe boxes of unwanted toys with a personal note to send to children overseas.

Volunteer Your Family's Time

There are plenty of kid-friendly charity events where your help would be greatly appreciated. Serve food to the homeless, visit the elderly or help at your local animal shelter. Look at charity websites that match your interests. Exposing your children to volunteering can open the door for a lifetime of service to others.

For more ideas visit: stayathomemoms.about.com

Withington Football Club



Withington Junior FC

U11 Training sessions Mon 6pm
U12 Training sessions Weds 6pm
U13 Training Sessions Thurs 6pm
Adult Training Sessions TBC



Contact: Ray: 850669 / 07974 583093
or Steve: 851857 / 07837 984377

Correction: It was stated in the last WN publication that the new ISO container would become a mini clubhouse. This is in fact incorrect as its main purpose will be for storage and shelter. Also it is to be clarified that the club do not own the storage containers but in fact are the property of the WGPC and the club are allowed to use and maintain them in support of community football.

Withington FC currently has three teams playing in the Herefordshire Junior Leagues. We are now also running an adult team in the HFA County League. Being an experienced player is not a criteria of joining our teams as we will develop players to play in and become part of the team. Players that want an opportunity to play get an opportunity regardless of experience.

New Players Required NOW: We are currently looking for additional players to bolster our junior teams especially the U13 age group.

Team News: During October/November the Adults won four games on the bounce, which is a great achievement for the team in only their second season together. Well-done guys.

Developments: Update on the new ISO container. A big thank you to Tudors Building Supplies for donating the roofing materials needed to make the container watertight. It is proposed that container will have new access doors to afford safer access and also will be painted in due course to match the older green container.

Funding. The club relies upon donations and fundraising in order to survive. If you can help in any way we will be happy to hear from you.

New Age Group: The club is looking to start up younger age groups in the New Year. We are looking for boys and girls ages 6/7 to start development teams and then progress through the years filling the gap left behind by the current age groups. If there are any youngsters out there interested then please get in touch. The catchment is not just the Withington area so we are happy to take youngsters from all over Hereford.

Coaches Required: With the proposal for the new age groups we will be looking for adult volunteers to take up the coaching roles. You don't have to be a current qualified coach as the club will help support you through your Qualification, an FA enhanced CRC will be required again we will help with this. Again if interested please get in touch.

Nature

The last signs of autumn are long gone as we enter the coldest month of the year. This is the heart of winter. Frost highlights the stark landscape after a clear night, and on occasion you may even find your garden buried by a blanket of snow, particularly in upland areas. Much of nature is fast asleep, but there is still plenty to be seen as the quest for food brings yet more wildlife into gardens

Jobs for the month

- Hang bird feeders and put out food on the ground and on the bird table
- Make sure the bird bath is topped up and not frozen
- Regularly clean the bird bath and table

Birds

Many birds can be seen in the garden this month - common ones such as blackbirds, thrushes, tits and robins, but also redwings and siskins that stray into the suburbs for a bit of warmth and shelter, and migrant flocks of fieldfares.

Many of the berries, seeds and natural food sources that birds rely upon have been exhausted by this stage in the winter. Feeding the birds in your garden therefore becomes even more important.

Hang bird feeders - they are particularly attractive to tits, sparrows and (less commonly) siskins. There are many models available, designed to help keep out rats, cats, pigeons and squirrels, or to fit onto walls, windows, windowsills and balconies.

Hang the bird feeder over a paved or decked area which can be swept clear of debris, this may help to reduce problems with rats.

It is fine to leave chunks of food out on a bird table at this time of year, as there is no risk of over-large pieces being fed to the fledglings which can cause problems during the breeding season. Robins, starlings and many others will use this resource - fatty titbits like seeds, nuts, cheese, meat scraps and cooking fat will be appreciated. A smashed coconut is ideal. Stale bread or cake should be soaked in water to make them easier for birds to swallow.

Do not use salted or coated nuts, and only use those sold for human consumption or those labelled with the Birdfood Standards Seal of Approval. Nuts that have been poorly packaged or stored could contain aflatoxin, which is poisonous to birds and humans.

Blackbirds, thrushes, redwings and fieldfares will eat food from the ground - windfalls or rotten fruits from winter supplies are ideal.

Mammals, reptiles and amphibians

Hedgehogs can emerge from hibernation for a quick food foray during mild spells, before returning to their hiding place when temperatures drop back near freezing. Hedgehog and badger food is now available for sale. It is not a good idea to feed hedgehogs with bread and milk as this is not their natural diet. Dog food is an alternative.

Foxes are usually seen in the garden even more than usual at this time of year, foraging for slugs and beetles, or rummaging in rubbish bins. Muntjac deer will also venture more frequently into gardens in the depths of winter.

Safer Neighbourhood Team

Police warning after cars stolen whilst being defrosted

Police are urging drivers not to leave their car unattended with the engine running as it defrosts during the current cold spell.

"During the current cold spell, it's important that motorists leave extra time to go outside and de-ice their windows themselves, rather than leaving the car unlocked and the engine running.

"Whilst this may feel like an inconvenience, it only takes a matter of seconds for a vehicle thief to jump in and drive off. By leaving your car unattended, you may end up losing more than just the ice on your windows."

Please see the following advice for preparing your car on icy mornings:

Always ensure your windscreen and other windows and mirrors are fully de-iced and de-misted before driving off. Driving without clear visibility is illegal and puts yourself and other road users at risk.

When de-icing your windows, never leave your car unattended with the keys in the ignition, even for a second.

Stock-up on de-icing materials before the cold spell starts.

Once the windscreen has cleared, use air conditioning or heating to keep the glass mist-free.

Cover your windscreen with a blanket or windshield cover the night before frost is forecast, it will shorten the time it takes to clear your windscreen in the morning.

Put your car away in the garage if one is available. This not only keeps the car frost-free but also out of sight of would-be car thieves.

Get up a few minutes earlier if frost has been forecast. This will give you extra time to go outside and defrost your car before you need to set off for work.

Ensure your wiper blades are in good condition and make sure you have plenty of washer fluid.

Check your tyres are correctly inflated and have a legal tyre tread.

Plan your journey and allow plenty of time - as you may need to drive more slowly, particularly in fog, snow and heavy rain. If you have any information which can assist police with enquiries, please call **101** or email herefordrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Where we work

Hereford Rural North SNT is based at Hereford Police Station, Bath Street, Hereford HR1 2HT.

Your team: PC Sarah CULLEN PCSO Elena EKANITE

How to get in touch

' **101** to talk to your local SNT or report a crime

* herefordrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

ü www.westmercia.police.uk



/



@HerefordCops

Preston Wynne

PRESTON WYNNE NEWS

Hello Everyone,

We do hope you had a lovely time at Christmas and wish you all the very best of everything for 2017.

At the time of writing we are in the middle of a cold snap and the most appealing place to be is under a duvet, or sitting by the fire (not quite the same sitting by a radiator).... Fat chance of that with all that has to be done just before Christmas! (Bah humbug!) Seriously though once you are out and about on these cold days the pleasure of going in to a warm room (or pub) almost outweighs the discomfort of the sub-zero temperature outdoors. Mulled wine and warm mince-pies help to compensate don't you think?

If this edition of Withington News comes out in time may we encourage those who can to come to our Christmas Day Service in the Church at 9.00 am. This will be the second year in succession for this special Service to be held in our Church, last year's celebration was magical. Oops – does that sound a bit pagan? Better crack on with -

Church Services: Dec. 25th 2016 9.00 am

Jan 22nd 2017 9.30 am

Feb 12th 8.00 am

26th 9.30 am

Please join us for

A festive NEW YEAR'S BREAKFAST – IN THE HALL-SUNDAY 8TH JAN 9.30—12 (Just drop in no need to book) and

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER - FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 7.15 FOR 7.30 – As always the haggis will be piped in and properly addressed. Booking essential please phone Tricia on 820650 and book early for this popular evening as numbers are limited (proceeds for Church funds).

Church 100 Club Results Autumn 2016 Draw drawn at the Harvest lunch

1st prize No. 98 Paul Jones £50

2nd 53 Vanessa Hargest £25

3rd 94 Petra £12.50

Please note that subs are now due for 2017 – still only £10 for the year, much better odds than the lottery and all for Church funds. Thank you to all existing subscribers your support is very much appreciated, and new members are more than welcome.

Hall News

The Christmas Bazaar which took place in November was a very pleasant social event and raised £276.00 for Hall funds. Many thanks to everyone who supported this.

Also for Hall funds:

March 18th Carpet Bowls and Supper from 7.30 (great fun – serious bowlers need not apply)

That's about it for now,

Love Hilary and Tricia

Contact Names and Telephone Numbers

<u>Byworth Trust Clerk:</u>	Margaret Soutar	850448
<u>Police:</u>	Safer Neighbourhood Team	PC Sarah Cullen 101
		PCSO Elena Ekanite 101
<u>St. Peters Church:</u>	Rector	Jane Davies 850244
	Church Warden	Kevin Hewison 850074
	PCC Secretary	Marcia Hopkins 850933
	Bell Ringing	Kevin Hewison 850074
<u>Village Hall:</u>	Chairman	Kevin Hewison 850074
	Booking Secretary	Kathy Fields 851001
<u>WG Parish Council:</u>	Clerk	Sophie Glover 270499
	Chairman	Paul Bainbridge 850655
	Vice-Chairman	Ralph Barber 853068
<u>Whitestone Chapel</u>	Ian Porter	01981 540388
<u>Withington Football Club:</u>	Chairman	Steve Caine 851857
	Secretary	Ray Rice 850669
<u>Withington Post Office:</u>		850356
<u>Withington Primary School:</u>		850289
<u>Withington Parish Magazine:</u>	Editor	Margaret Thompson 850182
<u>Withington Village Store:</u>		851777

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Forthcoming events:

Wassail at Lower House Farm Orchard	Fri 13 January	5-8pm
Cider making Course	Sat 14 January	10am-4pm
Adventure Club: Survival Skills - Mapping	Tues 14 February	9.30am-1pm
Animal Trackers	Wed 15 February	10.30am-12.30pm
Star Party at Bodenham Lake	Thurs 16 February	6.30-8pm

For further details contact: a.calder@herefordshirewt.co.uk Tel: 01432 356872



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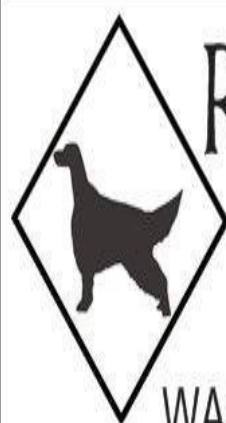
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