

WITHINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023





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West Mercia Police

Do you want more confidence in answering your landline? From Monday 14th August, and in partnership with trueCall, @FriendsAgainst are offering **FREE CALL BLOCKING** units to those receiving scam and nuisance calls.

What Is A Call Blocker?

The call blocking units available are trueCall Secure+. A call blocker is a unit that filters unwanted scam and nuisance phone calls from a **landline phone** (*this unit does not work with mobile phones*).

In previous call blocker projects run by the NTS Scams Team, these units have blocked 91% of scam and nuisance calls. The unit plugs into an existing landline phone and phone line, and it can work alongside broadband and/or lifeline/pendant devices that are already installed.

The unit also comes with 3 years free access to the Internet Control Panel to help monitor calls.

For further information please visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/callblocker but please remember Residents will have to wait until 14th August before applying for a unit for themselves or to apply for a unit for a friend, family member, neighbour, etc.



Volunteer With The Cart Shed Charity



Come and join our volunteer team!

Do you have some time to spare? Would you like to learn new skills, meet a wide range of people and do something interesting and rewarding in your free time?

If the answer is yes, then come and join The Cart Shed Charity's volunteer team who support our occupational therapists, mental health practitioners and tutors.

The Cart Shed is based on a farm in north Herefordshire. We work outdoors using enriching and engaging woodland and horticultural activities to empower adults and young people to learn to self-manage their mental and physical health in a sustainable way.

We have opportunities available for you to become:

A woodland cook - making delicious soup on our outdoor stoves.

A driver - transporting our participants to and from us in our minibuses.

A horticulture volunteer - helping take care of our produce in our polytunnels.

A green woodworking, willow weaving or crafting volunteer – support our tutors and participants with the skills you have in these areas.

Find out more and apply here: <https://www.thecartshed.co.uk/volunteer>

Withington Book Club

Our group has enjoyed two very interesting books recently. 'Uncommon Reader' by Alan Bennett, chosen by Jane, proved to be a fascinating read. The central character is Queen Elizabeth 2, whose loss we lately lamented..... A library van visits Buckingham Palace. Chasing some runaway corgis, Her Majesty chances upon said van and enters it. She strikes up a friendship with Norman, a kitchen worker, who is also in the van choosing a book.... Together, they develop a love of literature. A novel look at the monarchy! Highly recommended and brief.

Our second book, chosen by Trish, was 'The Help' by Kathryn Stockett. I really didn't think this one was going to sit well with me. However, I enjoyed the characters and the way the story was written. The book is about a town in the deep American south in the 1960s, the subjugation of certain groups of people's rights, highlighting the divisions caused by groups like the Ku Klux Klan and the discriminatory way black women, in particular, were used as 'help' to others. After a long and tortuous path, a white woman got together with a large group of these ladies in secret and wrote their stories. The book was published, causing a stir locally but ultimately bringing almost all the people together in the beginnings of some sort of harmony. The book is a good read and certainly depicts a certain place at a certain time very evocatively.

We are having a bbq in August, I hope to attach some photos for the next edition. Our book for September is 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' by Thomas Hardy. My choice and my personal favourite!

Whitestone Baptist Chapel

We will celebrate Harvest Festival on Sunday 24th. September. Again this year, our display will be composed of donations to Hereford Food Bank. Our Service will be followed by Fellowship lunch. Feel free to join us where you will be assured of a warm welcome.

3rd. September Wendy Davidson.

1st. October Wendy Davidson.

10th. September Rev. Dr. Michael Goodman.

8th. October Rev. Dr. Michael Goodman.

17th. September Rev. Ken Morey.

15th. Rev. Ken Morey.

24th. September Peter Jennings.

22nd. Tony Bailey

29th. Selwyn Wynter.

Blessings,

Olive .

St. Peter's Church News

St Peter's Church Withington – thank-you!

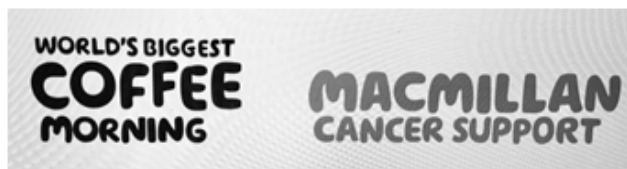
We would like to thank the lovely people who have given their time to help keep our churchyard tidy.

- The wonderful Price family have done and continue to do a fantastic job mowing, cutting back, uncovering previously long hidden areas at the bottom of the churchyard, and so much general work.
- Laureen and friends have been keeping an area just inside the car park tidy and replanted.
- Selwyn has been removing ivy and tidying overgrown ancient graves on the SW side.

Thank you too to anyone who has gone unrecognised – do tell us!

If anyone else would like to help in outside work on the grounds around the church, including the car park please do let us know (Churchwarden Kevin Hewison kevinhewison@btopenworld.com)

St. Peter's Church News



**Macmillan Coffee/Tea
Afternoon!**
At Withington Village Hall

Friday 29th September 2 – 3.30pm

**Come and join us for a cuppa, lots of chat and loads of cake! Meet old friends and make new ones!
And help raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care!**

Join us there – everyone is welcome! + BRING & BUY + CAKE ORDERS

More Info - Ruth Hewison 01432 850074



CONCERT in St Peter's Church, Withington

Saturday 30th September at 3pm

Look out for posters giving more details

A guest organist will be playing a selection of organ pieces at St Peter's Church Withington (HR1 3QE) on the excellent 13 stop Ingram & Co organ.

Originally built in 1899, the instrument was restored by local organ-builder David Gallichan in 2016 and a further stop added more recently.

**** Entry Free ** Refreshments afterwards ** Retiring Collection ****

Church Services in Withington and Westhide September & October
(Please check Church noticeboards nearer the service date in case of alterations)

Date	Withington	Westhide
Sunday 3 September		
Sunday 10 September	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
Sunday 17 September	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 24 September	4pm 4th@4 Family Service	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 1 October		
Sunday 8 October	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
Sunday 15 October	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 22 October	4pm 4th@4 Family Service	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 29 October	10am Joint Group Holy Communion (Dormington?)	

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023 EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE:

7TH OCTOBER 2023

Email: withingtonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel: 01432 850182

Reader's Corner

"If the oak is before the ash, then we'll only have a splash;

If the ash is before the oak, then we'll surely have a soak."

Having learnt this lesson we would look to see which of the trees was first to show its leaves and then we would know how wet our summer would be.

Of course, if the cows were lying down it was going to rain.

Another reason to look at the trees was to see how high the rooks were nesting. If their nests were perched high in the trees, we would have a gentle summer. If, however, if their nests were lower and more sheltered then we might expect wilder weather.

I'm sure you have heard 'Red sky at night, shepherd's delight; red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning.' I remember recently being thrilled by a beautiful glowing sunset and thinking we'll have a lovely day tomorrow. Waking up next morning the sunrise had a rosy glow! I didn't know whether to be delighted or warned!

I also learnt that if there is an abundance of berries in autumn there will be a harsh winter. I'm told that the glut of berries is rather a result of a good spring but I prefer to think that God is providing a rich larder for the birds to see them through the winter. We are told in the Gospels that the heavenly Father feeds the birds.

These old country sayings may or may not be explained by science but they are based on generations of observations so I reckon there will be a grain of truth in them.

I do know that by observing the beauty, the pattern and the order of the natural world, I believe there is a creative mind behind it and that we are all part of that wonderful creation which God still loves and cares for.

Submitted by Mrs Julia Bartlett a farmer's daughter and very good friend and Sunday school teacher of a member of Withington parish.

Why we in Britain love Pantomime. How did it begin?

As summer ebbs away into autumn then winter, shorter days longer colder nights I remember someone saying to me 'thank goodness for Christmas to get us through the winter!'

Early this year I watched Beauty and the Beast (Courtyard theatre) and more recently an excellent end of school year Key Stage 2 production of Peter Pan in Withington School. Then even more recently: Down to the Woods a clever take on Goldilocks and the three bears.

I then started musing on the enduring appeal of pantomime. Is it a quintessentially British phenomena and when and where does this billion pound industry have its origins and roots?

In an extract from the Hereford Times 16/3/23 the Courtyard were thrilled to get two nominations in the UK Pantomime Association's Pantomime award 2023 for Beauty and the Beast which proves my point that Pantomime is highly valued and alive and well in the UK.

Where did it all begin? I decided to research it. I went onto the Victoria & Albert museum website entitled Pantomime Origin. It was very informative and interesting. The Collins dictionary definition from the Greek Pantos pas: all Mimos: mimic

16th century -Pantomime has its roots in 'Commedia dell' Arte' a 16th century Italian entertainment using dance music tumbling and cheeky mischievous characters wearing mask'. V&A

17th century - Europe was taken by storm with the antics of Harlequin and companions - Pierrot, Punch, Scaramouch and Harlequins love interest Columbine.

Reader's Corner Cont.

18th century- comedic characters began to appear on London stages in early pantomimes based on classical stories set to music and mimes with Harlequin as the star of the show. His perpetual problem was being kept from his love (Columbine) by her father and others. This provided plenty of material for 100 years slapstick and tomfoolery.

1843 -Words were added to the pantomime script: funny lines, wordplay (Gilbert & Sullivan were in the ascendancy with comic opera and witty wordplay) - Nothing was out of bounds. Any subject was 'fair game' V&A

19th century -by late nineteenth century pantomimes were customary opened on Boxing Day and from then on they were forever linked with Christmas especially in UK. Charles Dickens Scrooge was a world best seller and transformed Victorian Christmas. Dickens loved the theatre.

The pantomime now had a mix of fairy tale people, magical beasts, principal boys (often played by females) and pantomime dames (mainly men). There you have it, all my questions were answered.

With that in mind I look forward to the Christmas production in Withington primary school and commend applaud and urge all parents, family and others to support our local school.

Submitted by a reader.

Withington Group Parish Council

Withington Group Parish Council represents Withington, Westhide and Preston Wynne and meets every two months, usually at Withington village hall, but the venue is always promoted along with the agenda on the parish notice boards and on the web site at least 3 working days prior to a meeting. All meetings are open to the public who are welcome to attend. Councillors are volunteers who are elected every three years.

Following the elections in May this year please note that your

Withington Councillors are:- Kevin Hewison (Chair), Barclay Rogers, Tom Nellist, Jonathan Beech, Howard Mansell, Ingrid Heatly and John Bennetts (footpaths officer).

Your **Westhide** Councillors are :- Judith Howe (Vice Chair), Julie Williams (footpaths officer) and Ralph Barber.

Your **Preston Wynne** Councillors are:- Simon Dent, Sue Rudd and Bob Rudd – Bob Rudd is the Parish footpaths officer.

You can contact them via the parish clerk on : clerk@withingtongroupparishcouncil.gov.uk

We now have three vacancies for Withington Parish Councillors, if you are over 18, care about your village and can spare six evenings a year would you consider becoming a Parish Councillor? To find out more, please contact any of the existing Councillors or message the clerk who can tell you exactly what the role involves.

If you spot a problem on any of the parish footpaths or on Withington Field, do please report it through the clerk and we can try and get the matter resolved.

Our meetings have now been moved to the second WEDNESDAY of every other month, so the 13th September and the 8th of November at 7.30pm at Withington Village Hall – you are welcome to attend.

Sophie Glover

Withington Group Parish Council Clerk

August 2023

Email: clerk@withingtongroupparishcouncil.gov.uk website: www.withingtongroupparishcouncil.gov.uk

Selling at online marketplaces? – Beware of Fake Banking Apps.

If you are selling an item, it is likely a buyer will come around to your property to exchange cash for the item. However, sometimes buyers will elect to send you the money via bank transfer as we keep moving towards a cashless society.

We are now aware of criminals using fake banking applications in order to convince sellers that they have transferred the funds. The criminal will show them the fake app which shows the money has been transferred, then walk away with the item.

DO's

- **Be vigilant.** As you are negotiating the sale tell the person you will only accept cash payments to avoid the issue later down the line. Most people will accept your wishes of paying cash as long as you ask them. If the buyer is obstructive about this then consider selling the item to someone else. However, this may not be possible if the item you are selling is expensive.
- **Use the site's recommended third-party payment site (e.g. – PayPal).** This *may* mean you are covered by the site and the third-party provider. Always check the terms and conditions to understand what you are protected for though.
- **If you do use bank transfer,** make sure you have your online banking up and ready to check. Preferably use your mobile phone to check this. If you don't see any payments, pending or otherwise, do not hand over the item.

DON'T

- Allow the buyer to make any changes to an agreed meet location and only meet in a safe place.
- **Handover any goods until you have received the money in your account.** Make sure you check your own online banking on a device belonging to you.
- **Allow the buyer to rush or pressure you** to make a payment via bank transfer if you are not comfortable.
- **Allow the buyer to convince you** that the payment has been made IF YOU CAN'T SEE IT.

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 OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT: Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

- Avoid disclosing security details
- Emails, Phone Calls and Texts may not be authentic
- Always make direct contact with any organisation by using a genuine phone number
- Stop and Challenge any unexpected requests
- Protect others by reporting Fraud and Scams

If you've fallen for a scam, report it to **Action Fraud** on 0300 123 2040 or via actionfraud.police.uk.

Scam Text messages can be forwarded to 7726 to help phone providers take early action and block numbers that generate spam on their networks.

Forward **Fake Emails** received to report@phishing.gov.uk.

PROTECT YOURSELF ONLINE

TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION



This is often abbreviated as “2FA” or in some cases “2SV” – two step verification.

So what is it? This is in fact the second step that may be added to your online accounts which require higher levels of confidentiality for additional security. These can include your Bank Accounts, Email Accounts, Social Media, and some Government departments such as HMRC where you have to log in securely with a user name or email address. It is there to prove that it is really you who is trying to log into that account. The key accounts where you should have two-factor authentication are your bank accounts and your email. Remember your email can be the gateway to all your other online accounts.

How does it work? Two-factor authentication is normally carried out by typing in a four or six numeral code sent to you by text or email. It may also be created via a Mobile App, and increasingly by biometric scan i.e. face or fingerprint scan. This need not be complicated and is becoming increasingly more necessary to protect your password security. Any criminal who gets access to your login details – username/ password/email address - may then have free access to your accounts to steal money or your identity.

For fuller details visit www.getsafeonline.org

PASSWORDS

The latest Government statistics show that only 35% of people in the UK are following advice to use strong passwords made up of 3 random words. To increase your own security and online safety, using a password made up of 3 random words e.g. applepenfish, creates a stronger password, and can made more complex by adding symbols or numbers. Always avoid using the same password for every account, and especially birthdays, family names, pet names or your football team. “Password” and “123456”, which head up the list of most common passwords, should never, never be used.

ACCIDENTAL 999? | Stay on the line!

In May, our operations and communications centre received almost 20,000 999 calls, of these 4791 were abandoned.

That’s around 155 abandoned 999 calls every day. This figure is an increase of 100% in our abandoned 999 calls compared to May 2022. Each time this happens, our call handlers spend time investigating if that person is safe. Some of these calls are genuine emergencies, but many are pocket dials and children playing with their parent’s phone. So, to help us establish the real emergencies quickly, we’re asking you to stay on the line if you call us by accident and let us know that you’re okay.

Public Contact Chief Inspector Carrie Solomon said: “With every abandoned call, we need to check on the caller’s welfare, which means in some cases, we’ll dispatch an officer to find them. Our call handlers will try to phone the person back, but if they can’t get through, they’ll contact their network supplier to pinpoint where they are. We can’t assume that the person is okay – and every second counts in an emergency.”

The vast majority of these abandoned calls are accidental. This is not just an issue we have in West Mercia, it’s nationwide. Improvements to phone and smart watch software, which make it easier for you to let us know if you do need assistance, also increase the possibility of a pocket dial.

Chief Inspector Solomon continues: “Phone users usually hang up quickly out of panic and embarrassment – but please stay on the line and let us know you’re ok. We understand that accidental calls like this happen to everyone at some point. The key thing is letting us know you’re safe – you’re not in any trouble! So to help us out, stay on the line and have a quick conversation with our call handler and let them know what has happened, then we can close the call. We’d much rather spend a couple of minutes on the phone to you than an hour tracking you down.”

Message Sent By Christina Howard
(West Mercia Police, PCSO, Hereford Rural North Safer Neighbourhood Team)

Preston Wynne

Hello everyone,

Here we are then, midsummer feeling more like mid autumn cool and very wet. Maybe by the time you read this we shall be enjoying a bit more warmth and the skies will be blue instead of leaden grey. Many more southerly countries are struggling with excessive heat and wild fires, there must be a bit in the middle which is just perfect...

Church News

Sunday 10th September 9.30 am H.C.

24th " 11.15 am Family Service

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER HARVEST SUPPER 7 FOR 7.30 IN THE HALL (Please book in with Tricia on 820650)

SUNDAY 8TH " HARVEST FESTIVAL 11.15 AM

SATURDAY 21ST " MEMORIAL SERVICE 2.30 PM - This is a special Service to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Sterling Bomber crash which occurred in a field at Rosemaund, there were no survivors. The service will be attended by army cadets and descendants of the airmen involved. The service will be followed by tea in the Hall, all are welcome.

The first pizza Service which took place on 8th July was great. Our innovative vicar brought his own pizza oven and all the ingredients and paraphernalia needed to make delicious pizzas following the Service. Paul and Natalie worked wonders in a pop up outdoor kitchen, even coping seamlessly with the inevitable shower of rain, under a gazebo kindly loaned by Tricia.

The 100 Club was drawn at that event, lucky winners are:

1st prize £50 No 56 Michael Barrett. 2nd £25 No 53 Vanessa Hargest. 3rd £12.50 No.54 Tony Harris

We are indebted to Peter Maund who very kindly removes the padlock to enable the opening of the gate for special occasions in the church. We have several parishioners who find the walk across the field too difficult to negotiate so this concession which enables vehicular access is much appreciated, thank you Peter.

Hall News

Carpet Bowls/Curry supper/Pub Night Saturday 9th September at 7.30

Please book in for catering purposes with Tricia on 820650

Just a reminder – Christmas Bazaar, Sat 11th November, and Christmas lunch 3rd December.

W.I. News

The next meeting is an Open Evening on Wednesday 13th September at 7.30 in the Hall, when we will be treated to a performance of the trio "Sounds Familiar". £5 to include refreshments, all are welcome – please book in with Hilary on 820625 or Tricia 820650 for catering purposes.

Advance notice too of the November meeting which is on the 8th which will be a talk given by Pamela Thom on a folk lore subject entitled "Holy Mountains, and Harvest Mares" – intriguing!!

On 16th September there is a W.I. DAY in Bodenham Village Hall from 10 am til 4 pm. Here there will be a large variety of stalls, crafts and displays. Next year the W.I. Day will be further afield so this is a good chance to pop in whilst it's local.

Think that's pretty much everything up to date, need to get out in the garden before it starts raining again,

With love, Hilary and Tricia x

Westhide

There was a wonderful gathering for a BBQ at Oldbury Farm on June 17th with Steve and the family, lots of children, dogs and Westhide folk all chatting and enjoying the sunshine and remembering Rob on this his birthday - sharing treasured memories that we all have of Sam and Doris, Rob and Oldbury. Thank you to all who helped to make this happen and thank you Steve for welcoming us back,

Looking ahead, the annual Church "Clean Up" day - rather late this year- will be on Thursday August 31st, 10 o'clock onwards. If you are able to come and lend a hand even for half an hour, that would be great. There will be a list of jobs that need doing up in the porch.

H.Art week runs from September 2nd -10th and this year there will be two Westhide venues - Ralph and Debbie at Brick House and Jane, Gill, Rachel and Robin at The Glebe. Do come and enjoy these exhibitions of original local talent and works of art.

Westhide has two weddings this year - John and Jessica's on June 11th -the family have written an account of their happy day - and Lucy and Owen's is to come on September 16th. We wish them every happiness in their lives together.

The Westhide Concert is on September 23rd. The Pax Singers - a local group who have performed for us many times before always bringing us a delightful variety of serious and light-hearted music.

And lastly, Harvest Festival will be celebrated on October 23rd at 11 o'clock. The Rev J Talbot Ponsonby will kindly take the service which will be followed by lunch at 12.15. Contributions for the Food Bank and your help with decorating the Church would be enormously appreciated.

JOHN AND JESS' WEDDING

On 10th June at St Bartholomew's church Westhide, John Day, grandson of Susan Davidson, Lindsey House, married Jessica Richards in a very personal service which was dedicated to John's late grandad Duncan Charles Davidson, who sadly passed away 6th April 2020.

The service was given a personal edge with a prayer for his late grandad, then after coming out of church John stood by his granddad's grave and surprised all by playing Amazing Grace on his bagpipes that he had been learning to play for some time after his grandad passed away. This was very special as it was the tune played at the funeral when lowering the coffin into the grave.

This was a very fitting tribute, John's grandad would have been so proud.

Also a big thank you to Luke Thompson Coon who let John use his garden for the family wedding photos and the excellent job of topping the field for the parking. His help was greatly appreciated as the church yard was rather overgrown.

Thank you to the families of Jess and John for providing the article.



Get Safe Online
Free expert advice

We have received a number of enquiries about where to obtain more online safety information from Get Safe Online.

For those who are interested, our website contains lots of useful tips and up-to-date online safety advice and can be accessed at: www.getsafeonline.org

Alternatively, we do publish a monthly newsletter that provides tips and the latest advice on how to stay safe online, as well as highlighting any particularly prevalent scams to look out for. If you would like to sign up for this, please feel free to at:

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/subscribe-to-our-newsletter/>

West Mercia Police

We have been receiving reports of anti social behaviour at Withington park involving teenagers/young adults.

On Sunday 23rd July at approximately 1810hrs youths were seen in the wooded area lighting fires. Luckily a member of the public saw them doing it and made them put the fire out before it had the chance to possibly spread. This is becoming a regular issue in the area, not to mention extremely dangerous.

If you have any children who attend this area, please speak to them and make sure that it is not them doing it. If caught, this will be treated as a criminal offence.

If anyone has any information about who is doing this or if you have seen anyone lighting fires and you know their name then please get in touch with us so that we can follow it up - herefordrn.snt@westmercia.police.uk - quoting crime reference number 00406_I_23072023.

Alternately, if there are anymore live incidents then please phone 101/999 straight away to report it. We will be increasing our patrols in the area to try and catch the offenders in the act.

Kind regards,
Christina



Please help us with our research to review the Crime Survey for England and Wales



Please help us with our research to review the Crime Survey for England and Wales. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the UK's largest producer of official statistics and the recognised national statistics institute (www.ons.gov.uk). We conduct the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) which produces widely used statistics on levels of crime, including those not reported to the police (www.crimesurvey.co.uk). We are looking for volunteers aged 16 or over who have experienced any crime in the last 12 months to help us explore how we might improve the Crime Survey. We would like to know about anything you have experienced relating to crime regardless of whether or not you reported it to the police. Why help us? Your feedback will be invaluable. Exploring how effectively the survey collects data with members of the public is essential to us being able to produce high quality statistics that can help policy makers.

We will give you a £50 voucher as a thank you for your time.

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
	Bell Ringing	Kevin Hewison 850074
	Secretary	June Wynter 851677
Village Hall:	Chairman	Kevin Hewison 850074
	Booking Secretary	
WG Parish Council:	Clerk	Sophie Glover 617306
	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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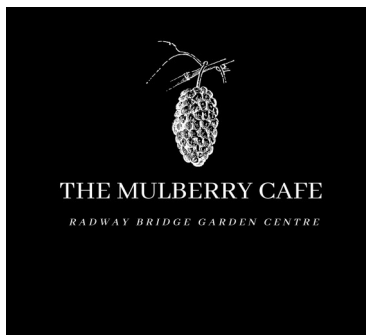
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