

Withington Parish Magazine



May and June 2023



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Editorial

Dear All,

It's a busy time in the gardening calendar, sowing and nurturing plants and trying to resurrect those which were effected by the long cold spell experienced during winter. There are many seed-swop events but I think it would be also beneficial to have a local plant-swop event, any thoughts or suggestions on this?

Welcome to our new advertisers, MorganAps (property and marketing advice), Heavenly Bites Burger Van (who now caters twice a week outside the village hall) and Tolley Home Services (home maintenance). Details can be found on pages 13 and 14. Readers of the magazine are now fortunate in being able to source tradesmen and services covering health, home, food and garden in just one publication - who needs Google?!!

I hope you all enjoy watching the pageantry and celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III. Please send pictures of parties held for the occasion and acts of volunteering for 'The Big Help Out' for inclusion in the next edition of the magazine.

Best wishes,

Margaret

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST 2023 EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE:

7TH JUNE 2023

Email: withingtonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel: 01432 850182

Raise awareness of child exploitation in your area

Not all young people will tell you when they are in trouble. And sometimes they won't always know they are in danger – often because they have been groomed to believe otherwise. Criminal exploitation often happens when individuals or gangs develop friendships with young people, before taking advantage of their innocence to force them into criminal activity. From sexual abuse to forced labour, money laundering, and drug trafficking, young people across the UK are being exploited. They are targeted both behind closed doors and in plain sight. It can happen on public transport, in shopping centres, car washes, public parks, or online, through social media and gaming platforms. It is everyone's responsibility to safeguard our young people. It is for this reason that The Children's Society launched the #LookCloser campaign, which aims to help people spot and report the signs of child exploitation. It encourages everyone to learn the signs and protect young people from horrific abuse and lifelong trauma.

The signs - Although children react to trauma in very different ways, typical signs of exploitation include young people who:

- frequently appear anxious, frightened, or angry
- show signs of neglect
- are often unaccompanied or appear lost
- engage in antisocial behaviour
- show sudden changes in attitude or behaviour
- have signs of self-harm or depression
- regularly miss school.

Other signs include children travelling alone, particularly in school hours or late at night. Young people making repeated trips to places where they wouldn't normally go, or leaving without explanation, can also be a cause for concern. Further red flags include the unexplained receipt of gifts – or whether a child is in possession of more than one phone. Do they have unusual items such as a debit card, or even weapons such as knives? Perhaps they get calls or messages throughout day, or have made friends that are older than they are. If you spot any of these signs, you have a duty to act. If something doesn't feel right, it might not be and report your concerns to the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency. If you are unsure, you can call the NSPCC for advice on 0800 800 5000.



Withington Book Club

Our group has recently enjoyed reading two very different novels. Firstly, 'The Glassblowers' by Daphne du Maurier. A fictional work containing quite a few autobiographical references. Set in late eighteenth century France, it tells the story of a family of glassblowers through several generations and historical periods including the French Revolution. We generally agreed that it was a very absorbing and informative book. We all learnt something from it!

Secondly, 'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus. A recently published book set in the 1950s and 60s America, relating one woman's heroic struggle against discrimination of all sorts. A chemist trying to break through in a world dominated by men, our heroine, Elizabeth, somehow successfully transfers her scientific knowledge and understanding to the world of daytime TV cookery programmes. Running alongside that central theme, Elizabeth also seeks to overcome a wide variety of emotional hurdles. Again, we all learnt something from it!

Our next book is 'Everything, everything' by Nicola Yoon.

Bye for now,

Sue

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Whitestone on 14th May 2023.**

The Chapel was originally built as a Chapel/ School with students coming from West Wales to learn English. The students boarded in the local area.

Preachers for May and June.

May 7th. Wendy Davidson.

May 14th. Rev. Dr. Michael Goodman.

May 21st. Rev. Ken Morey.

May 28th. Tony Bailey.

June 4th. Wendy Davidson

June 11th. Rev. Dr. Michael Goodman.

June 18th. Rev. Ken. Morey.

June 25th. David Porter.

Contact. Keith and Olive Edwards. 01432 266037

Withington Village Hall

Booking Secretary

As has been announced in previous Withington News, our Booking Secretary Rob Soutar is standing down at the Village Hall AGM on Tuesday 25th April. The trustees have decided that we need to have a paid part-time position and the post was advertised in March. We were very pleased with the range of applicants, and after much deliberation it was decided to offer the post to Nicola Powders, who has accepted the offer and is now busy getting trained ready to take on the role at the end of April. Contact details will be publicised at the end of April as Rob Soutar trains Nicola for her role.

The Trustees wish to record their thanks and appreciation for his years on the Committee and more recently for taking on the role of booking secretary following the retirement of Kathy Fields several years ago.

The Village Hall AGM is on Tuesday 25th April at 7.30pm in the HEWISON Lounge.

All are welcome. Can I remind hall user groups that our constitution allows for all user groups to have a member on the Management committee.

Wi-Fi is NOW available for all users of the Village Hall. The password and details are available for all user groups. It has taken over two years to get 'fibre to the hall' and Wi-Fi installed. We are very grateful for the assistance that Airband have given to get fibre connected to the hall. The Wi-Fi can be used in ALL rooms in the hall.

Kevin Hewison

Village Hall Chair

West Mercia Police

Do you have an issue with speeding in your area?

Do you know what to do if you feel you have an issue with speeding in your area?



The Police no longer take individual reports of speeding. As you can imagine, in the past we have been inundated with reports of speeding for the majority of roads all over Herefordshire.

Are you aware of the "Community Charter"?

We now have the Community Charter. This is where your safer neighbourhood teams work closely with your Parish Council to target specific issues in that area which they feel the Police can assist with. This could be a particular area that is having anti social behaviour, for example a park, playing fields or it could be a car park where vehicles are gathering and driving inappropriately.

It could be a particular road that has issues with inappropriate parking/driving or heavy goods vehicles breaching weight restriction limits.

As well as other issues that the Parish Council report back to the safer neighbourhood teams, one of the main ones is speeding.

Every 3 months, each Parish Council is contacted direct by the safer neighbourhood team for the area and they are asked what their 3 priorities are which they wish the safer neighbourhood team to concentrate on for the next 3 months.

They are directed by the Parish Council as to which areas that they wish for speed enforcement to be carried out and then they attempt to target those areas over the 3 months until the next review. The Parish Council will receive complaints from members of the public about speeding and then make a collective decision as to where they feel needs looking at.

If you feel you have an issue with speeding in your area then please contact your Parish Council who then can include the particular area on their next priorities for the safer neighbourhood teams to look at.

Kind regards,

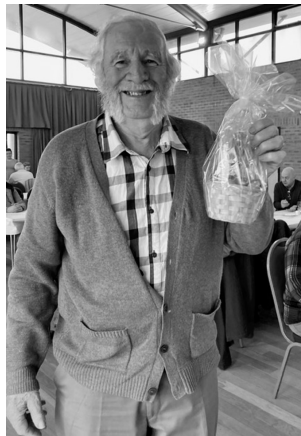
Christina, Hereford Rural North SNT

April Big Breakfast

Here are some pictures from the April Breakfast:



The chefs: Kevin & Rob



The Raffle winners: Rob & Mary, Tony, Brian, Bernie

We have had an amazing team over the years;
Shoppers, chefs, setters-up, servers,
friendly host people, washers-up, clearers-up.
Thank you all so much!

Ruth Hewison



Many Thanks to our Big Breakfast Supporters

It has been a wonderfully well-supported season of Big Breakfasts from October to April this year. People have been generous with their donations and helped both the named charity for the month and Withington Church, which has to find all its own costs, expenses, including repairs and major works and our share towards the running of the Diocese. All our money comes from generous giving, and grants when we can obtain them. It is always a struggle – but this beautiful ancient church is our village heritage, and is used by many more than the usual congregation - Weddings and Funerals are just 2 examples. Others may visit to find solace in times of trouble, or for a time of quiet contemplation, or maybe as a visitor interested in its history.

Breakfast statistics

Every time this season we have served over 40 cooked breakfasts, and there are more who just have a coffee and toast. There has also been a well-supported raffle each time, organised by Sandra Hickey, and two months of bumper prizes – Christmas and Easter.

There have been 6 months of Breakfasts – February was missed this time. Each time the proceeds are split equally between the named charity and St Peter's Church, Withington.

October - Proceeds £388, giving Midlands Air Ambulance £194

November – Proceeds £300, giving The Little Princess Trust £150

December – Proceeds £360, giving National Star (realising the aspirations of people with disabilities) £180

January – Proceeds £286, giving the local Women's Refuge £143

March – Proceeds £306, giving the DEC Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal £153

April – Proceeds £380, giving Hereford Help For Ukraine £190

Total this season to outside charities = £1,010

Total this season towards keeping our village church going = £1,010

Ruth Hewison

St. Peter's Church News

Church Services in Withington and Westhide May & June

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

Date	Withington	Westhide
Sunday 7 May		
Sunday 14 May	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
Sunday 21 May	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 28 May	4pm 4th@4 Family Service	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 4 June		
Sunday 11 June	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
Sunday 18 June	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 25 June	4pm 4th@4 Family Service	11am Holy Communion

The Courtyard

The Courtyard is delighted to announce its upcoming Audio Described performances this year.

Audio Description consists of a narrator talking through the performance or film, describing what is happening on the stage or screen during the natural pauses in the dialogue through a discreet headset.

The first opportunity for visually impaired audiences to access an Audio Described performance will be the West End production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* on Thursday 29 June at 2.30pm. *The Mousetrap* is the world's longest-running play and considered to be the genre-defining murder mystery from the best-selling novelist of all time. As news spreads of a murder in London, a group of seven strangers find themselves snowed in at a stately countryside guest-house. When a police sergeant arrives, the guests discover – to their horror – that a killer is in their midst! One by one, the suspicious characters reveal their sordid pasts.

Classic novel fans can enjoy an Audio Described performance of *The Secret Garden* next on Saturday 7 October at 2.30pm. *The Secret Garden* follows Mary as she discovers a glorious garden filled with wonders, where all secrets eventually unlock the mysteries of a newfound hope. This Pro-Am production showcases a mix of Professional, Community and Youth Theatre cast. Audiences will be taken on an enchanted journey by this delightful tale that has charmed hearts for generations.

Finally The Courtyard will be hosting Audio Described performances of its pantomime, *Dick Whittington* on Saturday 16 December 2023 at 2pm. The audience will follow spirited hero Dick and his feline friend, as they pack up their handkerchief to embark on an epic adventure seeking fame and fortune. Featuring an action-packed swashbuckling story, musical numbers, spectacular sets and costumes, an electric live band, and entertaining script, *Dick Whittington* is the festive family pantomime. As part of The Courtyard's commitment to inclusivity, other accessible *Dick Whittington* performances include: a British Sign Language performance on Sunday 17 December 2023, a Relaxed Performance on Thursday 4 January and a Dementia Friendly performance on Thursday 4 January 2024. Audio Description is also available on a variety of films.

Obituary

In Memory of Geoff Bull, resident of Withington

Submitted by a Reader

Ode to a Shropshire lad

He may not have been everybody's cup of tea but **GB** was good to me.

When it came to sheep, lambs butchery and wool he was a master class judge and nobody's fool.

He was a pioneering authority, internationally sought for his advice;

But age and time with two cruel blows laid him low twice.

That's were I got to know him when with a team of carers, we sat and heard his wonderful stories

Enjoyed his mischievous wit and glint in his eye,

His Merlot laced stews were legendary.

He called it his 'Ribena berry'

He may not have been everybody's cup of tea but **GB** was good to me.

He told me of his rural life when riding a shire horse at 12 into town,
keeping it calm from the traffic around.

My favourite story was his judging a sheep competition in rural Ireland.

He was hopelessly lost.

The reader must remember Satnavs were not always the boss.

So Geoff went into a pub and a local said "I know the way.

Let me finish my pint and you can drive me there right away"

What a relief 6 miles on they found it at last.

Then Geoff said (with a laugh) to his surprise the man said

"Can you take me back now lad I don't live here!"

And Geoff got lost coming back, oh dear.

He may not have been everybody's cup of tea but **GB** was good to me.

I said "Geoff these stories must be penned in the village mag!"

He said with a beaming smile," you know what, I'll do it lad."

But the angels had other plans and took this beautiful man.

So long Geoff I really enjoyed meeting you

I wish it was for longer

Good night and God bless

He may not have been everyone's cup of tea but he was good to me.

Dedicated to all the carers who cared for GB .

Anon

Preston Wynne

Hello Everyone,

Well here we are, writing just before the Easter break and April showers are well and truly the order of the day, hopefully by the time you are reading this the weather will have settled down – we have ordered a couple of hours of gentle rain every other night and bright sunny days, no frost and no high winds, ok? Ever the optimists!! But some fine evenings would be great since the cricket season is due to start soon, and the sound of leather on willow (is that right?) can be heard from quite some distance away when there's a home game with the pitch being on one of the highest points in the village. A lovely old-fashioned tradition isn't it, English village cricket, there's something very comforting about this sort of continuity amidst the turmoil going on around us. Just looked out of the window, and guess what! It's raining again, that cricket pitch is going to take some mowing.

Church News

May 14th 9.30 am Family Service

28th 11.15 am H.C.

June 11th 4.00 pm SONGS OF PRAISE followed by tea in the Church

June 25th 11.15 am H.C

St David's Day Supper on March 4th was a great night with a splendid 3 course meal which was followed by brilliant entertainment by Paul and Rosie, who together with Mike on the piano stepped in at the eleventh hour due to a covid emergency with the booked entertainers. Special thanks to them and of course to the stalwart team who help with these events, sharing the work load and making them possible and enjoyable for all. The 100 Club was drawn during this event, lucky winners were:

1st £50 No. 46 Diana Dent

2nd £25 No.108 Rhys and Kyle

3rd £12.50 No. 10 Samantha Maund Morris

Congratulations to you all, and thanks to everyone for your continued support.

There will be a Knitted Bible Exhibition in Bodenham Church from 25th May until June 7th. There will be refreshments and various craft stalls throughout the two weeks. This will be well worth a visit.

Hall News

Preston Wynne will be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles with a "Street Party" in the hall on Sunday 7th May. All welcome, the meal will be subsidised so a charge of only £5 for adults and children free (bring your own drink). Please let Tricia know numbers for catering purposes 01432 820650.

Pimms and Pudding Evening, Saturday 24th June in the Hall at 7.30 pm, £5 to include a glass of Pimms and a pudding, followed by entertainment.

W.I. News

The May meeting on the 10th will be "Five Sticks Weaving" by Sandra Soanes, and the June meeting on the 14th is "Apples and People" by David Marshall. All are welcome to these meetings in the Hall, visitors £4 to include refreshments following the talks.

That's about it for now, enjoy the Spring and early Summer and see you again before you know it!,

Love Hilary and Tricia x

Preston Wynne WI

YOUR Local Women's Group

By the time you read this we will have had a fascinating history talk on Hergest Court and the Vaughan Family. Our next talk, on May 10th is a craft session on 5 Stick weaving and in June we will hear stories from around the world on Apples and People. July will be a visit out to a garden and in August we will learn all about Guide Dogs. A really varied programme.

And who is your local Women's group? – it is Preston Wynne WI. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the Memorial Hall in Preston Wynne. Doors open shortly after 7pm. The meeting starts at 7.30 for details of what is going on around the county, what trips we can go on, what talks and demonstrations we can attend, what national policies we can get involved in and more. Our speaker starts around 8pm followed by refreshments and social time.

Every woman is welcome – and on very occasional open evenings we allow men in as well. Come and visit to see if you like us. Come with a friend, or two, if you don't want to come alone. We would love to see you. Just £4 on the door – which includes the talk and refreshments.

For further details contact the programme secretary Debbie Barber on 01432 853086.

We look forward to meeting you.



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Westhide

Thankfully we managed some lovely weather over the Easter break, although it wouldn't be a Bank Holiday weekend without a little rain. Primroses have abounded in the churchyard and we will soon be seeing the woods full of bluebells - a gorgeous sight. At time of writing, we are waiting for the first cuckoo.

There was no Easter service at Westhide, but the Peers attended the church at Marden where the new nave altar – made by Robin! – was blessed and used for the first time.

Church AGM will be held on May 3rd in the church at 7pm. We have two weddings at the church this summer to look forward to.

A well done and thanks go to Clare and Steve Scotcher for their epic ascent of Kilimanjaro. A very useful sum was raised on behalf of a Tanzanian hospice and our own St Michaels.

Belfry nights have restarted with our first one held at the end of March. Next date for your diary is Friday 28th April from 7pm. Great to catch up with everyone. On 17th June we will be having a Belfry night village barbeque at Oldbury – maybe even a WestFest?

Unheard of in recent living memory is that Westhide, part of Withington Group Parish, is having an election for the Westhide part of the parish council! Wow - local politics in action.

The planning application for the Westhide Solar farm was approved by Herefordshire council but fortunately at a much-reduced acreage.

We have been allocated a defibrillator – due to go in the church porch. The electricity supply has first to be arranged before installation.

Debbie Barber

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	
WG Parish Council:	Clerk	Sophie Glover 270499
	Chairman	Kevin Hewison 850074
	Vice-Chair	Judith Howe 850117
Whitestone Chapel	Ian Porter	01981 540388
Withington Book Club	Susan Patmore	851710
Withington Football Club:	Ray Rice	850669
Withington Post Office:		850356
Withington Primary School:		850289
Withington Parish Magazine:	Editor Margaret Thompson	850182

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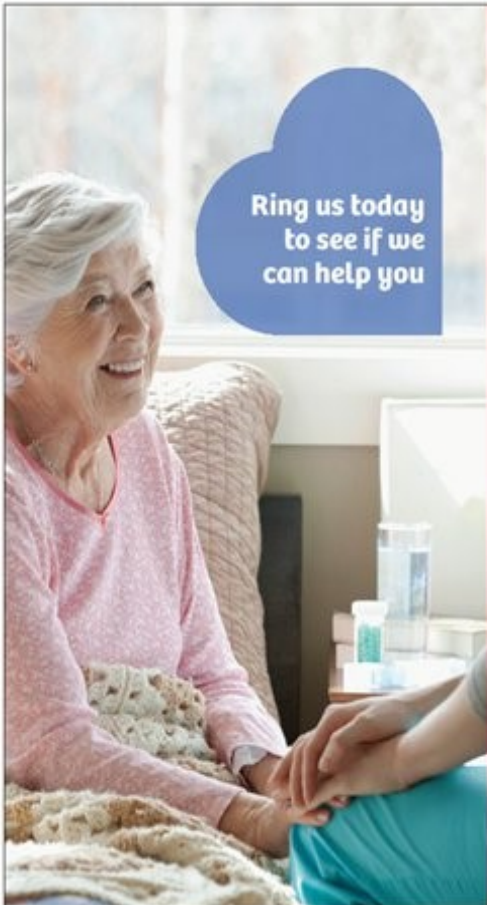
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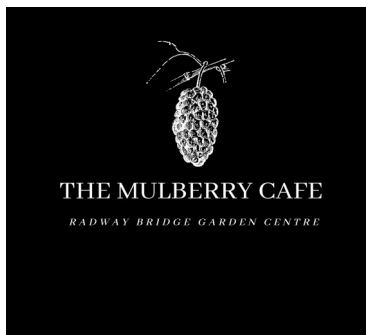
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The Contemporary Mulberry café will offer delicious, fresh homemade cooking where most is made by our in-house chef, 7 days a week.

Freshly prepared breakfasts and lunches, to cakes and scones, everything is made from scratch using the best of fresh local seasonal produce.

- **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.**
- **We are having informal talks with tea with Horticultural enthusiasts throughout the year.**
- **Cookery demonstrations.**
- **Breakfasts and teas are returning with Santa later in the year.**
- **The atmosphere is friendly, relaxed and informal, with free Wi-Fi.**
- **There is no need to book and you will be guaranteed a warm friendly welcome.**

We are really looking forward to welcoming you back to our Mulberry Cafe in 2021.

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