

Withington Parish Magazine



November and December 2022



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The Courtyard

Pantomime returns to Hereford with Beauty and the Beast at The Courtyard this Christmas. Fri 25 Nov 2022 – Sat 7 Jan 2023.

Join The Courtyard on this magical journey filled with colourful characters, glittering costumes, magnificent musical numbers, and plenty of panto humour.

As part of The Courtyard's commitment to accessibility and inclusivity there will be a Relaxed Performance, suitable for individuals with autism spectrum conditions, learning difficulties or sensory and communication difficulties, on Monday 2 January at 10.30am. There will also be a Dementia Friendly performance on Tuesday 3 January at 1pm (doors will open from 12pm).

The Courtyard Audio Description Association (CADA) will be audio describing a performance on Saturday 10 December at 2pm and a British Sign Language signed performance will take place on Sunday 11 December at 6.30pm.

For more information contact the Box Office on 01432 340555 or visit www.courtyard.org.uk.

Neighbourhood Matters

Loan fee fraud is when customers are searching for a loan and are pressured into paying an upfront fee but then never receive the loan.

Loan fee fraud is expected to spread as the cost-of living crisis continues to place increasing pressure on people. Victims are often asked to make the payment quickly or are asked to make it through an unusual method, like a voucher. This scam deliberately targets those that are most financially vulnerable, such as those that don't have access to mainstream credit and so have to borrow from more dodgy and unregulated loan services.

Who is most vulnerable to this scam? This scam affects those aged 25 to 45 the most. People that fall victim to this scam are more likely to be those that are under financial pressure, or those that have limited borrowing options left. It often affects people when they are at their most vulnerable and feel that they need to borrow to get by. How can you protect yourself? Make sure you are aware of the warning signs. It could be a scam if you are:

- asked to pay an upfront cost
- pressured to pay quickly, or
- asked to pay in an unusual way, such as vouchers or money transfer.



If you are not sure about whether to take a loan you can check whether the loan provider is registered here: <https://register.fca.org.uk/s/> Further advice can be found from Financial Conduct Authority, Citizens Advice, StepChange Debt, National Debtline, PayPlan, or Shelter



Seasons Greetings to all and best wishes for 2023



Margaret (Editor)

DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023 EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE:

7TH DECEMBER 2022

Email: withingtonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel: 01432 850182

Withington Book Club

Out walking our dog Bryn, I met a fellow dog walker and stopped for a chat (as you do).

We got talking about the developing social scene in Withington and I mentioned the book club. It gradually dawned on me that many people either aren't aware of it or don't know what it entails. So, this month, I thought I'd tell you all a bit more about it.

Our group has been in existence for nearly four years and has kept going through lockdown/ floods etc. The idea is that each person selects a book of their own choice. It can be anything at all. This book then goes onto the rota (we meet ten months per year, not August. December is a meal out together). Effectively, that is one choice each per year, occasionally works out at two .

Each month, the person who selects the book hosts an evening get together in their own home or on Zoom if preferred, providing a few snacks and a cup of tea/ coffee etc.

That person then puts together a few questions for discussion by the group (often these will be available on the internet as well)..... and off we go, all the ingredients for a lively and worthwhile evening of social interaction and discussion.

Our group has chosen a wide range of books including works by Thomas Hardy, David Nicholls, Ian McKewan, Charles Dickens, Orhan Pamuk, Christie Lefteri amongst many others.

After our summer break in August, we discussed 'The Hills is Lonely' by Lilian Beckwith. This is the first in a series of the semi autobiographical novels set in the Hebrides. A burnt out teacher chose to leave her English home and take a sabbatical in the home of Morag , a Hebridean crofter in the truest sense of the word. Our heroine loved it so much that she upped sticks and, eventually, established herself in a nearby Croft . Despite not speaking Gaelic, she relates the wonderful adventures she had amongst the islanders of Bruach and how, gradually, she became (almost!) one of them. A lovely, endearing read describing life lived at a different pace amongst folk who liked nothing as much as a ceilidh!

Our next books are 'The Red Notebook' by Antoine Laurain and 'Sorrow and Bliss' by Meg Mason. If you think you'd like to either join us or, maybe, just sit in on an evening with us, please call Sue on 851710.

Happy reading.

Sue.

Tree Warden Report

Autumn Tree Quiz

1. What do conifers have in their cones?
2. Which tree's leaves are the symbol of the National Trust?
3. Which three coniferous trees are native to Britain?
4. Which garden tree with yellow flowers has poisonous seeds?
5. What colour are the flowers of the horse chestnut tree?
6. In which country did the bonsai technique develop?
7. Which tree do we get turpentine from?
8. In which continent did the monkey-puzzle tree originate?
9. Which tree produces cobs and filberts?
10. Aspen is from which family of trees?

Answers

1. Seeds 2. Oak 3. Yew, Scots Pine, Juniper 4. Laburnum 5. White/Cream
6. Japan 7. Pine 8. South America 9. Hazel 10. Poplar



Christmas at St Peter's Withington

Do come and join us for our services over Christmas!

There is something to suit all different ages!

11th December – 4pm (tbc) an **Advent Carol Concert** presented by Hereford Church Singers, includes some audience participation. Refreshments after.

24th December – 4pm **Family Crib & Carol Service**, a magical experience especially for small children, but loved by all! Plus Refreshments.

24th December 11.30pm Christmas Midnight Mass with Bishop Richard presiding.

Church Services in Withington and Westhide November & December

(Please check Church noticeboards nearer the service date in case of alterations)

Date	Withington	Westhide
Sunday 13 th November	REMEMBRANCE DAY service for all at Lugwardine Church. Gather at Lugwardine War Memorial at 10.45am	
Sunday 20 th November	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 27 th November	4pm 4 th @4 Family Service	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th December	9.30am Holy Communion 4pm (tbc) - Advent Carol Concert by Hereford Church Singers	11am Morning Prayer
Sunday 18 th December	9.30am Holy Communion	
Thursday 22 nd December		6.30pm Carol Service
Saturday 24 th December Christmas Eve	4pm Family Crib & Carol Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass with Bishop Richard Presiding	
Sunday 25 th December		10.30am Christmas Communion

Withington St Peter's Christmas Events and Services

Look out for notices around the village and on social media about **Christmas Events** and Services.



Hereford Church Singers will be coming again this year to present an

Advent Carol Concert on Sunday 11th December.
Time to be confirmed, likely 4pm.

The concert will include 2 or 3 carols for us to join in and their carols are likely to be in a variety of styles as last year, including some fun upbeat numbers! **Refreshments** will be provided afterwards and a **retiring collection** will be made.



**BIG
BREAKFAST
IS
BACK**

THANKS!

The first Big Breakfast of this season was on Saturday 1st October – and was MARVELLOUS!

The most people ever were served – 54!

The proceeds came to £388, which was split equally between local charity of the month Midlands Air Ambulance, and St Peter's Church.

Sandra as usual brought one of her home-made cakes to raffle, which made £75! (included in the total profits). Next month – 5th November, the local Charity will be The Little Princess Trust. In December (3rd December) the raffle will be a Christmas hamper! Also that month there will be some crafts for sale! Bring your change!

BIG BREAKFAST DATES

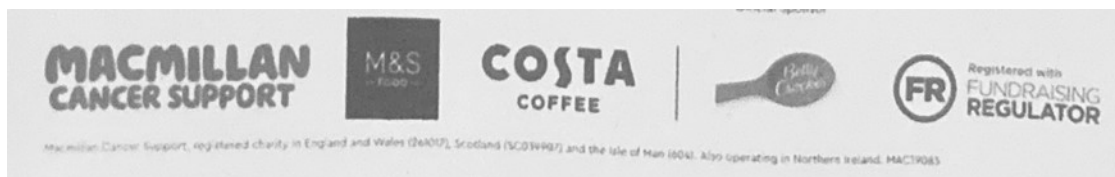
Saturday 5 November Plus cake raffle

Saturday 3 December. Plus Christmas hamper raffle

Saturday 7 January. Plus cake raffle etc

8.30 – 10am in the Village Hall

Thank You!



We enjoyed a brilliant coffee/ tea and cake afternoon in the Village Hall on Friday 23rd September and raised a whopping **£600 for Macmillan Cancer Care!** And those that could gift-aided their donation to give Macmillan an extra 25% on top of their donation!

Thank you so much to all those in the background who helped in any way – setting up, giving cakes, (people were so generous – we had LOADS of cakes), bringing things for the Bring & Buy Table, organising the drinks, helping with the games – guess the number of sprinkles on the cake (picture!), guess the weight of the cake (real) – which had 2 prizes as the guesses were so close – both winners got fruit cakes made by Pat and Ann both of Vine Tree Close.

And as usual Sandra of Duke St. took cake orders for delivery of cakes during October, with the money going into the Macmillan funds.

SAX CONCERT in St Peter's Church, Withington

Saturday 19th November at 7.30pm



Worcester Sax Quartet will showcase the family of saxophones, performing a variety of pieces ranging from Bach to jazz and tango!

Entry Free

Refreshments afterwards

Retiring Collection

REMINDER - YOU CAN NOW READ THE MAGAZINE 'ONLINE' - if you are unable to obtain paper copies of the magazine please go to the Group Parish Website to read it. You will find the magazine under the 'Newsletter' section <https://withingtongroupparishes.co.uk>



Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported the Curry & Quiz on October 1st. A great night was had by all – delicious curries and fiendish questions! Massive thanks in particular to Ilaitia and Georgie from Kanamada Mobile Catering and our quizmaster supreme, Hazel Davies.

It was wonderful to see the Hall so full, and we raised almost £500 towards our next community event...



SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER
3:30 – 6pm



**WITHINGTON CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION**
@ THE VILLAGE HALL



Food – bar – Xmas craft & games – raffle – Christmas card &
Christmas jumper competitions - music – Santa's Grotto

Withington Village Hall

VILLAGE HALL

100 YEARS OLD!

The original Village Hall was founded in January 1922

It was a corrugated iron building, which was on Veldo Lane with the oak tree in front of it.

There are now two houses in its place: Minton House & Old Hall House.

It was sold to provide funds for the new hall which cost about £250,000, opening in October 1999. The old Hall sale raised £75,000 approx. - the balance coming from grants including Millennium Grants and land gifted by the Apperley trust.

Back in August 1965 it was recorded in a scheme made by the Secretary of State for Education and Science under the Charities Act 1960. This led to the hall becoming an official charity registered with The Charity Commission.

Snippet from this document:

The Foundation

In this scheme, *“the foundation” means the Withington Parish Institute (otherwise known as the J.H. Smith Memorial Hall), in the Parish of Withington, in the County of Hereford, founded and now regulated by a gift of deed dated 18th January 1922. (Probably land and building?)*

With the new Hall in a more central village position, it was decided that the hall would be known as “Withington Village Hall” – there is a picture of J H Smith above the kitchen hatch in the Main Hall.

Where have all the committee gone?

All of the following organisations are entitled to have a representative on the Village Hall Management Committee according to our 1965 Constitution.

Withington Football Club, Withington Cricket Club, Withington Branch of the British Legion, Withington Women’s Institute, Withington Mothers Union, Withington Youth Club, Withington Flower Show and Withington Darby and Joan Club. (and in fact, any present user group!!)

None of these exist any longer, or users choose not to get involved.

At Present our COMMITTEE OF 6 ARE ALL OVER 70 YEARS OF AGE (with two OVER 80!).

**We really need interested people who can get involved now, in a limited way,
so that when we are no longer here the village hall will continue to work for the benefit of
Withington residents.**

PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO US AS THE VILLAGE WILL NEED YOU IN THE FUTURE.

We have a good team at present but we are getting older by the day!!

Please contact: Chair - Kevin Hewison 850074, Treasurer - Colin Hunt 850740

Booking Secretary - Rob Soutar 850448, or Kathy Fields 851001

West Mercia Police

You may have seen news coverage around the police service and the response to home burglaries. We're eager to make sure you know what we do as your local force to respond to and tackle these crimes.

Whilst the number of burglaries locally is low, the impact of being a victim can be devastating. That's why it is already our policy to attend all burglaries. We see the importance of this, both in terms of evidence gathering and in ensuring the right support is in place for victims and that we can help them feel safe in their homes.

We are determined to provide a quality policing service for the people of Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Telford and a recent survey has shown that our communities are increasingly satisfied with the response we give to burglary.

Should you become a victim of a burglary in our force area, we have made a clear commitment of the service you'll receive from us. You can find the full details including the initial response and follow up contact from your local safer neighbourhood team – everything you should rightly expect.

Through investment from the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, our officer numbers are currently the highest they have been in over a decade, and we are currently recruiting more (If you're interested, visit our recruitment page). This means we can be more visible in our communities, which we know acts as a deterrent. We also have a community messaging service, Neighbourhood Matters, which you can sign up to and receive news from your local policing team straight into your inbox. We also use this to warn you if we know there has been an offence in your area, offer crime prevention advice and update you when we bring offenders to justice.

SmartWater, forensic property marking technology, continues to be distributed throughout our communities which, together with supplied signage, warns criminals that there are crime prevention tactics in place – another deterrent.

There are still areas for improvement, and we want to be open, honest and transparent about this – the number of investigations that result in a charge is not where we want it to be. This is something we are working to improve in conjunction with the Crown Prosecution Service. We will do better.

We are proud of the service that we give to victims of burglary, but we will never stop learning and evolving to ensure that we are doing all we can to protect people from harm and to bring offenders to justice.

For free and confidential support and advice, for those affected by crime call the Victim Advice Line on 0800 952 3000 or visit: Victim Advice Line - Free and Confidential Support

Police investigation into bird of prey persecution — officers from Shropshire rural and wildlife crime team, assisted by colleagues from the Safer Neighbourhood team, the National Wildlife Crime Unit and Natural England conducted a search of a premises that was suspected of being involved in the persecution of birds of prey. Several items were seized and will be forensically examined. Bird of Prey persecution is one of the national wildlife crime police priorities. One person has already been interviewed and the investigation continues.

We would encourage everyone to report wildlife crime to police, if you witness a crime in progress dial 999, alternatively report online at www.westmercia.police.uk

Premium Rate Telephone Number Scam - What is it?

Scammers will try to trap people trying to search the internet for Government Services and other providers, e.g. DVLA. They will show an advert with the phone number of the service, or department that the person is looking for, and these may appear high on a search engine lists as an “Advert”.

However this will come with a heavy charge as a Premium Rate Call, often up to £30 per call. Even if you do finally get through to the right department, you have paid an unwarranted high charge.

Remember, most of these Advice Lines should be free of charge.

What to watch out for.

- Always avoid using numbers prefixed with 084, 090, 091, or 098, no Government Department will use such numbers
- Take care when searching for such things as Car Tax and Driving Licence renewals, as well as HMRC enquiries and returns.

And finally, when looking for Government Department contact details, always use the official Government Services Website – GOV.UK

ENERGY BILL REBATE SCHEME

Several recent Warnings have been issued about possible scams as this scheme comes into play. However it is worth remembering the following points about this Scheme to avoid being trapped by the Fraudster's texts and emails which are already circulating.

- Direct Debit customers will receive the Energy Bill discount automatically as a deduction to the monthly Direct Debit amount collected, or as a refund to the customer's bank account following Direct Debit collection during each month of delivery
- Standard credit customers and payment card customers will see the Energy Bill discount automatically applied as a credit to standard credit customers' accounts in the first week of each month of EBSS delivery, with the credit appearing as it would if the customer had made a payment
- Smart prepayment meter customers will see the Energy Bill discount credited directly to their smart prepayment meters in the first week of each month of delivery
- Traditional prepayment meter customers will be provided with redeemable EBSS Energy Bill discount vouchers or Special Action Messages (SAMs) from the first week of each month, issued via SMS text, email or post. Customers will need to redeem these at their usual top-up point
- Customers will NOT need to apply via any government link, website, rebate company, share-scheme; nor will they need to provide their bank account details or make contact with their energy supplier

Take Five To Stop Fraud

- **Stop:** Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

Challenge: Could it be fake? It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

Protect: If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

For further information visit:

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

<https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>

Preston Wynne

Hello Everyone,

We do hope that you are all keeping well and that you are not too depressed with all the doom and gloom that surrounds us when we listen to the news. We are not going to remind you of the fact that winter is around the corner, energy prices are on the increase, rail strikes are imminent, global warming is worrying etc, etc. no, absolutely not! Instead we are reminding you that Christmas will soon be upon us, umm... New Year will soon be here.....umm Spring can't be far behind actually I've got bulbs coming up in the garden, what's that all about?). So, let's get on with the important stuff..

Church News:

Services

November 13th Remembrance Sunday 9.00 am

27th H.C. 11.15 am

December 11th Family Service 9.30 am

18th Carol Service 11.15 am

25th Christmas Day Service 9.00 am

The Harvest Supper was held in the Hall, on Saturday 24th September. Over 60 people attended and were treated to a superb 3 course meal, thanks are due to all who helped in any way, and to those who came along and supported the event. The Harvest Festival Service took place the following morning in the Church and was very well attended. Thanks are due to Peter Maund who very kindly allowed vehicular access to the church which enabled those of us who are less able to attend, and the transportation of items to decorate the church much easier.

The 100 Club was drawn at the Harvest Supper, results are:

1st No. 92 Sarah Davis £50

2nd No. 24 Iain Whitehouse £25

3rd No.21 Bill Bowen £12.50

Congratulations to the lucky winners!

Hall News

Christmas Lunch will be in the Hall on Sunday 11th December at 12.30, please book early for this very popular event, Santa has already started his preparations, please phone Tricia on 820650.

Christmas Bazaar in the Hall Saturday 19th 11 am - 1 pm

There will be light refreshment available, and a variety of stalls, come along and get some Christmas presents whilst enjoying coffee and brunch. If you would like to book a stall, please phone Pat on 820648.

You may have noticed the defibrillator fitted to the outside of the Hall, this important, and potentially life-saving piece of equipment has kindly been provided by WGPC. There have been two well-attended first aid talks in which there was a demonstration of the application of this device. Thanks are due to the organisers of these evenings, and for the welcome refreshments afterwards.

All that remains now are for us to wish you all a very happy Christmas and all the very best for a Happy and peaceful New Year.

Love

Hilary and Tricia x

At the beginning of September our village hosted two exhibitions for H Art. Robin and Sheila Peers welcomed visitors to their studio with a beautiful exhibition of paintings by Robin and by Maggie McGladdery and decorated ceramics by Rachel Fenton. As in previous years, lucky visitors were also treated to home-made cakes and improvised music making. On the other side of the village, Ralph and Debbie Barber opened their house and their beautiful gardens to visitors. Ralph exhibited his stained glass pieces and gave fascinating demonstrations in his workshop. Both of these H ART exhibitions raised money for local charities including the canal trust and the church.

While all these creative endeavours were going on, the 'gang of four' cyclists prepared for their sponsored ride to Arnhem in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. Sadly just before the ride, one of the four fractured a hip...so the gang was down to three. These three set off from Folkestone and, despite various adventures and mishaps, successfully reached Arnhem. Their long miles in the saddle were supported by frequent messages on the Westhide WhatsApp group, repaid by lots of photos of sweaty cyclists. Mike, Steve and Simon would like to thank everyone who supported them and sponsored them.

Simon Tarlton has now moved to a new job so we are currently without a vicar. The church wardens Judy and Sheila are managing with DIY services, which follow the usual pattern of 11 am services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. The services are even more informal than usual for Westhide and there is always a warm welcome and refreshments afterwards.

In October the annual Westhide Concert took place, welcoming back Paul and Rosie who sang a variety of pieces which seemed to get funnier and more bawdy as the evening progressed or was that the effect of the wine at the interval? From Westhide, Lisa and Matthew performed some beautiful Bob Dylan songs. The evening was a huge success, with thanks especially to Gill Rowlett for organising. There was talk of perhaps another event in the summer to showcase local music makers. West- Fest maybe? You heard it here first.

The Harvest Festival took place on October 9th in a beautifully decorated church. The stand-in vicar dropped out at the last minute due to illness, so Sheila kindly stepped in to lead a DIY harvest service, which was enjoyed by all. There was a large collection for the Hereford Food Bank, and money also raised for the 'Send a Cow' charity in Africa.

The last few months have seen several families in the village celebrate the arrival of new babies, including grandchildren, with great excitement and joy. There has also been sadness in the village with illness and loss.

We welcome the new families who have moved to the village. Joining the village WhatsApp is a good way of hearing what is going on, like the regular Belfry nights.

Looking towards Christmas there will be the annual Westhide Carol Service on 22nd December, and there will be the famous Westhide Carol Singing on Christmas Eve. At the carol singing we will miss Robin and Doris Meredith of course, but hopefully Stephen will continue the family tradition of inviting us all down to Oldbury Farm. No pressure! A perfect way to start a Westhide Christmas.

Clare

poetry



If Christmas is hard,
If you've lost someone dear.
Just look in your heart,
And you'll know they're still here.
The star in the sky,
The light falling snow.
The robin outside,
It seems like they know.
If this is a time,
When you're struggling through.
Just do what you can,
For what matters, is you.
There's no need to be merry,
There's no need to be bright.
Just do what you can,
It will all be alright

Elizabeth Hurley



Contact Details

Byworth Trust Clerk:	Margaret Soutar	850448
Police:	Safer Neighbourhood Team PC Josh Kitchen	07773053436
St. Peters Church:	Rector	
	Church Warden	Kevin Hewison 850074
	Church Warden	Margaret Soutar 850448
	Bell Ringing	Kevin Hewison 850074
	Secretary	June Wynter 851677
Village Hall:	Chairman	Kevin Hewison 850074
	Booking Secretary	Rob Soutar 850448
WG Parish Council:	Clerk	Sophie Glover 270499
	Chairman	Kevin Hewison 850074
	Vice-Chair	Judith Howe 850117
Whitestone Chapel	Ian Porter	01981 540388
Withington Football Club:	Ray Rice	850669
Withington Post Office:		850356
Withington Primary School:		850289
Withington Parish Magazine:	Editor Margaret Thompson	850182

Elizabeth Byworth Charity

If you are under 25 and live in Withington, Westhild 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: Clerk to the Trustees, Margaret Soutar, 3 Duke Street, Withington, Hereford, HR1 3QD or email: Margaret.soutar@btinternet.com

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Saturday	9:00 am - 12:30pm
Sunday	CLOSED

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Wednesday	— 5:00pm - 8:30pm
Thursday	— 5:00pm - 8:30pm
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Sunday	CLOSED

**Please note our revised
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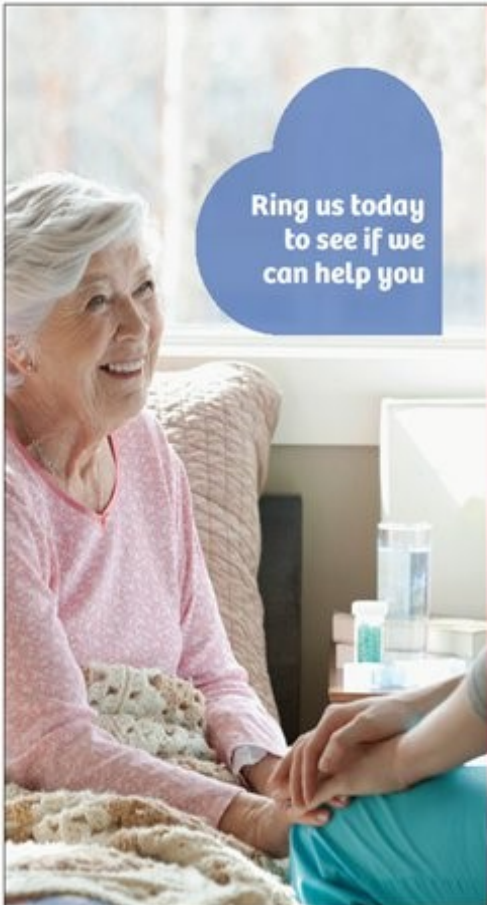
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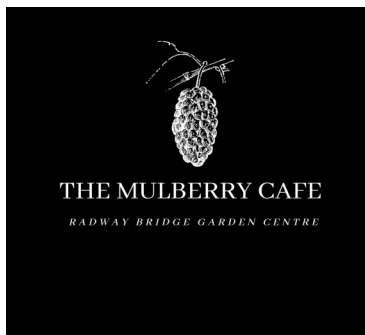
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- **We will specialize in delicious, rustic homemade food cooked well and with a simplicity that brings out all the natural flavours in fresh seasonal ingredients.**
- **We are going back to our traditional Sunday lunches.**
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- **Cookery demonstrations.**
- **Breakfasts and teas are returning with Santa later in the year.**
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We are really looking forward to welcoming you back to our Mulberry Cafe in 2021.

Whitestone Hereford HR1 3RX T 01432 850009

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