

Withington Parish Magazine



BUMPER EDITION

May and June 2020

&

July and August 2020



Hereford's finest Independent Garden Centre and Nurseries

Radway Bridge is a family owned business established in 2002 by The Pearson Family. We stock and grow a wide range of interesting and unusual plants, whatever the season.



We stock and grow wide range of interesting and unusual plants, whatever the season. A wide range of quality Garden Furniture, BBQ's and Firepits, delivery service available. A lovely range of indoor gifts, food and drink for every occasion. At Christmas we put on a real show, Christmas Tree's, Decorations, Lights, and of course Real Reindeers and Mulled Wine.



Passion, experience and good service have earned our family-run business a reputation for quality, choice and great value!

Whitestone Hereford HR1 3RX T 01432 850009

E info@radwaybridgegardencentre.com www.radwaybridgegardencentre.com

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Editorial

Dear All,

I hope that you enjoy reading the extended edition of the magazine - the May/June edition was not produced due to the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions. This year will certainly be a year that we will never forget but it has highlighted how, in bad times, people come together for the benefit of one another. Let's hope that the goodwill shown will continue in the future and that we never forget the sacrifices made by so many.

I know that we all want to see family and friends without restrictions and gradually, if we all act responsible, life will return to some degree of normality but not quite the same as pre-virus. One thing that the experience has taught me is to never take life and the freedom of choice for granted.

I am pleased to welcome our new advertiser David Wells - (see advert on page 33). Please remember to support the businesses who advertise in the magazine, we are dependent upon their financial support. Thank you.

Keep safe.

Margaret

DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE:

7TH AUGUST 2020

Email: withingtonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel: 01432 850182

COVID-19 Business Update



Dear Valued Customer,

I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you that whilst Radway Bridge Garden Centre is open for business as usual, we're rigorously following the advice of the government and Public Health England and putting the safety and wellbeing of our employees and you, our valued customers and your loved ones first.

Contactless Deliveries

Today, we've made the decision to introduce contactless deliveries which we hope will offer peace of mind and protection for everyone. We have recommended that our delivery drivers place your gardening items in a safe location, ring the doorbell and stand two metres back while the recipient opens the door. If the recipient is unavailable, we will post or put under the door a calling card regarding the location of your items. If you're worried about an order you've already placed because the recipient is now in self-isolation or the delivery address is to a venue that is no longer open, drop us a line with your order number at www.radwaybridgegardencentre.com and we'll be happy to help.

To place an order either phone 01432850009 or email info@radwaybridgegardencentre.com



Thursday

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Withington Village Hall
Coppice Close
HR1 3PP

Come and exercise in disguise.
Everyone Welcome!

For any questions or further
information, call or text Bev
07900640467



A message from Bev, regarding Zumba classes:
As I'm sure you will understand due to very uncertain
times I am having to postpone Zumba sessions at
Withington hall until further notice.

The Hair Room

To all of our clients at the Hair Room. We hope you are all
staying safe, keeping well and will hopefully see you soon!
From Sarah-Jane, Claire and Sara

xxx

COVID-19 Business Update

Hereford and Ludlow Osteopathy is now open for face to face appointments for urgent and emergency cases. A lot of research and learning has been going on to be ready for this re-opening but we now feel the time has come. To ensure the risk of infection for the COVID 19 illness is limited we have some new protocol and guidance for each person visiting the clinic. Anyone wishing to make an appointment will have a telephone conversation to assess the risks and benefits for attending in person.

Everyone has their temperature taken on arrival, then escorted from the carpark with no need to come into contact with any other patient or touch any door handles. Alcohol hand sanitiser use is required on entering the building. Alex will be wearing a mask, apron and gloves. The '2 metre' rule will be adhered to before and after the actual hands on treatment time.

The treatment room, couch, chairs, desks and door handles are cleaned between each patient.

Alex has been conducting video consultations throughout the lockdown for any patients new or existing and continues to do this for vulnerable or non- emergency cases.

Please call 01432 850667 if you have any questions.

Memories of Withington

Hopefully someone will be able to assist Stephen.

Please send any information and/or photos to his email address:

Walters_stephen@yahoo.com

Hi

My name is Stephen Walters. I am originally from Hereford but I now live in Texas, USA.

I am reaching out to you to see if you are able, or aware of anyone through your magazine that may be able to identify a farm in Withington.

My mother who is aged 89, and resides in Fownhope, has recently had a stroke and I am trying to develop certain pieces of information she has provided me with from her childhood memories.

She has told me that her early years were spent in Duke Street, Withington living in a rented cottage in the grounds of "Leek Farm". This would have been in the early to mid 1930's I believe.

I would be really grateful if there are any senior residents in Withington or local historians that would be able to confirm the existence of Leek Farm and if they have access to any information about the property or if they have any images.

It would be amazing to find any information which I could share with my mother.

Thanks in advance.

Sincerely

Stephen J Walters

Poetry Corner

I'll tell you a tale, that's been recently written,
Of a powerful army, so Great it saved Britain

They didn't have bombs and they didn't have planes.
They fought with their hearts and they fought with their brains.

They didn't have bullets, armed just with a mask.
We sent them to war, with one simple task.

To show us the way, to lead and inspire us.
To protect us from harm and fight off the virus.

It couldn't be stopped by our bullet proof vests.
An invisible enemy, invaded our chests.

So we called on our weapon, our soldiers in blue.
"All Doctors, All Nurses, Your Country needs you".

We clapped on our streets, hearts bursting with pride.
As they went off to war, while we stayed inside.

They struggled at first, as they searched for supplies.
But they stared down the virus, in the whites of its eyes.

They leaped from the trenches and didn't think twice.
Some never came back, the ultimate price.

So tired, so weary, yet still they fought on.
As the virus was beaten and the battle was won.

The many of us, owe so much, to so few.
The brave and the bold, our heroes in blue.

So let's line the streets and remember our debt.
We love you, our heroes,
Lest we forget.



Matt Kelly 2020

Poetry Corner

If the Mountain seems too big today

If the mountain seems too big today
then climb a hill instead,
if the morning brings you sadness
it's ok to stay in bed.

If the day ahead weighs heavy
and your plans feel like a curse,
there's no shame in rearranging
don't make yourself feel worse.

If a shower stings like needles
and a bath feels like you'll drown,
if you haven't washed your hair for days
don't throw away your crown.

A day is not a lifetime
a rest is not defeat,
don't think of it as failure
just a quiet, kind retreat.

It's ok to take a moment
from an anxious, fractured mind,
the world will not stop turning,
while you get realigned.

The mountain will still be there
when you want to try again,
you can climb it in your own time
just love yourself til then.

Laura Ding-Edwards

**Remember when you asked
that small business to
support your fundraiser?**

It's now time to support them.

They are the heart of a town/village.

Support our local businesses.

Nature during lockdown

Rare UK wildlife thriving in lockdown, reveals National Trust.

First came the goats. During the first days of lockdown the bearded, ghostly white creatures wandered down from their north Wales clifftop home into the town of Llandudno and made headlines around the globe.

Now the National Trust is reporting that emboldened wildlife, from raptors and warblers to badgers, otters and even orcas, appear to be enjoying the disappearance of humans from its gardens, castles and waterways across the UK.

The charity is asking people to be aware that when they eventually return to the countryside they should take care not to disturb wildlife they would not usually expect to encounter.

Reports from rangers and gardeners include peregrine falcons nesting in the ancient ruins of Corfe Castle in Dorset, English partridges rootling around an empty car park near Cambridge, and a cuckoo calling at Osterley Park in west London, having not been heard there for 20 years.

David Brown, the National Trust's ecologist at Corfe Castle, said: "This is the first time peregrines have nested here since the 1980s. With the site the quietest it has ever been, the great curtain walls are an ideal spot for these birds, which look for isolated and inaccessible places to build a nest. Amongst all the uncertainty, it has been heartening to see nature colonising the landscape in our absence."

At Plas yn Rhiw, a manor house on the Llyn Peninsula in north Wales, stoats, weasels and hares have come in from the woodland to explore the gardens, which are usually filled with visitors.

In Norfolk, a buzzard managed to get into the orangery at Felbrigg Hall and happily tucked into its lunch there. At the Ashridge estate in Hertfordshire, the rare sound of a grasshopper warbler was recorded in a typically busy dog-walking area.

Little owls have also been making their presence felt at Ham House in south-west London, venturing into the garden from the adjacent river meadows.

Some creatures appear to be missing human visitors, however. Jackdaws, which enjoy feeding on scraps of food dropped by people, for example, have not returned to Ham House since the lockdown. And with no audience to show off to, the peacocks at Powis Castle, in mid-Wales, have taken to following gardeners on their daily rounds.

But the overall picture is positive. A family of badger cubs has been spotted playfully exploring the Mount Stewart estate in Northern Ireland by daylight, while a rare albino badger has been seen in the woods at Cliveden, in Berkshire.

Two male orca were seen in Strangford Lough, in Northern Ireland. They are believed to have belonged to a pod of just eight animals, the UK's only resident group. They spend much of their time in the Inner and Outer Hebrides and the western seaboard of Scotland. It may be that the quietness of the lough during lockdown tempted them in.

Nature during lockdown Cont.

Ben McCarthy, the head of nature conservation at the National Trust, said: "It has only been eight weeks but wildlife seems to be enjoying the breathing space. With less traffic and fewer people, we've heard deafening levels of birdsong and seen famous monuments and formal gardens colonised by wildlife."

While its properties are temporarily closed, the trust is working on its reopening plans.

As it begins to welcome back visitors to its countryside and coastal sites, however, the conservation charity is asking people to be particularly careful not to disturb wildlife that may have moved into typically busy areas.

McCarthy added: "As the lockdown begins to be eased, we all need to play our part to ensure that this wildlife remains undisturbed."

Withington Book Club

Because of the rotten weather, our meeting and book choice for February have been postponed until our June meeting. Trish has chosen 'The Keeper of Lost Things' by Ruth Hogan, which will be discussed then.

Hmm.... The Keeper of Lost Things- might that include some reasonable weather? Let's hope so. If you'd like to know more about our group, please give Sue a call 01432 851710.

UPDATE: The book club meetings have been postponed until further notice. For those of you who read along, future books will be 'The Bees', by Laline Paull, in short, the world inside a beehive (or, at least), one person's version of what that might be! 'The Librarian' by Sally Vickers, who also wrote 'Miss Garnett's Angel', amongst other books.

'Machines like Me' by Ian Mckewan, which explores the characteristics that make us human through a love story in which one of the participants has 'artificial intelligence'.

Our group will be celebrating our first anniversary in September. Let's all hope and pray for settled times ahead.

Whilst writing, I would like to say a very big thank you to our neighbours, Jonathan, Helen, Flynn and Betty, not forgetting the cat, for their kind offers of help as well as their friendly waves and smiles, as well as the emergency services and volunteers of all sorts. THANK YOU.



The Withington book club members continue to share our latest good reads, although we haven't been 'face to face' since January! Floods then Coronavirus... We are all looking forward to the next steps, (I think!). A film of our January choice- The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, recently aired on BBC2. Maybe some of you saw it. One of those, I felt, that was better than the book!

This is a photo of our eleven month old Bryn 'preparing' for VE Celebrations. The three of us had a lovely barbecue. Apologies for the washing line and tatty boiler surround. I sometimes wish I knew how to edit digital images!

Stay safe and hoping to be able to provide proper book club news before too long.

Best wishes

Sue

In his short novel, *The Plague*, the French author Albert Camus tells the story of a sickness that sweeps the French Algerian city of Oran. To begin with it kills only a few but as time passes the death toll rises dramatically. The people are engulfed by a fear of the plague that no-one was prepared for and very few thought would affect them. For the most part the people live in a state of perpetual denial. This is not the 17th century they reason. We live in modern times with newspapers, cars, aeroplanes and telephones. The people of Oran cannot, surely, perish like the poor souls of the plagues of earlier times.

The hero of the book is Doctor Rieux, who refuses to accept the religious interpretations of the plague offered by a local priest, or the denials of the people. As the death-toll ascends to 500 per-week the Doctor reflects on a child he has tended, but who has died. He reasons that suffering is unevenly and randomly distributed. To him suffering simply makes no sense. It is absurd, but he continues to work tirelessly to help those in his care and steadfastly refuses to accept that he is any kind of hero. At one point in the book he says that it “may seem a ridiculous idea, but the only way to fight the plague is with decency” and insists his only interest is in just “doing my job.” For Doctor Rieux the most important things are duty, vocation and caring for others in need.

The novel, and in particular Doctor Rieux's part in it, is a story that reflects and explores our shared humanity and what it truly means to be human – to share in a binding duty and concern for helping to improve the welfare of others. That understanding can arise equally from a moral as well as a religious understanding. It is about valuing people as inherently precious. From a Christian perspective it is the lesson of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10) or The Ten Lepers (Luke 17). Goodness is shown and exercised simply for goodness' sake, not for gratitude or for converts. What matters is mercy.

“Do not be afraid” and “do not fear” are phrases Jesus repeats a great deal in the gospels. More than seventy times, in fact. We are told that, “perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4: 18). And the reverse is also true: “perfect fear drives out love”. Our calling is not to be fretful and fearful, but rather to become an extension of God's love in this world. This requires a quiet, resolved courage and compassionate demonstration of our humanity. The calling is for us to express the same continual love (and risk) that Jesus has revealed.

It can be easy sometimes to be tempted into a fake faith that says to us that all we have to do is trust in God and nothing bad will ever happen. But that's not how faith works, not how the world works and not what God tells us. Real faith has a very different starting point. Real faith says, “fear not – some of the things you are most frightened of may well happen to you; but they are nothing to be afraid of.” Jesus says over and over again, “do not be afraid”, “do not fear”. Have courage, faith, love, hope and charity. It will be enough.

Simon

St. Peter's Church News

A BIG THANKYOU to Geoff Price family and friends who volunteered to tidy up the Churchyard.

They have spent many days strimming, clearing away undergrowth and shrubbery unearthing many old graves in the process.

Coming through the Lyche Gate you can now see down the length of the new and old graves from top to bottom.

It is a sight that has not been seen for many a long year!

I know that families coming to tend graves have commented on this and it restores the Graveyard to be a fitting place for Remembrance and Contemplation.

We are so, so grateful to all of you.

Margaret

Churchwarden



It was strange having churches closed at Easter time. However we decided to move the Prayer Cross from the Church and put it by the entrance to the car park. On Good Friday the Cross was bare just with the Crown of Thorns with three kneeling figures in front. For Easter Sunday we invited people who live near the Church to bring a few flowers to decorate the Cross when they were out doing their daily exercise.

From the picture you will see what an amazing response we had. The gesture obviously touched a lot of hearts and the message of Easter came alive in the community for all to see.

Thankyou to all who made that happen.

Margaret

Churchwarden

A Lockdown Triumph! “The Candle of Defiance”

Robin Peers of Westhide, who is a very skilled craftsman and artist, has spent about 200 hours during lockdown making a beautiful and elegant oak candlestick. He created it to celebrate Pentecost and the birth of the Christian Church, when the Holy Spirit came down onto the Apostles who then felt empowered to go out and spread the Word and Love of God. That day the church grew by 3,000 people.

A sponsorship page was opened on JustGiving, raising money to share between St Michael's Hospice, local NHS charities and our Bartestree Cross churches (Dormington, Lugwardine, Westhide, Weston Beggard and Withington) and the magnificent sum of £1,420 was realised!.....maybe even more by now!

All this can be found on our **Group Facebook page**. Search for “Bartestree Cross Group of Churches” where you will also find regular blogs, reflections and videos from the Rector Simon Tarlton.

Also news, updates and service notices (when they resume) can be found on www.achurchnearyou.com which uses location services to connect you to the nearest church or Group of churches. A link to the Group website with Simon's reflections and comments is on the first page of 'achurchnearyou' in the Get in Touch pane.

Ruth Hewison

St. Peter's Church News

BIG BREAKFAST: I was unable to thank you all for helping to make such a great success of them over the season as there was no magazine published after the Covid Lockdown until now.

April's Breakfast unfortunately had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, but nevertheless we managed to raise **£1082 for various charities**. Each month the proceeds were split half and half between the nominated charity of the month and St Peter's Church Withington. All these charities were local.

October The Leominster Meeting House (Dementia support)

November The CLD Trust. (Youth Counselling Service, Hereford. A Mayor's Charity.)

December The Cart Shed. (For those experiencing life difficulties, transforming lives)

January St Peter's (Hereford) Winter Shelter (For the homeless)

February Hereford Open Door (breakfasts for homeless and needy)

March Phoenix Bereavement Support Services (Young People & Families, a Mayor's Charity)

In the Kitchen – Rob Soutar, Kevin Hewison, Ruth Hewison, aided by Alison Skinner, Margaret Soutar

Front of House – June Wynter, Selwyn Wynter

Setting Up/Packing Up – David Brown, Selwyn Wynter, Robert Rawlinson

Cake for raffle – Sandra Hickey

We have to thank also our loyal band of regular customers – we would have been nowhere without you!

Ruth Hewison

St Peter's Church Improvements Plans



In 2018 we launched our plans to bring the church into the C21st by providing a toilet and kitchen facilities and a small multi-use area. At present there is NO water supply to the church, and no proper drainage.

The cost of these works would be £80,000.

The plans were approved by the Diocese and now fundraising could begin.

There have been numerous occasions when the lack of a toilet has been a serious inconvenience! And as the church has been frequently used for social occasions such as concerts and exhibitions, a kitchen area is another sensible facility. The alterations would all be to the West end (back) of the church.

Alongside numerous grant applications local fundraising has been going on ever since, and we are pleased to report that the sum of £58,000 has now been reached!

We hope to hear from another 3 Grant bodies soon and are hoping for the best! Our goal is within sight!

To keep up with our news go to www.achurchnearyou.com which uses location services to connect you to your nearest church. (Or you can search the site for St Peter's, Withington).

It is a difficult time now of course for any fundraising activities such as our usual events, being social occasions in the Village Hall, the church or people's houses. Perhaps you may like to help by donating to the church, for either the improvements or the general maintenance.

For queries, please phone either Margaret Soutar on 01432 850448 or Kevin Hewison on 01432 850074

Ruth Hewison

Withington Village Hall

June Update

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions the hall has been closed since March. We await instructions as to how and when we may re-open and will notify regular users as soon as we know.

During the lockdown the hall is still being cleaned so this enables the cleaner, Joe, to clean certain areas that do not always get cleaned so frequently.

The hall floor has been in need of treatment for several months, so we have taken the opportunity to get the hall floor sanded and re-sealed which is a major undertaking. This should remove any marks and scratches and give us several years of low maintenance.

200 Club – it has been impossible to visit houses to sell 200 club tickets. The last draw of the 2019/20 year was done in March. It has been decided therefore to PAUSE the 200 Club until 2021. Further information will be given later as restrictions are lifted.

Retirement of Booking Secretary.

Kathy Fields gave notice back in 2019 that she would be leaving the position in 2020. She has been the booking secretary for over 13 years, and we are very sorry to see her go. Thank you, Kathy, for all your years of hard work and to your commitment and contribution to the successful and smooth running of the Hall. We are delighted to confirm that she has agreed to continue as a Trustee and Committee member.

The New Booking Secretary is Rob Soutar, 3 Duke Street. 01432 850448

email: r.soutar13@gmail.com. Thank you to Rob for agreeing to take on this challenging role.

Recipes

Summer berry fruit fool recipe.

This handy dessert uses frozen fruit, so you can make it any time of the year.

Ingredients

- 225g (8oz) frozen mixed summer berries
- 75g caster sugar
- Lemon juice
- 300ml (1/2pt) double cream
- Vanilla essence
- Strawberries

Method

- Place 225g (8oz) frozen mixed summer berries in a bowl with 75g (3oz) caster sugar and a squeeze of lemon juice. Leave for 1-2 hrs until the fruit has defrosted.
- Purée half the fruit and syrup by pushing through a fine sieve. Spoon the rest of the fruit and syrup into the base of 4 serving glasses.
- Whip the double cream with a few drops of vanilla essence until just softly peaking (take care not to over whip the cream).
- Gently fold in the fruit purée and spoon equally into 4 tall glasses. Chill for 30 mins before serving, decorated with fresh strawberries.

VE Day Celebrations - Withington

VE Day Celebrations & Clapping



It was great that we could celebrate this momentous day, albeit modestly.

Those of you close enough will have heard a single church bell being tolled.

Afterwards those of us in Duke Street who had put up bunting, wore something red white and blue and came out at a distance and sang 'we'll meet again', 'somewhere over the rainbow' and 'when you walk through a storm'. It was all very moving and us oldies were able to swap some childhood memories.

I'm sure many of you elsewhere in the village did similar things.

All of this and the weekly outing to clap the NHS has certainly brought a lot of people closer together and given everyone a warm glow supporting each other.

Long may this companionship last when lockdown finishes.

These weeks apart have given us all time for reflection on how we lead our daily lives and how to improve things in the future.

Have Your Say

At a time when we are supposed just to walk from our houses for, as suggested, up to an hour a day, why do farmers have to spread chicken waste with the resultant overpowering smell ? This is now preventing us from 'enjoying' a walk and forcing us to take a car journey or stay indoors with the window firmly closed. Rain can dispel it quicker than dry weather. As there is little rain forecast for the following week the smell will linger for days ! It has even pervaded the conservatory !

It was not used in the past so surely could have been avoided now ! Local farmers protected in their modern tractor cabins obviously have no thought for others, whilst wanting our support through this crisis.

Concerned Withington residents

Anniversary Greetings



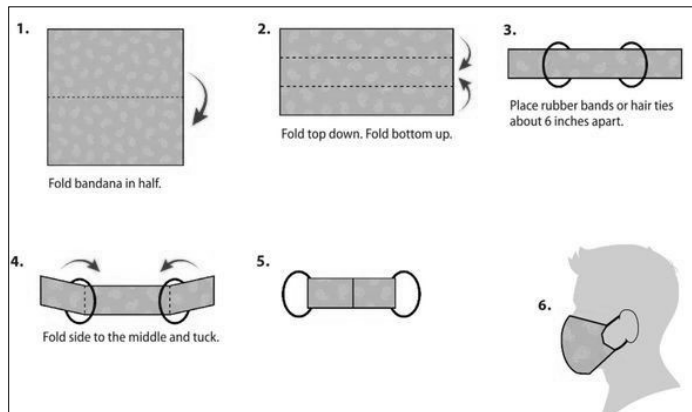
60th Anniversary of Monnie and Keith Tyler 16 April

Monnie and Keith Tyler worked and met at Chadd's in Hereford and married at the chapel in Whitestone with the reception held at Bartestree village hall. Their honeymoon was a day trip by train to Worcester feeding the swans and eating fish and chips by the river which fooled their family and friends as they all thought that they were going to London for a few days. They then returned to their married life at their flat which was at the store/petrol station at Cross Keys, later settling at Southbank, Withington and now residing at Barr's orchard, Tarrington. Monnie and Keith have been blessed with a daughter and two sons and are now proud grandparent and great grandparents.

Happy diamond wedding anniversary on 16th April to Monnie and Keith Tyler - Mum, Dad, Grandma, Grandad and Great Grandma and Great Grandad. We are all thinking of you both on this special day. All our love as always, Wendy, Andy, David, Abs, Myk and great grandson Harry and woof Ruby.

How to make a face mask

How to make a bandana-style face mask



You will need:

- A bandana or scarf
- 2 x elastic or rubber bands, or hair ties
- A coffee filter, paper towel or kitchen roll (optional)

The easiest method for making your own face mask involves using a bandana or a scarf.

Note that if your bandana or scarf is too thin (hold it up to the light to see how much you can see through it, the less you can see, the better) then your face mask won't be as effective. Tightly woven, 100% cotton is best.

Fold your bandana in half, then folding it again twice – lengthways from both the top and the bottom.

At this point, you can also add a square piece of coffee filter, paper towel or kitchen roll to your mask – which you can change.

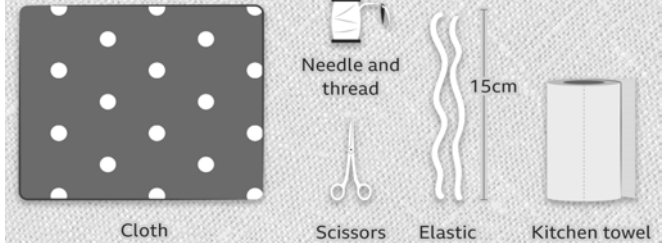
Then, place your rubber bands or hair ties around your strip of material, and fold the material in towards the middle, tucking the ends into each other if possible.

The one that needs sewing

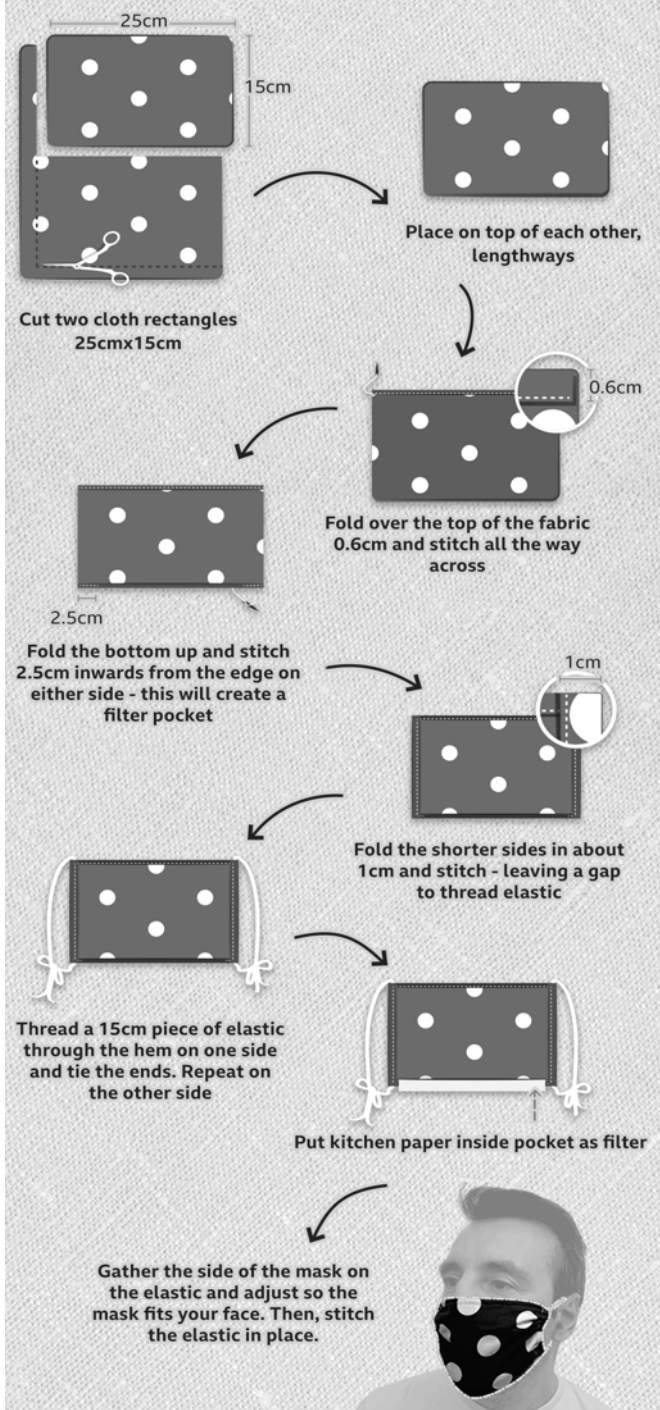
Hand sew or machine sew hems



Materials



Start



Source: CDC

BBC

Local History

Withington History

One of the historical features of Withington is the Roman mile post situated on the Worcester road. The only thing that can still be read on it is "This is the road to Hereford"; it was part of a cross but was made into a mile stone in 1700.

Withington has a church, a primary school, and the Cross Keys pub. It is a small village surrounded by fields, but has a growing population with new houses being built.

Withington used to be home to the Meadow Market, a supermarket that serviced the local community and was later bought and renamed by the Normans Super-Warehouse chain. This became the northern most branch of Normans. The store closed in 1998 and became several smaller shops on the newly named Withington Retail estate. The site now stands as a housing estate.

Landmarks

The village church is dedicated to St Peter and has a tall, slender spire on a late 13th century tower. There are Norman doorways to the nave and windows in Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles. In the churchyard there are the Commonwealth war graves of a Royal Fusiliers soldier of World War I and a Royal Air Force airman and WAAF airwoman of World War II.

People

William Saxey (c. 1550—1612), a judge who served for many years on the Irish Bench as Chief Justice of Munster is buried in St. Peter's churchyard. William Saxey was an unpopular and controversial figure with a reputation for corruption and misanthropy. In about 1609 he retired to Thinghill, near Withington where he died in 1612.

Pete Farndon, bassist and founding member of the rock band The Pretenders is buried at St. Peter's Church.

Whitestone Baptist Chapel History (details taken from Herefordshire Places of Worship)



Whitestone Baptist Chapel was founded in 1821 as "The Strict & Particular Independent Baptist Church of John Calvin" by a group of Non-conformists mainly for Westhide and Withington. Membership was by approval, and limited to those who had undergone a full immersion baptism as adults. In the early days of its opening, it also provided "accommodation for horses and carriages, ponies and traps, while their owners attended services". Inside are monuments to "Rev. Joseph DAVIS, 1856, 23 years pastor and brother of Rev. Reece DAVIS by whose labours and influence this chapel was built", his wife Susan, 1850; Mary HUGHES, 1822; and Daniel Edward HINLEY, 1846, clerk at St Katherine's Docks, London".

News From the Past – Westhide

1845 – Inquest at Westhide. Henry Powell, a labourer was crossing the locks of the canal with another man one night, when he slipped and fell in. His body was found by his companion half an hour later. The verdict was accidental death.

1845 – Another Drowning at Westhide. The body of George Bowcott was found in a pond in a field at Westhide; with no evidence to show how the lad ended up in the pool it was assumed that he had been running along the banks and fallen in.

1847 – Kindly Conduct at Westhide. Mr. John Morris of Westhide was concerned about the very high price of fresh food and the effect that this was having on the poor over the long and bitter winter.

With a remarkable benevolence, John allowed all the poor in the parish of Westhide to have free access to around ten acres of turnips, to gather as many as they wished to take home to eat. Within a short time all the turnips were gathered and this act of kindness was no doubt very much appreciated. Rather a contrast to the actions of a man at recent assizes, who prosecuted a poor man for stealing 7 turnips from a field.

Local History

1848 – Charge of Stealing at Westhide. Ellen Thomas worked for Mr. Skipp at Westhide, and was shortly to be married to a lad named John. It seems that she was desperate to make some provision for the forthcoming event, and she stole two jars of butter; some bacon and a home spun sheet from her employer.

The gamekeeper at Westhide gave the game away when he noticed Ellen with a basket full of the goods, which were later positively identified. She was Committed for trial, and became distraught.

1855 – The Perils of Drink

J.S. Bassand aged 47, who worked for the Rev. E. Bulmer, had finished for the day and was returning home to Westhide but was rather drunk – this being very unusual for him, but it was Easter Monday and he had imbibed more than he normally did. Whilst attempting to get over a stile in the meadow by Ailstone Hill he tumbled backwards and broke his neck. When he was found in a state of total paralysis, he was taken to the infirmary but was not expected to live. Poor fellow, one rather hopes that he didn't as his life would have been intolerable.

1862 – Violent encounter with Poachers at Westhide. In December 1861, Mr. Hodges the gamekeeper to Mr. Brookes of Westhide was with two watchers named Williams and Jones late at night. They heard footsteps close by and the watchers went into the wood to investigate, leaving Mr. Hodges behind. After a few minutes, Mr. Hodges heard noises of a severe scuffle and he rushed into the wood where he found a dreadful fight between his watchers and two tall and powerful men who were using bludgeons unmercifully. The poachers had a dog which was encouraged to grab hold of Williams' leg, and when it did so it tore the flesh savagely. A violent fight ensued, with the dog joining in, until the poachers began to get the upper hand, but thankfully they finally decided to scarper. Mr. Hodges the gamekeeper knew the poachers, so didn't bother to follow them, instead making for a nearby farmhouse. The farmer rode to Hereford to the police, who immediately set watch on one of the poachers houses, and after a short while the suspect arrived home with the dog. Evidence of poaching was found in the house after a struggle with the second suspect who had tried to barricade himself in. The two poachers were named as Thomas Griffiths and John Williams – they were remanded in custody pending trial.

October 1863 – School Opening and Harvest Thanksgiving. October 1863 saw the results of a superb harvest, and tied in with the celebrations was the opening of the new school at Westhide. For some time, the rector the Rev. W.H. Lambert along with friends and parishioners had worked to build a new school and home for the teachers, and it was a cause for great rejoicing when work was completed. The church was decorated with flowers and ever-greens, and fruit and corn was displayed throughout the building. Even the graves were adorned, and reporters said that the old, time worn and dilapidated church was given a new lease of life for a few days.

The new School

After the harvest festival service, everyone went to the new school where forty eight children were given tea and plum cake (it was ALWAYS plum cake!). As well as the school room, in the new building was a parlour, kitchen, scullery and two bedrooms and it was built from red and black bricks with Bath stone dressings. The cost of the building, exclusive of fences, drainage and fittings was around £300 and was built by Messrs Niblett and King of Gloucester to the design of Mr. Blashill of Old Jewry Cambers, London

1863 – Strange Phenomenon in the Sky at Westhide. One Friday evening in April of 1863, a dark cloud was spotted moving towards the Malvern Hills from the south and a short while later the cloud became alive with brilliant colours and became an inverted conical shape. Many people were somewhat alarmed, wondering what on earth was happening, but by all accounts it was a beautiful sight and remained in the sky for quite some time before melting away.

1863 – Child Burns to Death In Hopyard.

Sarah Scandrett aged 2, died when her clothes caught fire in a hopyard at Westhide.

Sarah's mother was tying in hop wires for Mr. Moseley, and as was normal practice, she made a little fire in order to boil a kettle for tea. Later she scattered the embers with her foot and went back to work, and it was assumed that Sarah began playing with the fire.

Frantic assistance was given, but the child died shortly afterwards.

(Details taken from Herefordshire Past.)

Withington Group Parish Council

Withington Group Parish Council update from their virtual meeting in May 2020.

Your **Withington Councillors** are now: Cllr Kevin Hewison, (Vice Chair), Cllr Alison Bainbridge, Cllr Barclay Rogers, Cllr Tom Nellist, Cllr Bob Wood, Cllr Jonathan Beech, Cllr John Baker, Cllr Martin Kirk, (Footpaths Officer, Withington)

Your **Westhild** Councillors are: Cllr Ralph Barber (Chairman), Cllr Judith Howe, Cllr Julie Williams (Footpaths Officer, Westhild)

Your **Preston Wynne** Councillors are: Cllr Simon Dent, Cllr Sue Rudd, Cllr Ed Simcock (Mrs Simcock is Footpaths Officer, Preston Wynne)

To be put in contact with any of the above Councillors, please contact the clerk first at:
wgpccclerk@hotmail.co.uk

The Withington Group Parish Council have held meetings throughout the year and full minutes for these meetings are available on our website <https://withingtongroupparishes.co.uk/> however, due to the Corona Virus epidemic Parish Council meetings are currently being held on line through Zoom. If you want to watch a PC meeting live on line, you just need to contact the clerk to gain the access code to the meeting – details are on the agenda.

The **Withington Group Parish Council** said goodbye to Cllr Paul Bainbridge after their March meeting. He has been the Chair for over 10 years and a Parish Councillor for more than an amazing 20 years, in his time he has helped to guide the PC through the building of the Village Hall, the creation of Withington Field play area and football pitches as well as adding his experience to the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. All on the WGPC sent their thanks and best wishes for future.

We currently have **two vacancies for Withington Parish Councillors** – you just need to be over 18 and a resident of the parish. If you think that you might have the interest and the time to give to your community, please contact the clerk to find out more.

Footpaths Officer: Please don't forget that we need your assistance in reporting problems on the footpaths throughout the Parishes, should you find broken styles or blocked footpaths, please can you let the Parish Council clerk or your footpath officer know and they can try and get the problem dealt with?

Tree Warden in Withington: We are looking for a parishioner who has the time to keep an eye out for trees that might be sick or could cause a problem on footpaths and can report these to the Parish Clerk. Perhaps you are some one who is out every day walking your dog? Could you also volunteer as our Tree Warden? We connect you with a network of other people doing the same role, there can be training and support – if you are interested, please can you contact the clerk for more information?

Finally, thanks to a generous donation from a parishioner, we now have a **defibrillator** for use by the public, located at the village hall. Should you need to use it, instructions are on the unit and there is a voice that tells you what to do every step of the way. We thank our benefactor very much, and hope that the presence of the defib gives you all a feeling of an extra layer of safety in the village!

Dates for future meetings; any member of the public can come to a Parish Council meeting, and there is a space early on every agenda for members of the public to ask a question or to raise a matter for the Council's consideration. The Parish Council meetings are all listed on the web site. If you want to know more about any of these meetings topics, do please look at our website and see the agenda, which are posted at least three days before each meeting...and during Covid 19 we are still meeting, just on line and you can also join us there.

Thank you.

Mrs Sophie Glover, wgpccclerk@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01432 617306 (Office hours only please)

Future Developments around the Village Hall

Withington Group Parish Council have been looking into a scheme to provide changing rooms for the use of football teams, and in addition to extend the hall car park as there are many times, in normal usage, that the car park is completely overwhelmed – the car park was planned and built in 1999 long before Withington Fields existed and the usage has grown very much over the last 20 years. It is expected that WGPC will be able to use S106 monies received by Herefordshire Council to pay for the car park, so it may well be started this year. The changing rooms, however, will need a fund-raising operation and it may be several years before this is achieved.

Retirement of Paul Bainbridge. WGPC Chair

Paul has been a Parish Councillor for over 20 years and for the last 10 years he has been ‘Chair’. However, he has decided to retire from WGPC, and his last meeting was in March 2020. We are very grateful for his time as a councillor and his expertise in planning matters has been beneficial to the Council and the residents of the Withington Group including Westhide and Preston Wynne. His work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan helped complete the NDP last September after many years of hard work. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Thanks Paul.

Ralph Barber and Kevin Hewison



A Visit to the Holy Land

Some years ago while on holiday in Cyprus, my wife and I decided to visit the Holy Land. This meant a trip by sea to Port Said and from there a four hour coach ride under armed guard to Jerusalem. We stopped at the West Bank for lunch before continuing with our journey.

First of all we visited the fields where the shepherds, while watching their flock that night, were visited by an angel. Although the gospel does not localize the exact place where the shepherds were, local tradition has fixed the site in a field some two miles east of Bethlehem.

Our next visit was the Church of the Nativity. The outside aspect of this resembles a mediaeval fortress. The facade is now encircled by the walls of three convents. A small, narrow doorway (deliberately so to prevent mounted soldiers from entering to destroy it) meant we had to stoop to enter the rectangular shaped cave. It is lit by 48 lamps and the spot where Christ was born is marked by a silver star ("We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him... And lo, the star went before them till it came to the place where the child was.") with the Latin inscription, "Hic de Maria Virgin Jesus Christus Natus est" (Here Christ was born). The Holy Manger lies to the right, the cave ceiling blackened by the smoke of candles and lamps.

Later we followed the walk along the original pathway Jesus followed carrying the cross to Calvary – **THE VIA DOLOROSA (WAY OF SORROWS).**

"So they took Jesus to a place of the Skull – Golgotha." The church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is the most sacred place of Christianity, stands over Golgotha, the place of the crucifixion, and the tomb where the body of Jesus was laid.

CALVARY. There are two chapels at the top of Calvary. One is believed to be the site of the crucifixion where behind the altar stands a magnificent statue of Christ on the cross and belongs to the Greek Orthodox church, the second is believed to be the site where Jesus was stripped of his garments and nailed to the cross. This belongs to the Roman Catholic church.

THE TOMB in the garden where Christ was crucified was hewn out of the rock and holds a marble slab which marks the place where the body of Jesus was laid. This we were allowed to enter where I stood for a while not quite believing that I was actually standing probably, in the very place where Christ was laid. Following this visit we could see not too far away, the Mount of Olives and at the foot of the mountain, the Garden of Gethsemane where Christ and his disciples gathered before he was crucified. It was a spot favoured by Jesus where he often went for His retreats and prayer. This is the Garden where Jesus, on His last night, underwent the most sorrowful hour of His passion, the hour in which He chose to suffer and die on the cross, the place where the disciples fled and left Him. Today the beautiful Church of Gethsemane stands on the site and the garden still holds Roman olive trees which botanists claim could well have been there during the time of Christ. If not they are without doubt the shoots of those under which Jesus prayed on the night of His agony. A colleague of mine (not a man who cried easily) once told me that when he visited the Garden and stood in the places where Jesus had been, he had to sit down where he wept briefly, uncontrollably. I think I know what he meant!

So far I have written, without passion, of the places I visited. To stand in the field where the shepherds watched over their flock that night and saw the angel who brought them the news of Christ's birth; to visit the manger where Christ was born, or to kneel before the cross at Calvary, were experiences which will stay with me for ever as all my life I have been taught and have taught others about the life of Christ. To many of us it is a natural part of our daily lives.

There were times during the visit when my thoughts would span the years to the days of my childhood experiences in that Welsh chapel so many years ago. Now I was living the dream which I never thought would become reality – to walk in the places where Christ walked and to see the garden where He suffered before His crucifixion; rare experiences in life, which are to be savoured whether you are a Christian or not!

Hopefully, one day I shall return.

Bryan

Yesteryear continued.....

Found in Old St. Paul's Church, Baltimore, U.S. and dated 1692

Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant for they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself, especially do not feign affection; neither be cynical about love, for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture the strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune, but do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars, you have the right to be here, and whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God whatever you conceive Him to be and whatever your labours and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams it is still a beautiful world. Be careful and strive to be happy.

Bryan

Local places of interest

Weston Beggard is a village of the byways with old farms and cottages scattered between two busy roads from Hereford, the river Frome flowing by one side and Shucknall Hill rising on the other.

A narrow lane winds to the church with a 14th century tower neighboured by white capped oasthouses (hops are grown in the village), an old black and white building which is said to have once been a vicarage and a tiny black and white cottage. The churchyard has two survivals from Stuart times - one is a tiny brass sundial of 1649 set on the base of the medieval cross and the other is a shapely yew planted in the memorable year of 1688 when the seven bishops defied James II and the King fled for his life. Most of the old work in the church is 14th century but the restored doorway with a head at each side is Norman, and the graceful painted chancel arch with a carved bracket on each side is over 700 years old.

Shucknall Hill, with its water spout on the side of the road, was the source of water for cottages on the hill and at one time a local man carried the water by yoke to cottagers for a halfpenny a bucket. However, if you gave him a whole penny for the water he promptly turned it down - he had to have his halfpennies.

The road leading from the spout to the chapel on the hill was built by cottagers living on the hill. They raised the money and men, women and children all helped to build the road. The spout today is still used mainly by travelling families but there are people from afar who won't use any other water for their winemaking.

NB

The village information above is taken from *The Herefordshire Village Book*, written by members of the Herefordshire Federation of Women's Institutes and published by Countryside Books.

Bodenham Lake is an important overwintering and breeding area for birds and other aquatic wildlife, so approximately half of the site is managed as a wildlife refuge with restricted public access. More than 160 species of birds have been recorded at this important site.

About the reserve: Until the 1920s, when the site was used for gravel extraction, the land was part of Lady Close Farm. When gravel extraction came to an end, the pits were linked together, resulting in the lake. Leominster District Council purchased the land in 1994 to safeguard the site for informal recreation and conservation. Up until March 2016, the site was managed and maintained by Herefordshire Council's Parks, Countryside and Leisure Development service, before the management was transferred to the partnership of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and New Leaf Sustainable Development who run the site today.

The River Lugg borders part of the reserve, with the combination of the river and lake making it a good place to see otters (especially at dawn and dusk). There are also two beautiful orchards, as well as lakeside meadows.

Dogs: Under effective control

Grazing animals: Areas of this nature reserve are grazed seasonally by sheep.

Walking trails: You can picnic and stroll through beautiful orchards as well as river and lakeside meadows.

PLEASE NOTE: We have closed the car park and bird hides for the time being due to efforts to slow the spread of Coronavirus and ensure visitors can maintain social distancing. This Nature Reserve remains open for the local community to access but we do not advise people to travel here to visit as it is important for social distancing measures that the site does not get busy at this time.

Lugg Meadow (Tupsley, Hereford) is one of the most important surviving Lammas Meadows in the UK.

Walking trails

Access over Upper Lugg Meadow is unrestricted but do not walk in the growing hay between late April and July. In winter, the whole area may be flooded to a depth of over 1m. for long periods, and access becomes impossible or distinctly dangerous. Take care when walking near the river as there are vertical cliffs along its banks.

About the reserve

Upper & Lower Lugg meadows are unique, being living survivors of a land tenure and farming economy system that has disappeared elsewhere. Dating back to the time before the Domesday Book, Lugg Meadow is one of the most important surviving Lammas Meadow (common meadows opened for communal grazing on Lammas Day, the 1st August) in the UK. Ownership of the meadow is still divided, though in medieval times this would have been between dozens of owners with the land doled out in strips, today these have become amalgamated and a handful of different owners own largish parcels of the land. Over 20 grass species are recorded here as well as a variety of herbaceous plants. Two special plants found here are the snake's head fritillary and the narrow-leaved water dropwort - both nationally scarce. Lugg Meadow is part of the Lower Lugg Valley Living Landscape, a wetland landscape rich in wild-life.

Westhide



One of our parishioners is determined not to take the current restrictions lying down. For the last six weeks Robin Peers of Westhide has been busy creating something wonderful in his workshop. As many of you will know, Robin, a retired Mechanical Engineer, has spent his life designing and making all manner of different things. He wanted to make something during lockdown to express the defiance of ordinary people to Covid 19, and to give thanks for the wonderful community spirit that lives on and for all who are committed to fighting the virus.

For inspiration he seized upon the Feast of Pentecost which we celebrate next Sunday, 31st May. With the flames of fire of Pentecost in mind Robin has made a beautiful and elegant new candle holder to be used in all our churches in this and future years. Made of English oak it has taken nearly 200 hours to create.

In a gesture of defiance and fortitude, on Saturday 30th May Robin, accompanied (at social distance) by Simon and other willing pilgrims, will parade the new candle holder across the Herefordshire countryside from the church of St Bartholomew, Westhide to St. Peter, Dormington.

The journey takes in much of our shared and beautiful countryside as well as a challenging climb over Shucknall Hill, passing St. John the Baptist, Weston Beggard along the way. Anyone wishing to sponsor Robin in the pilgrimage is most welcome to do so. Donations can be made via a dedicated justgiving page.



Herefordshire Council

WISH



Have you heard about WISH Herefordshire? It's a free online wellbeing information and signposting service, providing details for over 950 different services and groups across the county, along with promoting over 350 activities and events every month. It currently offers a comprehensive list of over 100 local suppliers, which are providing community food boxes, groceries and hot meals during the coronavirus lockdown, alongside a great range of local and national online exercises and activities to keep you active and entertained, whilst you're staying at home. To find something for you and your family, take a look at www.wisherefordshire.org or follow WISH on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter by searching @WishHereford.

Affordable warmth

Herefordshire Council is working with E.ON to help people across the county improve the heating of their homes by installing free first-time gas central heating systems in around 300 eligible residents' homes. The project follows a successful funding bid by the Council to the £150 million Warm Homes Fund, established by National Grid, and administered by community interest company Affordable Warmth Solutions.

Eligible households not connected to mains gas and currently relying on inefficient ways of heating their homes, for example electric storage or panel heaters, could be eligible for the measures, which are part of the Warmer Homes Herefordshire scheme. Subject to eligibility, where there is no existing gas supply to the property, a new gas network connection will also be provided by Affordable Warmth Solutions, usually at no cost.

For further information and the application form please see: [Warmer Homes Herefordshire](#)

For some areas, the rural element of the programme that was launched over a year ago may be more appropriate. Still funded by Affordable Warmth Solutions, eligible properties (must be without existing central heating, unless the existing system uses solid fuel). Under this rural programme they would be able to support the installation of heating systems— e.g. LPG Gas, or Renewable heating (e.g. heat pumps or biomass systems).

For the full eligibility criteria and to apply, they would encourage any residents to call Keep Herefordshire Warm on 0800 677 1432 or email khw@severnwyke.org.uk and take a look at: <https://keepherefordshirewarm.co.uk/>

Home Start Herefordshire

The earliest years make the biggest impact: Home-Start make sure those years count so no child's future is limited. Meet new people, make new friends, Be part of a great team that helps others. You could be that special friend that means so much to someone else.

Home-Start Herefordshire supports families with children from 0 - 19 throughout the county. Might you be willing to offer 2 or 3 hours a week to give help & support to parents finding life hard by using your own experiences and your home-visiting training?

What do we do? Volunteers supporting parents and families. A local community network of trained volunteers and expert support helping families with young children through their challenging times. There for parents when they need us the most because childhood can't wait.

Why do we do it? The earliest years make the biggest impact: Home-Start make sure those years count so that no child's future is limited.

How do we do it? No judgement, just compassionate, confidential help and expert support. Starting in the home, our approach is as individual as the people we're helping sharing local expertise.

Home Start Herefordshire Cont.

The issue:

A child's earliest years are irreplaceable. Without a stable, loving and nurturing environment, a very young child will not develop the vital foundations they need. Skills that help with everything from their behaviour, their ability to learn, their confidence or even some of the most basic things, like being able to go to the toilet by themselves.

A child's future shouldn't be blighted before it's even started.

Whilst offering help to families, our volunteers find they get a tremendous sense of satisfaction and enjoy the time they spend together, often making real lasting friendships.

All our volunteers attend a course of preparation and have ongoing training and support.

The preparation course is a
free 1 day a week session, running for 10 weeks every Thursday,

9.30-2.50 pm. 17th September.

All travel expenses will be paid.

If you would like to know more about how you become a volunteer, help us with our fundraising or events please do give us a call **01432 371212**

homestart.hereford@virgin.net www.home-startherefordshire.co.uk

Funding: 'Our Community Can'

Our Community Can

Are you a Community that Can...be active and creative?

ignite cic are looking to hear from rural communities in Herefordshire with very little or nothing in the way of regular creative and/or physical activities currently taking place, and who want to 'get things going'. ignite and their project partner in Worcestershire have received funding to support approx. 56 communities to do this. The project is called 'Our Community Can'.

'Our Community Can' is a four-year project that launched in January 2020. The project aims to support communities across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, particularly those in rural areas, to be active and creative by bringing people together through fun and engaging activities. Pilot project activities included bowls, rounders, clay workshops and dozens more.

The project is led by the communities themselves who are supported to; understand local needs and motivations; network with other individuals and organisations; deliver taster sessions or events; support new local active and creative activities to become sustainable; train volunteers and group leaders and access potential funding.

The project is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and is being delivered in partnership by ignite cic and Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

ignite are ready to respond to expressions of interest share further information or discuss an idea with you. Please contact Leoni Linton - leoni@ignite-cic.co.uk or 07983 495892.

A link to our expression of interest form is available under 'Our Community Can...be active and creative' from <https://www.ignite-cic.co.uk/our-activities>.

Child exploitation - missing and trafficked

A frequent indicator of child exploitation is a child going missing and then being trafficked to be exploited. Children and young people go missing for a variety of reasons. There may have been a misunderstanding about what time they were due to be back or they may have been the victim of a crime.

Trafficking can be when a child or young person is forced, persuaded or even tricked into leaving their home or transported in order to be exploited. Children can be trafficked for a range of reasons including criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation and forced labour.

Perpetrators of trafficking often use physical, emotional and sexual abuse to groom and control those children and young people they are trying to traffic, and this can extend to their families and communities in order to gain their trust. They can also bribe young people with lavish gifts and the promise of money to traffic them and ultimately exploit them which can often mean that victims don't realise they are victims.

Signs to watch out for are:

- Frequent missing episodes
- A child or young person travelling long distances on public transport
- A child or young person travelling with older unfamiliar acquaintances
- A child wearing expensive clothing and/or accessories
- Hostile or aggressive behaviour
- Obsessed by their mobile phone
- Disengaging from school

If your child is missing you must report them as missing to the police. When you call the police (on 101 or 999) tell them you are calling to report a child missing. The call handler will then ask for your location and the length of time your child has been missing.

Missing People charity also offer a free, 24-hour, anonymous phone and SMS helpline, 116 000, enabling young people to disclose information and seek support.

If you have concerns about yourself or someone you know being victim to human trafficking, please report this to the police on 101. Always call 999 in an emergency.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): MOTs for cars, vans and motorcycles.

What to do if your car, van or motorcycle's MOT is due. From 30th March 2020, MOT due dates for cars, motorcycles and light vans will be extended by six months. This is being done to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

For more information, visit the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-mots-for-cars-vans-and-motorcycles-due-before-30-march-2020>

You must **NOT** take your vehicle for its MOT if you or someone you live with have COVID-19 symptoms, or if you're extremely vulnerable from COVID-19.

The symptoms are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

Find out what to do if you have these symptoms on the NHS website.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police reach agreement over end of Policing Alliance.

West Mercia Police has reached agreement with Warwickshire Police over future service provision and settlement costs, following termination of the £300m strategic policing alliance that has been in place since 2012.

West Mercia and Warwickshire had worked to resolve the issues of bringing the strategic alliance to an end since notice was served in October 2018 however, when a mutual agreement couldn't be made, an independent team was brought in by the Home Office to advise. Their advice highlighted a number of areas for the provision of hosted services and for an agreement of reasonable termination costs.

This sees West Mercia providing transactional, forensic services and file storage on a service provider basis for 18 months. This means the two forces will continue to collaborate on IT services. The new agreements to provide service and collaboration are at no cost to West Mercia as they are on a full cost recovery basis. By agreeing this deal, West Mercia Police has helped ensure that Warwickshire Police is sustainable.

Both forces have also agreed on a settlement figure of £10.5m as a full and final payment. This figure is lower than was recommended by the Home Office's independent body and significantly lower than the amount requested by Warwickshire. As part of exiting a £300m policing alliance, this settlement is good value for money for the communities of West Mercia and will pay for itself in short order. It will also be paid in instalments over two financial years from reserves and efficiencies.

Ending the alliance comes at a short term financial cost but enables our police force to fully utilise its resources, keeping the communities of West Mercia safe and unlocking the massive potential to deliver improvements in efficiency and effectiveness. It is vital that West Mercia Police is able to respond to the challenges and demand, which couldn't be more important right now in the current climate.

31/3/2020

NHS test and trace - fraud awareness

If NHS Test and Trace calls you by phone, the service will be using a single phone number 0300 0135 000. The only website the service will ask you to visit is <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk>.

If NHS Test and Trace calls you by phone, the service will be using a single phone number 0300 0135 000. The only website the service will ask you to visit is <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk>."

Contact tracers will never:

- Ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to us (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- Ask you to make any form of payment
- Ask for any details about your bank account
- Ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- Ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- Ask you to purchase a product
- Ask you to download any software to your device or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet
- Ask you to access any website that does not belong to the Government or NHS

If you think you have been subjected to, or a victim of, a scam or attempted fraud using Track and Trace or any other fraud please call 101 or contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. If you or someone else is in immediate danger or risk of harm dial 999 now.

CUCKOOS, CALVES AND COVID

Hello everyone,

Two out of three elements of the title heralding a brighter tomorrow ain't bad. The third though is we have to admit, monumental!!

THE CUCKOO

As tradition has it we report on the first hearing of the cuckoo, this was extra early this year but I, Hilary, haven't heard it at all, and since I, like most people have spent an unusually long time in the garden this Spring I wonder if they are not as plentiful as they used to be. However, Patsy and Andrew have been enjoying watching red kites flying over Preston Wynne, they are fascinating to watch.

THE CALVES



Life on the farm has of necessity gone on much as usual. Animals have to be fed, lambing attended to and so on. Congratulations to George and Colin, two bulls here on Ford's farm who have sired 4 sets of twins. This is apparently quite unusual so well done boys!

COVID

Like most villages we have a Covid 19 WhatsApp link set up which has proved invaluable. Ours was set up by Vanessa Hargest initially informing us of the relevant points of the virus. Vanessa has continued to keep us updated of information as it has been made available throughout this lockdown period.

There is always an upside to any situation - undoubtedly the camaraderie of the village has increased, with probably the same feeling of pulling together as was experienced during the war years. We have shared videos and jokes (laughter being the best medicine) as well as calls for looking out for lost parcels and pets. All of which has served in making us feel less isolated. As you may know Reverend Paul and Rosie have been transmitting great Sunday Services using this WhatsApp group. Offers of veg plants have been put out there and most importantly offers of help with shopping, collections of prescriptions and Ralph even lets us know when the mobile PO has arrived on a Thursday. A big thank you to all the group. We look forward to a time when we are able to meet and put faces to names of people we have never seen before.

VE DAY

It was such a shame that the planned celebration could not go ahead, but rather than let the day pass unheralded it was decided that the Hall should be decorated for those passing by to be reminded of the anniversary. Two lovely planters were provided by Gill Robinson and her family with red, white and blue flowers which made a long-lasting thoughtful addition to the bunting. Bob Rudd continues to keep the outside of the hall neatly mown and tidy and of course thank you to the children for your lovely artwork. Thanks to everyone for the time and effort put towards this. There are also plans afoot for a mural mosaic to be made by the children of the village to commemorate both VE day and this extraordinary period in our lives. Will Davies will be instrumental in organising this project and informs us that the cost of materials will be approximately £90.00 and donations towards this would be gratefully received. Further information to follow.

Preston Wynne

A note from Pat the Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee... 'I would like to thank everyone who made sure the hall was aptly decorated for the VE Day celebrations. The whole display looked marvellous. A seriously big thank you to the children who did some lovely paintings',

PRESTON WYNNE PIZZAS

One very welcome new feature in village life here in Preston Wynne is the addition of our very own take-away pizzeria. Alice and Fab are making these delicious pizzas on a first come first served basis one evening a week. Lovely not to have to think about what to cook at home for a change.

100 CLUB

Although of course we cannot proceed at the moment with either collecting in the remaining subs due or organising the first draw for 2020, as soon as we are allowed a gathering at which the draw can take place legally this will be done, hopefully in the not too distant future.

VILLAGE PAPER ROTA

Four houses currently operate a newspaper rota. Papers are collected from Burley Gate Post Office Monday to Saturday. If anyone is interested in joining please ring Patsy on 07973 149659.

Think that's about it for now. Stay well and stay safe, and we'll see you next issue.

Love Hilary and Tricia x



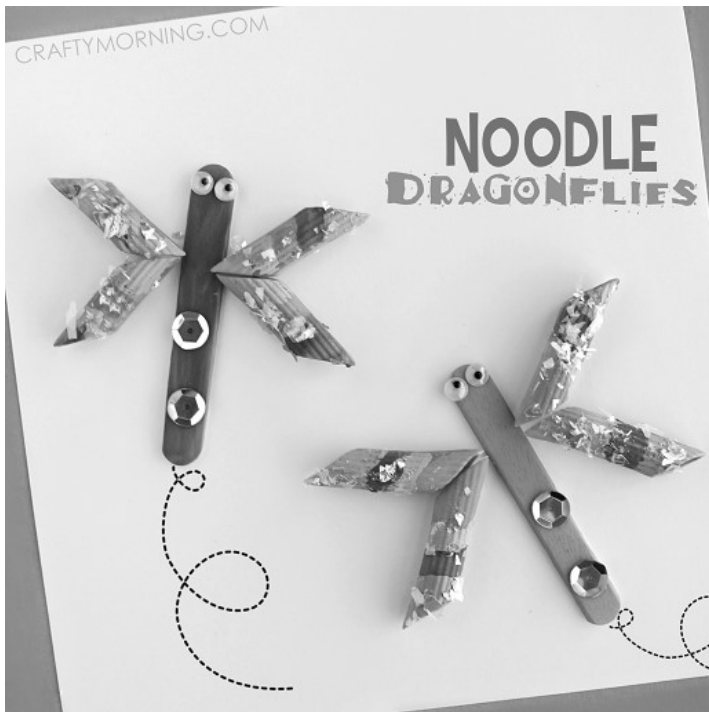
Kiddies Corner

Riddle: A farmer has a wolf, a chicken and a bag of grain he needs to get across a river. He has one boat to take them all across. He can only take one at a time. He cannot leave the wolf alone with the chicken or the chicken alone with the grain. How can he move them all safely across the river?

Answer: Take the chicken over first as the wolf will not eat the grain. Then take the corn but take the chicken back over the river. Next, take the wolf, then go back for the chicken.



Make a Dragonfly picture



Materials needed:

- Penne pasta
- Mini popsicle sticks
- 2 little googly eyes
- Glue
- Sequins
- Paint

Start by gluing the mini popsicle stick to a piece of card and then the noodles. Make sure they fit flat against each other in an angle.

Once they are dry to the paper, use some bright paints and make the wings and body beautiful! Sprinkle on some sparkly sequins to make them shimmer and glue on some googly eyes.

Kiddies Corner

How many animals are there?

Count them and put the numbers in the boxes.

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