NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2026

My Village Voice

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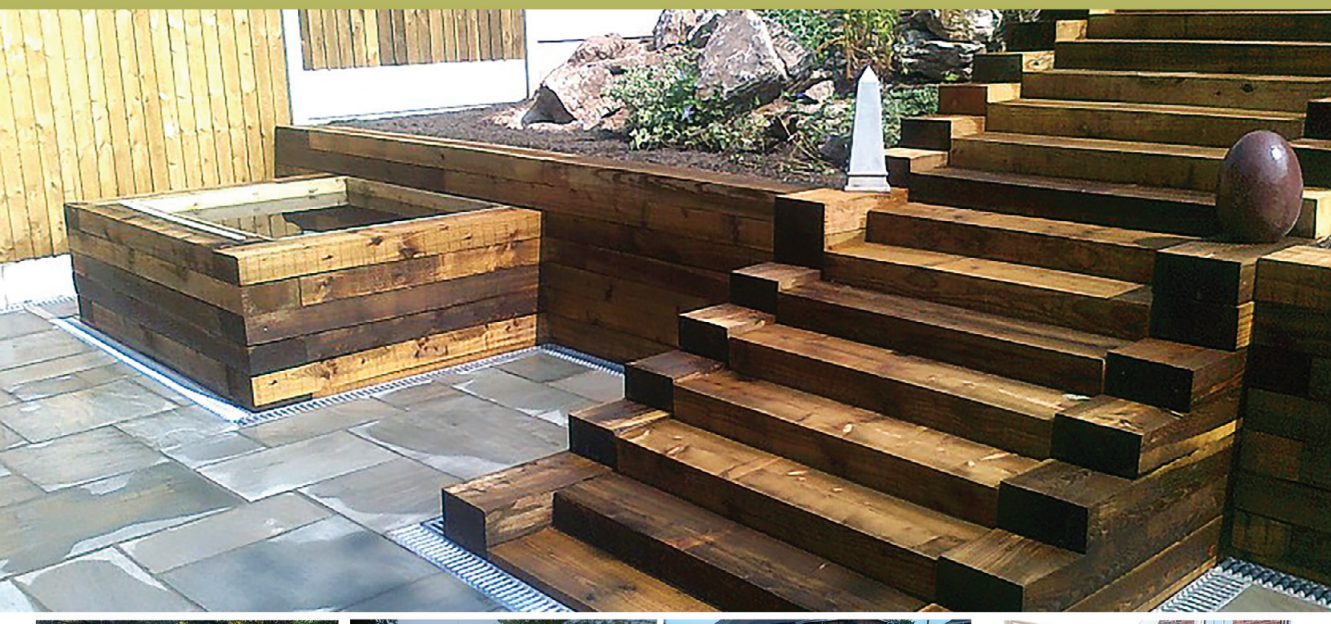



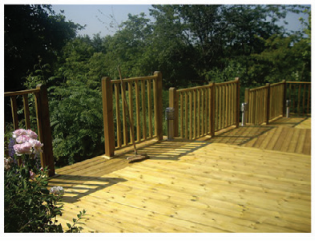





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My Village Voice

Issue Number Ninety Two - November & December 2026

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January / February edition out January 14th
Editorial Copy Deadline - December 31st
Ad Booking Deadline - January 5th

recycle

Once you've read My Village Voice recycle it, by giving it to a friend!

Could your village join the Big Tree Count?

Welcome to your latest My Village Voice, full of Christmas events taking place near you, *and much more...*

The Big Gnosall Tree Count has launched, where residents and volunteers have a simple common ambition: to discover and record the remarkable trees growing around them.

The Gnosall pilot scheme aims to open up the platform for other parishes and local authorities across the country, to benefit from. *Could you add your village to the Big Tree Count?*

Congratulations go to local historian, Dave Robbie, who was presented with the Freedom of the Parish, at the Colwich Parish Assembly, in recognition of his tireless work in researching and promoting the historic links within the Parish of Colwich.

The Freedom of the Parish is not given lightly; indeed, to the best of knowledge, it has never been awarded since the inauguration of the parish in 1895! *Well done Dave.*

There's tonnes of events coming up, with a pop up market in Bradley, and a pop up shop and fun fashion show in Penkridge, grab yourself a bargain, while supporting Girlguiding.

If you're the competitive type, enter the first Derrington Darts Tournament, open to all, also their popular Quiz Night, if you prefer to show off your knowledge skills instead.

Christmas events include: Christmas Fairs at Brocton and Great Bridgeford village halls, a YFC Christmas Shopping Evening and their Christmas Tractor Run, where tractors decorated with Christmas lights and festive displays take to roads! Watch out for them passing through Seighford, Derrington, Haughton, Gnosall, Woodseaves, Eccleshall and Ranton.

The National Trust talks, at Walton Village Hall, also have a Christmas theme with *The Magic Of Pantomime,* and then in December, *Christmas Crackers.*

Stafford Players bring their tale of Dickens *'A Christmas Carol'* to Haughton and Acton.

And to get you into the festive mood, Acton Cinema present the animated comedy for all the family, *"Arthur Christmas" perfect!*

I know it's a little bit early, but let me wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Dan Mitchell 1/11/26

Get in Touch

5,400 copies are hand-delivered free to homes and businesses in ***Acton Trussell, Bednall, Bradley, Brocton, Church Eaton, Colwich, Coppenhall, Derrington, Dunston, Haughton, The Haywoods, Hyde Lea, Milford, Seighford & Walton on the Hill***

If you have any news or stories, or are interested in placing an advertisement for your business, please get in touch

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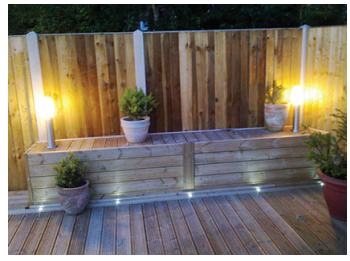

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A Village Comes Together For Its Trees

The Big Gnosall Tree Count officially launched on Sunday 11th October where residents, volunteers, community groups and local councillors gathered at Gnosall's historic St Lawrence Church Gnosall, to launch a project with a simple ambition: to discover and record the remarkable trees growing around them.

The Gnosall pilot scheme aims to open up the platform for other parishes and local authorities across the country to benefit from. Anyone interested can find out more at **www.bigtreecount.com**.

The Big Gnosall Tree Count is a community initiative that invites people to help build a living record of the parish's mature, veteran and ancient trees. The aim is to record every mature tree in the parish.

Armed with little more than a smartphone and a tape measure, volunteers can record a tree's location, species, trunk circumference and photo. The project's app then uses this information to estimate its age and provide an indication of its environmental contribution.

Every tree recorded can be viewed and analysed on an interactive map, creating a growing archive of the area's natural heritage.

Among those taking part was Stafford Borough Councillor Scott Spencer, who helped a young participant measure the first tree - a 400-year-old yew, which was a sapling at the time of the Pilgrim Fathers Voyage on the Mayflower. This a fitting image for a project that hopes to connect different generations through an appreciation of the natural world.

Founding members of the project have already discovered the benefits of recording trees in Gnosall. From just the first 56 trees counted, the following ecological insights have surfaced:

- 118kg of NO_2 absorbed, equivalent to taking 6 cars off the road
- 2.5°C cooling effect, equivalent to 10 average homes shaded
- 2,000 species of wildlife supported
- 112m³ of rainfall intercepted, equivalent to 747 bathtubs of water captured each year
- 1174 tonnes of CO_2 stored, equivalent to 5,870,948 car miles driven

It Started With A Question…

The idea grew from local efforts to protect an important old tree in Gnosall, which prompted project founder and Parish Councillor Chris Haycock to wonder how many other remarkable trees might be hiding in plain sight.

Chris explained: *"I spent most of my life living in cities. Trees were of little interest to me until I moved to Gnosall 14 years ago. After being involved in creating a Tree Preservation order on a local tree, I began to realise how big a part they play for the whole community – not just from a heritage point of view but also the role they play in environmental and biodiversity factors.*

I started wondering what else was out there. How many old trees do we have that nobody has properly recorded? If every tree tells a story, wouldn't it be great if local people could help us find and protect them?"

It's not just about collecting numbers. The project also explores the historical context of trees, helping people imagine what was happening in the world when some of Gnosall's oldest specimens first began growing.

"You don't need to be a tree expert," Chris added. *"If you've got a smartphone, a tape measure and a bit of curiosity, you can get involved."*

From Gnosall To The Rest Of Staffordshire?

One of the most encouraging developments came from conversations with local councillors about the potential to take the Tree Count beyond the parish. Councillor Scott Spencer spoke enthusiastically at the launch about the project's wider possibilities, suggesting it had the makings of a borough-wide, or even county-wide, initiative.

"The app works just as well in deepest Wales or in the middle of the Yorkshire Dales. The technology doesn't really care where the tree is. We just need people who are interested enough to go and find it!", Chris said.

"Gnosall is where it started, and I'm proud of that. But trees don't recognise parish boundaries. If other communities want to get involved, we'd love to see them building their own local records as part of something much bigger."



Borough Councillor Scott Spencer, helps to measure the first tree - a splendid 400-year-old yew.

More Than Just Counting Trees

Chris also brought along a detailed miniature model village he had built, using it to illustrate how much greenery exists within ordinary residential streets, gardens and village spaces.

Among the possibilities discussed was involving local Scout groups and schools in tree-recording activities, helping younger people learn about tree identification, measurement and the environment.

Get Involved

The Big Gnosall Tree Count is open to anyone interested in discovering, recording and protecting trees. No specialist experience is necessary since the app teaches people how to identify tree species by leaf and tree shape.

Residents, families, schools, community groups, landowners and neighbouring parishes are all welcome to get involved. Visit **www.bigtreecount.com** to **download the free app**, explore the map, learn how to record a tree and find out more about the project.

Village Voice
Acton & Bednall
NEWS IN BRIEF

Friends Of Bednall
We Are Recruiting

Friends of Bednall is a local charity supporting projects that benefit our village community. Membership is open to anyone aged 16+ living in or around Bednall.

Membership emails were sent on 1st October. If you didn't receive one and would like to join, please contact primrose01@talktalk.net.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 12th November at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at All Saints Church. We are looking for new committee members, particularly for the roles of Chair and Secretary. To find out more, please speak to a committee member or outgoing Chair David Primrose.

Remembrance Day Service

The Remembrance Day Service will take place at All Saints Church Bednall on Sunday 8th November, starting at 10.50. Phil Clayton will be leading the service with Roger Howarth preaching. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Church Services

Christmas Eve Christingle at St.James at 2pm
Family Carol Service at All Saints 6pm
Midnight Service at St.James 11.30
Christmas Day Holy Communion with Extension at All Saints 9am

Musicians Wanted

We're looking for musicians of all ages and abilities to join us in making our Christmas Eve Carol Service extra special with live accompaniment to our favourite carols.

The service is at 6pm on 24th December, with a couple of rehearsals beforehand. If you'd like to take part, we'd love to hear from you, please email judith at – judithcarder@hotmail.com or Alison at aprimrose@talktalk.net

Come and help make it a memorable community celebration.

Christmas Food bank

We're getting nearer to Christmas! Once again, I'm putting out a request for any chocolate treats and biscuits.

Every year, The Food Bank Centre, endeavors to provide a small hamper with Christmas goodies for families in need. Besides Christmas treats, everyday essentials are also needed. Tins of meat, fruit, tea, coffee, UHT milk and toiletries.

Thanking you in anticipation.
Grete Willacy



New - Haughton and Surrounding Villages History Group

A couple of months ago some old photos of Haughton were posted onto the Haughton Village Community Facebook site. These attracted considerable interest in the village as some had never been seen before.

As a result a new Facebook group was set up called the **Haughton And Surrounding Villages History Group**.

It attracted around 150 members in the first 24 hours with photos from Haughton, Ranton, Bradley, Gnosall and Church Eaton. Such was the interest that some people suggested that this could become a face to face group to exchange pictures tales from the past and to possibly make sure we didn't loose our past.

Haughton Parish Council agreed to fund an exploratory meeting including light refreshments and has booked **Haughton village Hall for 7:30 to 9:30 on the 18th November.**

Please come along everyone is welcome from all the surrounding villages. Let us try and keep our past alive.

From Ian Sunley
Haughton Parish Council



The Big Cheer Big Band Coming To Sandon Hall

The Big Cheer Big Band (*The Grammar School Big Band*) will perform at Sandon Hall on **Friday 11th December at 7.00 PM.**

Tickets are £15, including mince pie, and are available from Rose 07876 540491 or Steve 07972 838140.

There will be a Bar available on the evening, and proceeds raised are going to the All Saints Church Time for Tea Fund.



Derrington News And Events

Derrington Village has had a busy couple of months, in September a psychic evening was held to a packed room.

This event was organised by Psychic Vision, some people left feeling very comforted by feeling their loved ones had come through.

It is a night we will repeat again as it had a good following and opened up the hall to new people, who were very impressed with the unique set we have here in Derrington, the hall and the bar under one roof.

At the end of September the Social club held their AGM, where Stu the secretary was delighted in having to put extra chairs out, a good attendance, the social club continues to tick along and provides a venue for villagers and friends of Derrington to come along to chat, play games and have the chance to listen to live music.

Elvis entered the building in October, again to another packed out room. The atmosphere was good, Elvis and family enjoyed the venue, therefore **Elvis is returning on the 6th February** with his friend Buddy Holly. Pop the date in your diary, The social club will have some tickets available later in the year.

Dates Coming Up

Syd and Rosemary hold a **Quiz Night On Saturday 14th November,** this always sells quickly, so get your names down and be ready for an evening of entertainment organised by this lovely couple. 7pm start and only £3 a person, come as a team or join one on the evening, food in the break,

New Event In Derrington, A Darts Tournament, Saturday 21st November



Will, the Chair of the social club, is organising a Darts Tournament, and is donating the profit of the evening to Katharine House Hospice.

It would of been Wills grandads 85th birthday on this evening, who died of cancer in May, so is fitting that a fantastic organisation like Katharine House gets to benefit from what we hope is a good night for both the players, and the spectators, Sarah will be doing food on the evening too.

Please come along and support 3 great organisations, Derrington Village Hall, Derrington Social Club and Katharine House Hospice. Pop into the bar if you fancy a chance at being crowned Derrington Darts Champion! November 28th the monthly whist drive in the village hall at 7pm, all welcome, if you have never played come along and learn.

There are also lots of regular things that happen in the week, every week, we hope to see you soon in the hall or bar or both.







Police Community Support Officer, (PCSO) Phillip Millichap chatting with club members

Penkridge Inner Wheel Welcome Cuan Wildlife Rescue

Once again we are delighted to welcome a new member to our club, Mary Lewis. Penkridge Inner Wheel Club **meets monthly** at the Moathouse Acton Trussell, a place very dear to Mary's heart.

Moat House farmhouse, once the base of the Lewis family farm, was converted in 1988 into what is now a successful village pub, restaurant and hotel.

At a recent meeting members were treated to an excellent slide presentation by Sarah Rait, a volunteer at Cuan Wildlife Rescue, Shropshire; a charity dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wild animals and birds.

Each year around 6,000 wildlife casualties are admitted and cared for. Once they're well enough, the creatures are always returned to the wild, with adults being released where they were found. The tender care given gives these creatures a second chance at life.

Police Community Support Officer, (PCSO) Phillip Millichap, from the local policing team, joined our October meeting to chat amongst us on points of concern in our neighbourhood.

Dedicated to serving the local community, Philip strives to make a positive difference in the locality. His resilience, caring attitude, and attention to detail, have helped him to build relationships with community groups, residents, and schools. Phillip now plans to visit the Acton Trussell Thursday Tea Room to discuss setting up a Neighbourhood Watch.

Each autumn, as Christmas draws near, we prepare 50 Children's Christmas Boxes, with items donated by members, to send to the organisation Teams4U.



Christmas stall - Vicky Atkins, Margaret Taylor and Cal Lane

Each box contains both useful and fun items which may be the only gift the children receive. We take these to our October district rally in Lilleshall, where they are collected and delivered to Eastern European countries, wherever children are most in need.

The district rally also gives members the opportunity to mingle with other clubs and to listen to speakers representing charities we support. This year we embraced the Christmas spirit early with a fund raising Christmas Stall of items made or donated by Penkridge members.

To find out more about joining our friendly and active club, contact secretary Margaret Taylor 07791 160648 margaret_taylor@btinternet.com



Mags Amos loading up with Christmas Boxes



Sarah Rait with a rescued hoglet



Mary Lewis with Past president Gail Sumners



Editor Liz Swinnerton with Sarah Rait

Calling at Aston Lodge, Burston, Sandon, Weston, Hixon, Great Haywood, Little Haywood and Colwich

A new bus service has launched, the 151 service launched in September and runs from Stone to Rugeley. It calls at Aston Lodge (*replacing service A*), Burston, Sandon, Weston, Hixon, Great Haywood, Little Haywood and Colwich.

The timetables shown below are for Mondays to Fridays, please see the link below for up to date timetables, and Saturday services.
https://bustimes.app.staffordshire.gov.uk

151 Stone - Hixon - Great Haywood - Rugeley

Mondays to Fridays (Outbound) - Timing Points

Chaserider

Bus Stops/ Service Restrictions									
Stone, adj Morrisons	08:54	09:46	10:46	11:46	13:46	14:46	15:46	16:34	17:34
Aston Lodge Park, adj Ashford Grove	-	09:53	10:53	11:53	13:53	14:53	15:53	-	-
Burston, adj Greyhound Inn	09:02	10:02	11:02	12:02	14:02	15:02	16:02	16:42	17:42
Weston, opp Old School Close	09:10	10:10	11:10	12:10	14:10	15:10	16:10	16:50	17:50
Hixon, adj Legge Lane	09:17	10:17	11:17	12:17	14:17	15:17	16:17	16:57	17:57
Great Haywood, nr Clifford Arms	09:25	10:25	11:25	12:25	14:25	15:25	16:25	17:05	18:05
Colwich, opp St Michael and All Angels Church	09:29	10:29	11:29	12:29	14:29	15:29	16:29	17:09	18:09
Rugeley, Bus Station [Stand 2]	09:38	10:38	11:38	12:38	14:38	15:38	16:38	17:18	18:18

151 Rugeley - Great Haywood - Hixon - Stone

Mondays to Fridays (Inbound) - Timing Points

Chaserider

Bus Stops/ Service Restrictions									
Rugeley, Bus Station [Stand 2]	08:43	09:43	10:43	11:43	12:43	14:43	15:43	16:43	17:23
Colwich, adj St Michael and All Angels Church	08:52	09:52	10:52	11:52	12:52	14:52	15:52	16:52	17:32
Great Haywood, adj Clifford Arms	08:56	09:56	10:56	11:56	12:56	14:56	15:56	16:56	17:36
Hixon, nr Legge Lane	09:04	10:04	11:04	12:04	13:04	15:04	16:04	17:04	17:44
Weston, adj Stafford Road	09:10	10:10	11:10	12:10	13:10	15:10	16:10	17:10	17:50
Burston, adj Greyhound Inn	09:19	10:19	11:19	12:19	13:19	15:19	16:19	17:19	17:59
Aston Lodge Park, adj Ashford Grove	09:27	10:27	11:27	12:27	13:27	15:27	-	-	-
Stone, adj Morrisons	09:37	10:37	11:37	12:37	13:37	15:37	16:29	17:29	18:09

It is recommended that you are at your stop well in advance of the advertised times

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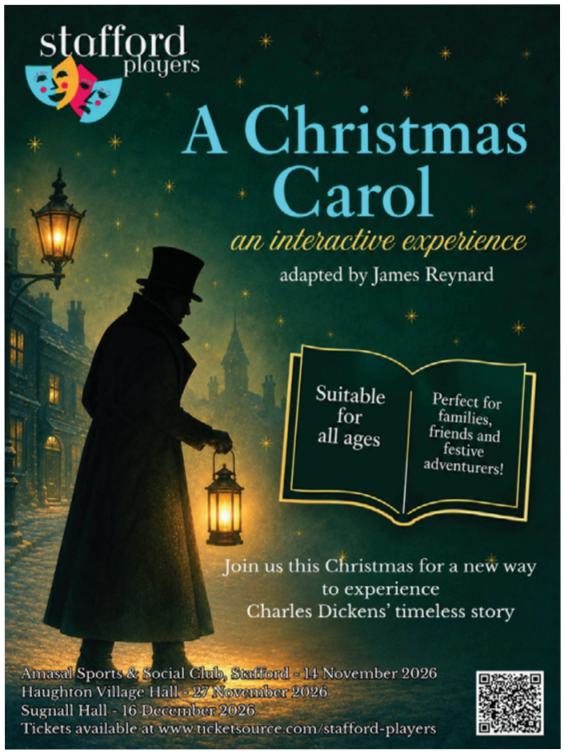

A Christmas Carol Is Coming To Haughton And Acton

Stafford Players are currently working on a production which is a retelling of Charles Dickens' much-loved tale of '*A Christmas Carol*'.

This faithful adaptation by James Reynard includes an interactive element where the audience can become part of Scrooge's journey. Throughout the performance, there will be opportunities to participate, respond to the characters, sing along and help bring the world of Victorian London to life.

The audience will meet Scrooge, Marley and the three Christmas Spirits as they are taken on a magical, haunting and sometimes hilarious journey through Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come.

We hope it will make this Christmas one to remember! It's a perfect evening for a festive get together with family and friends!

Ticket price includes a festive mince pie and mulled wine (*or non-alcohol alternative*).

** The interactive element is entirely optional. Audience members can just relax, sit back and enjoy the performance without joining in if they wish.*

Tour details are below:

14th November - Amasal Sports and Social Club
21st November - Walton Community Centre, Stone
27th November - Haughton Village Hall
11th December - Acton Trussell Community Centre
12th December - Gnosall Grosvenor Centre
16th December - Sugnall Hall

Tickets can be purchased from
https://www.ticketsource.com/stafford-players
Or direct from ACP Bars for Gnosall and Acton Trussell, or direct from Walton Community Centre.



Becki Luff, Harpist

Newport Music Club Present Becki Luff

Newport Music Club is thrilled to present, Becki Luff, harpist in concert on **Sunday, 15 November, 3.00 pm**, at Cosy Hall, Water Lane, Newport TF10 7LD.

As the days shorten and the evenings draw in, an afternoon of beautiful harp music might be just what we need to bring cheer. Becki came as part of the Chroma Harp Duo two years ago and we are delighted to welcome her again.

Graduating with a Masters Degree from The Royal Northern College of Music in 2018, under the tuition of Eira Lynn Jones, Becki performs regularly as a soloist and chamber performer, and holds teaching positions at a number of schools.

Passionate about working alongside composers to develop new music for the harp, Becki's standout experiences include: performing the work of Tansy Davies at The Wigmore Hall and premiering Amir Konjani's Anima Projection. Becki worked extensively with the composer Paul Patterson and showcased his harp solo Lizards' as part of the World Harp Congress in Hong Kong. As part of the Chroma Harp Duo has performed at Leeds International concert season and Buxton International Festival, and on BBC Radio 3.

Drawing on folk elements from her Welsh and Irish background, as well as her passion for contemporary classical music, Becki uses these to create immersive and ambient soundscapes.

Becki has a passion to see music impact lives with hope and joy. She is honoured to have worked with Live Music Now, Epiphany Music, Streetwise Opera, Music Action International and Odyssey Ensemble.

Tickets: Adults £15.00; Children/Students £2.00; payable on the door. To reserve tickets in advance please contact Newport Music Club at chairman@newportmusicclub.org or phone 07726 959233.

Visit **www.newportmusicclub.org** for more information.

This is the final concert of the season. Newport Music Club returns in the New Year with **AERA Ensemble on Sunday January 24th 2027** at 3.00 pm at Cosy Hall, Newport.



Local Historian Recognised

Local historian, Mr Dave Robbie, was presented with the Freedom of the Parish at the Colwich Parish Assembly on Monday 14th September 2026, in recognition of his tireless work in researching and promoting the historic links within the Parish of Colwich.

Mr Robbie was the inaugural winner of the Colwich Parish Citizen of the Year in 2017 for his work researching the parish's fallen in the World Wars together with an exhibition in 2014, to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, held at the Great Haywood Memorial Hall.

Mr Robbie has also written a book about the local community. In nominating Mr Robbie for this award, local resident Ann Jones said:

"I can think of no finer person who could be the first recipient of the Colwich Parish Citizen of the Year Award".

In recent months, Mr Robbie brought together a local team of enthusiasts to promote his findings into the links between the Haywoods and the works of JRR Tolkien.

He chaired the group which organised an internationally successful exhibition on this subject, at the Great Haywood Memorial Hall, on the weekend of 11th – 12th July building on his 2016 exhibition which toured numerous Staffordshire libraries.

Additionally, an information board and finger post have been erected in Trent Square, Great Haywood, to provide visitors with information on the Tolkien links, with blue plaques placed on various JRR Tolkien related buildings across the village.

In making the presentation, Cllr Plant, Chairman of Colwich Parish Council, said:

"The Freedom of the Parish is not given lightly; indeed, to the best of our knowledge, it has never been awarded since the inauguration of the parish in 1895.

It is for those who have gone above and beyond, who make our community stronger simply by being a part of it. Presenting this award, with enormous gratitude and pride, is our way of saying We see you; We appreciate you; We are better for everything you have given.

Thank you, Dave, for being such an important part of our parish story."

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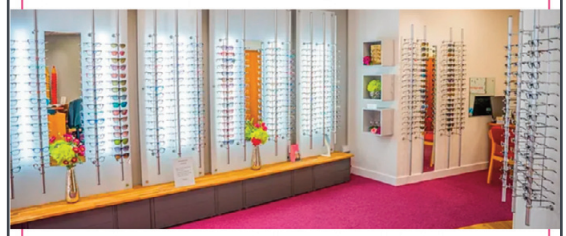

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Village Voice
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Green Villagers Recycling Collection Points

Green Villagers currently collect the following items for recycling on the first weekend of each month:
Soft plastics (*clean and bagged please*) Drop off in the black bin outside Church View, Common Lane
Light bulbs Drop off in the collection box outside Bednall Hall, Common Lane
Tablet blister packs (*plastic-backed packs only, no foil*) Drop off in the collection box outside Milverstone, Common Lane
Daily contact lens plastic waste Drop off in the collection box outside Farthings, Richfield Lane
Thank you to everyone for helping make Bednall a greener village!

Christmas Holly Wreaths



Beautiful handmade Christmas wreaths will be available from mid-December outside All Saints Church, Bednall.
Prices: £10 and £12
To pre-order your wreath, please contact:Toni Castle 07977 657646. Bring some festive cheer to your front door while supporting your local community.

Cakes On The Cart

£1,362.02 raised from the cart for the church this year!

As the Cart closes for another season, a huge thank you to our fantastic bakers, supporters and volunteers. Your generosity has helped raise valuable funds towards the running of our beautiful church.
We are always happy to welcome new bakers, with contributions needed just a few times each year. If you would like to join the rota next season, please contact Ali Webb on 07811 196836.
Thank you also to everyone who donates snacks, books and handmade cards, and to those working behind the scenes to collect donations, maintain and store the Cart.
We are incredibly grateful to everyone who gives their time, talents and support.
Sadly, we were very disappointed to discover that the donations tin was stolen from the Cart on 20th September. The Cart has now been stored away for the winter, and we will need to consider how best to safeguard both the products and donations before it returns next spring.



Stafford Lions Help Give Children A Clearer View Of The World

In September 2023, the UK National Screening Committee recommended that all children entering school should have their vision checked. Recognising that many local authorities do not routinely provide this screening, Lions Clubs launched the national Child Sight UK programme.
The programme offers free vision screening to primary and first schools in participating areas, including those in rural villages, helping to identify potential vision problems at an early age.
Having completed their first round of school visits last year, dedicated Stafford Lions volunteer teams have been back in action over the past two months, continuing their work to help give local children the best possible start.
The results have been impressive. Stafford Lions have screened 648 children across 30 schools, identifying 61 children who have been advised to have a full eye examination with an optician of their choice.
The examination itself is free under the usual NHS arrangements for children. The teams have also been supporting Lions Clubs in Hednesford and Rugeley. Across a further 11 schools, 218 children have been screened, with 10 potential eye conditions identified.
The screening process is quick, simple and non-invasive. The camera is held approximately one metre in front of the child, with no physical contact and no need for eye drops. Each screening takes well under a minute, and the equipment immediately produces a result of either '*pass*' or '*refer*'. A '*refer*' result does not necessarily mean that a vision problem exists, but indicates that a full eye examination is recommended. Parents or guardians are informed of the result on the day.
Stafford Lions are delighted with the success of the scheme and the positive response from schools across the area. They intend to repeat the screening each year, helping successive groups of reception-age children to have their vision checked as they begin their primary school education.
Congratulations to all the Lions volunteers involved. Their dedication is helping to identify potential sight problems early and giving local children the opportunity to see, learn and thrive. *A job well done!*

Who are Stafford Lions?

Stafford Lions are a group of local men and women who dedicate some of their spare time to helping charities, vulnerable groups and individuals in and around Stafford.

Help us support our nominated charities!
Phone: 03458 335834 www.staffordlions.co.uk

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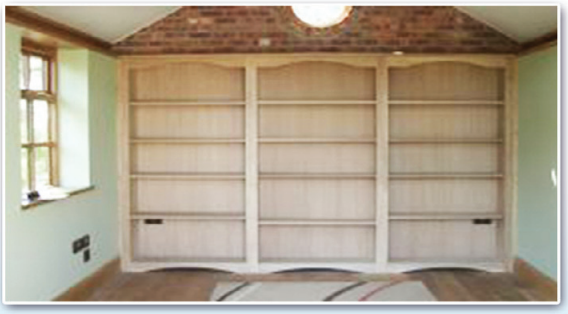



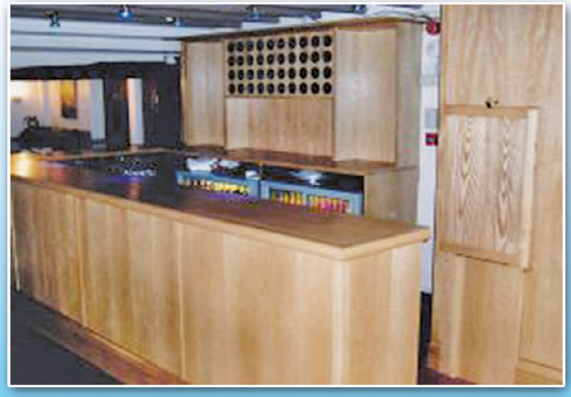



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Young Farmers Christmas Tractor Run

On **Sunday 6th December** the Staffordshire Young Farmers celebrate the festive season with a Christmas Charity Tractor Run.

The popular event will see tractors decorated with Christmas lights and festive displays take to roads creating a spectacular sight for local communities along the route.

The run will take the same route as last year visiting the Staffordshire villages of ***Seighford, Derrington, Haughton, Gnosall, Woodseaves, Eccleshall and Ranton.***

The event has already proved a fantastic fundraising success with last year's tractor run raising more than £12,000 for the Birmingham Children's Hospital and Staffordshire YFC.

Entry for participating tractors is £20 per tractor, with drivers required to be aged 16 or over. Places are limited and booking opens on 1st November.

There will also be a prize for the Best Dressed Tractor, encouraging participants to bring the most creative and festive decorations.

For further details contact County YFC secretary Ruth on 01785 248645 www.staffsyoungfarmers.org.uk.

New Tai Chi Movements Class

A new Tai Chi Movements for Wellbeing (TMW) class has started in Great Bridgeford and Eccleshall with weekly drop in classes.

TMW is a unique, easy to learn movement, meditation and self-care practice for life-long health and wellbeing. Your first class is free, so come and try it out for yourself for nothing.

Classes are **Wednesday mornings 11am to 12 midday at Eccleshall Community Centre**, Shaws Lane, Eccleshall ST21 6AU

And **Wednesday afternoon 2pm-3pm Great Bridgeford Village Hall,** Newport Road, Great Bridgeford ST18 9PR.

For further information people can contact Sam Mace on 07948 717534 or samace@hotmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/TaiChiMovementsforWellbeingStaffs
Book on - https://bookwhen.com/tmwstafford
Website - https://www.tmwtraining.com/



Gavin Delivers Talk To Haywood Society

Sir Gavin Williamson, Member of Parliament for Stone, Great Wyrley and Penkridge, entertained the Haywood Society with a talk on his political career, which included anecdotes from his time as Secretary of State.

Sir Gavin's 16-year Parliamentary career has included some of the highest offices in UK Government including Chief Whip, Secretary of State for Defence, and Secretary of State for Education.

The Haywood Society were treated to a 90-minute talk about the inner workings of Parliament, tales of meetings with high profile politicians include the current US President, and the challenges the country faced during the pandemic and cost of living.

The Haywood Society, which serves Great Haywood, Little Haywood, and Colwich is a heritage and conservation organisation that was established in 1974. Its main aims are to: protect local heritage, scrutinise planning and development proposals, immerse in local history, and organise community events.

Acting Chair Nigel Dudley said: *"Sir Gavin's entertaining and insightful talk was well received by everyone present. His responses to many wide-ranging questions reflected first hand responsibilities in the field and a sincere compassion as an experienced MP."*

Sir Gavin said: *"I was delighted to provide an insight into the inner workings of Parliament as well as discuss some of the most momentous periods of my political career.*

The Haywood Society undertake tremendous work to protect and promote the heritage of Great Haywood, Little Haywood, and Colwich. We have many shared local projects including protecting the village from overdevelopment as well as holding HS2 to account.

I look forward to continuing to support the Haywood Society in achieving the group's aims on a local and national level."

The Haywood Society aims to promote public interest in the area and high standards of planning and architecture. To secure the preservation, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the villages.

Meetings take place on the **3rd Wednesday of the month** at the Sports & Social Club, Great Haywood at 8pm. (Non-members £1 entrance fee)

If you would like to become a member then please contact Ian Milne on 01889 882341.

Walton National Trust Talks

The Staffordshire Centre's programme of talks at Walton Village Hall in Stafford continues on **November 10th.**

There is no need to book in advance, just turn up at the door and pay as you go in. However, it would help the organisers if you book your place(s) on our website **https://www.ntstafford.org.uk/** go to Events-Talks - Book a Talk.

All talks start at 2.30 pm and you do not have to be a member of the Centre to attend. Admission is £4.50 for non-members of the Centre and talks are followed by tea and biscuits.

The Magic Of Pantomime

10th November

- A Talk by Dean Nixon



This amusing and informative talk is interspersed with entertaining videos. Pantomime is an amazing part of our cultural heritage and the script often reflects society and what is happening in the world at a specific moment. It is 'a genre for whole families based on fairy tales, nursery and real-life stories, usually staged at Christmas but not directly referencing Christmas'.

So where do the stories come from? They come from old, verbal or traditional stories and novels. Many pantomime tales come from Charles Perrault and the Grimm brothers (*Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Puss in Boots*). From the Arabian Nights, we acquired Aladdin, Ali Baba and the Voyages of Sinbad and Robinson Crusoe gave us Dick Whittington.

There are many traditions associated with pantomime, such as gender switching, the inclusion of animals, audience participation, tried and tested pantomime jokes and specific characters. We will hear about some of the famous men and women who had played principal boy or dame, including Dan Leno, Samuel Simmons, Lucy Vestris, Vesta Tilley and Marie Lloyd.

Christmas Crackers

8th December

- A Talk by Nigel Holmes



In this seasonal, interactive talk, Nigel will look at the origins of some of the traditions and celebrations that take place over the festive season. In the meantime, here are a few questions for you to consider: – Do you know the difference between Father Christmas and Santa Claus? Why do you hear the same songs being played in the shops at this time every year? Why do the mince pies on sale, have a *'best before'* date of 15th December… and why does the mincemeat filling in the pies, not contain any actual meat?

When does Christmas begin… and when should you take your decorations down? Why do we pull crackers… and who came up with the idea in the first place?

All of these questions and more, will be answered in this fun talk. And, no doubt there'll be a mince pie to have with your cuppa afterwards.

To keep up with our future events, watch out for us in these pages or check out our Events page at **https://www.ntstafford.org.uk**

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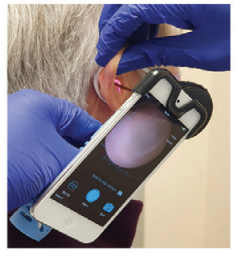

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Bradley Quilts And Craft Fair

The Quilt display in Bradley Church, together with the delicious food, interesting stalls and raffle in the Village Hall, made for a marvellous weekend.

The tremendous amount of £1778 was raised from the Quilts and Craft Fair, and refreshments, with proceeds going towards the repair of the Churchyard wall.

The Staffordshire Patchworkers and Quilters raised a wonderful amount from their two stalls.

Kate Fenton excelled herself, with her team, in organising the whole weekend, and her daughter, Jane, spent two days cooking and serving lunches and teas. Well done ladies!

The craftsmanship of the quilters and patchworkers filled us all with tremendous admiration.



Upcoming Bradley Events

In the Village Hall there will be the **monthly Fish and Chips and Quiz in November.**

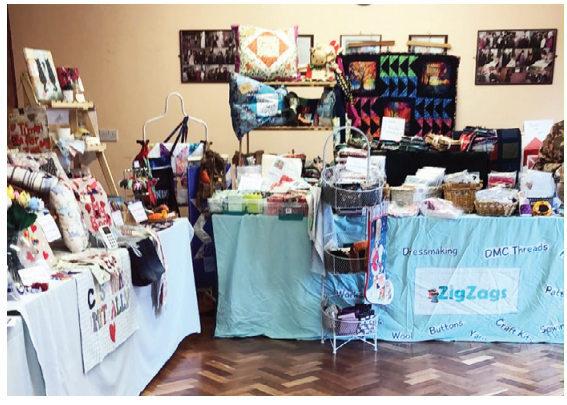
There is also a **Wreath Making Workshop** with our wonderful local florist Sarah Plant on **Friday 4th December at 2.30 or 6.30.**

There's a **Pop Up Market in Bradley Village Hall on Saturday 28th November** with stalls for Christmas Gifts and of course, bacon sandwiches!

We are so pleased to have Alex Jolly in the village, who has recently qualified, and set up as an equine physiotherapist. He also looks after dogs too.

And did you know that Debbie Chatfield, who also lives in Bradley holds a **Skincare and Beauty Club, in the Red Lion every Thursday.**

From Judith Manners







The Arts Society Lectures



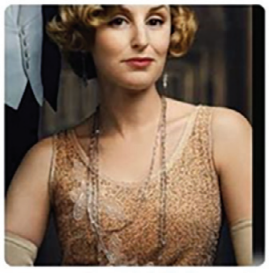
AGM followed by
Pantomime - When the Fairy's over 50

Lecturer Tyler Butterworth

November 17th

A revealing look at professional panto from someone who was born into it. The famous names, the greatest dames and the old routines.

We then have a break for Christmas, so our next Lecture is in January.







From Downton to Gatsby
Jewellery & Fashion from 1890 to 1929

Lecturer Andrew Prince

Tuesday 19 January 2027

For the series and film Downton Abbey, Andrew was commissioned to make many jewels for the main characters. This inspired him to create a talk based on this unique period.

Venue Stafford Gatehouse Theatre at 1.45pm.
Membership for the year starting on April 1st costs just £60 for 10 lectures. Guest attendance fee £10
For more information please contact our secretary Jane King - honsecretary.tass@gmail.com
www.theartssocietystafford.org.uk



Christmas Shopping Evening

The Staffordshire YFC Christmas Shopping Evening will take place from 5pm to 9pm at the Ingestre Suite, Staffordshire County Showground, ST18 0BD.

The evening promises a relaxed and festive shopping experience, with a wide selection of stalls offering ***Clothing, Gifts, Food And Drink, Art, Jewellery, Christmas Wreaths*** and much more.

Entry is just £3, with free parking included. Visitors will also receive mulled wine and a mince pie, while turkey baps will be available to purchase.

The event is open to everyone and provides an opportunity to support local businesses, makers and Staffordshire YFC while getting some Christmas shopping done.

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Christmas Is Coming To Brocton Village Hall

After a quiet couple of months over the summer, September kicked off with a very successful Rummage Sale with a record amount of donations gratefully received from the local community.

Always a very busy event supported by the village and wider community and a big fundraiser for the hall. *Thank you to everyone that donated, supported or attended!*

October saw us hosting a Quiz Night which was very well attended, and our winning team were A.I. By Popular Demand, more quizzes to follow in 2027.

We're busy getting organised for our **Christmas Fayre on Saturday 14th November 1pm-4pm.** There will be a variety of ***Local Small Businesses, Our Pre-Loved Items, Tombola, Teddy Tombola, Lucky Dip And Much More.***

Rumour has it that we might have some very special visitors! It's free entry so do come along and enjoy!



On ***Sunday 29th November we are holding our Christmas Wreath-Making Workshops*** hosted by Chloe.

Sessions are 10am-12noon or 1pm-3pm and tickets are just £32 per person with everything you need to create your own unique wreath and enjoy a mulled wine and a mince pie too.



Ticket are selling fast so to secure your slot email info@broctonvillagehall.org.uk.

To finish off our busy year on ***Saturday 5th December we're holding a Traditional Christmas Meal*** at 7pm. £15 per person for a delicious turkey dinner and dessert. Good food and good company!

Tickets will be available from Brocton Post Office or email info@broctonvillagehall.org.uk.



Then last, but not least, Brocton Parish Council will be holding their annual **Carols on The Green at 4pm on Sunday 6th December.**

Join with friends and family on the Village Green for traditional Christmas carols, followed by warm and welcoming mulled wine, drinks and mince pies at the village hall.

Merry Christmas to you all, and look out for our 2027 events in the next Village Voice!





The Healing Voices Choir gave a lively and varied performance at our Summer Barbecue event in August

Haughton Garden Guild Welcomes New Members

For the first time, Haughton and District Garden Guild held a special event for the summer, instead of booking a speaker. In August the committee hosted a barbecue event together with a wonderful concert performance by the Healing Voices Choir.

Many of the talks at the monthly meetings, held on the **third Monday of the month** at 7.30 at Haughton Village Hall, are about gardening or gardens, but there are also talks on the countryside, on local interest and on nature both at home and abroad.

New members are always welcome, and you don't have to live in Haughton to be a member. Why not come along and join us for the guest fee of £2 and give us a try?

Membership for this year has now closed but if you like what you find – an interesting speaker, a quality raffle and free refreshments – the 2027 subscription of £12 will open in February.





Top Right - When the barbecue food was eaten and the tables were cleared Guild members settled ready to listen to the choir

Right - The choir conductor introduced each piece performed to the members

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Brocton WI Learn All About *Yoga At Sea*

What does yoga and the WI have in common? That was a question we considered at our recent meeting.



Charlotte, a local yoga teacher gave a talk on Yoga at Sea, during which she asked this question. She concluded that both had a strong sense of community. Charlotte grew up in Stafford and attended a local dance school from the age of 3. When she was 18 years old, she auditioned for the chance to be a dancer aboard a cruise ship. Her dream came true and she soon found herself thousands of miles away in Miami.

As a dancer on a cruise ship, she travelled the World and met a wide range of people from all walks of life. She described life aboard a ship, including outlining the daily life of a dancer, with long hours and the need to pick up new dance skills quickly. She also provided us with lots of funny anecdotes.

After 13 years at sea, she found herself back on dry land due to the Covid pandemic. She decided to google a yoga for anxiety online class. From this, her interest in yoga developed, and she went on to complete a teaching course in Portugal.

Yoga has provided a way for Charlotte to process her new life on land, as well as filling the large hole left from not dancing anymore. Through her numerous classes she has managed to build a community where people support each other.

Charlotte runs a number of private and group classes in the local area. If you would like to find out more please contact charlottemwilson@hotmail.co.uk.

If you are interested in becoming a member of BroctonWI then contact our secretary using the details below. ***New members are always welcome!***
email enquiries.broctonwi@hotmail.com, or find us on facebook Brocton WI.







Charity Garden Lunch at @ Hill House

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Garden Lunch at Hill House in Bednall, on Saturday 5th September.

The village marquees were decorated with bunting, and 33 people sat down to a sumptuous three-course meal prepared by Toni, Joan, Angela and Alison.

The event was organised by Friends of Bednall raising £810 for All Saints Church. *Well done to all.*



Ken is pictured here with one of his daughters and grandsons, having completed the 2026 Potters Arf marathon.

Trustee Ken To Run Races In 2027 To Raise Funds For Age UK Stafford And District

Age UK Stafford and District is a well-established local charitable organisation, that provides Day Care for older people in a purpose built building on Weston Road in Stafford, Home based services, including personal care, an Information service and a Staying Active exercise and friendship group, also for older people, their carers and their families, in the Stafford Borough area, which includes Stone, Eccleshall and Gnosall and more recently for clients in Rugeley and Penkridge.

Ken Harper, is one of the Trustees of the organisation and in November 2026 reached the age of 70 years. During his 71st year he wants to set himself a challenge to complete both the Stafford half marathon and the Ashbourne Tissington trail full marathon, in March and April 2027 respectively (*his 70+ challenge*).

Whilst doing these runs he would like to raise money for Age UK Stafford and District and he also wants to highlight the amazing work undertaken by the staff and volunteers of this organisation. He feels lucky to be able to run in these events and is aware that many elderly people in the area are not so fortunate and may suffer from chronic illness, immobility, isolation and financial issues that restricts their ability to live a full life.

Age UK Stafford and District works to address these issues and aims to improve people's quality of life in their older age.

Any support towards the work of this locally based charity is welcome and donations can be made through his **GoFundMe page** *(search in 'fundraisers' on the site for Ken Harper and look for the 70 plus challenge*).







The Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show 2026

There was a heartwarming resilience on display at this year's Show. After such a difficult growing season, the number of entries of flowers, fruit and vegetables were understandably lower than we usually see. However, when faced with a challenge our exhibitors adapted their skills and focus and we had a record number of entries in the Art and Photography Section, and more baked food than last year.

It was a shame that the reduced produce harvest also impacted the number of preserves entered, so we will have to get our thinking caps on and see if there are any less conventional things to preserve and pickle next year, or maybe we'll all be growing our own oranges for marmalade!

It may be that the Classes in the Schedule will need to evolve as the climate changes, but we are sure that our amazing community can rise to the task, and show what can be achieved with passion and perseverance. If there is something more suited to a warmer climate that you are having particular success with please do let us know.

As always, the Committee would like to say a massive well done and thank you so much to everyone who entered, visited and supported the Show. We would also like to say a huge thank you to the Memorial Hall Ladies and Canalside Café who so generously donated some fabulous cakes for our refreshments.

We were very grateful to be supported this year by the Haywood Society, whose contribution really helped the Show continue for another year.

If you would like to help plan next year's Show, or have any suggestions please let us know via email at haywoodsflowerandvegshow@outlook.com







Many congratulations go to all of our talented trophy winners, as follows:

The Clendon Vase (Flowers) – J. Tabernor

The Sydney Rawlings Rose Bowl (Roses) – J. Cross

The Rosern Trophy (Best Rose in Show) – J. Cross

The Cys Dyble Cup (Pot Plants) – S. Jones and A. Clendon

The HW Hunt Company Cup (Vegetables) – S. Jones

The Stan Hopper Memorial Plate (Best Vegetable in Show) – T. Minton (for runner beans)
The Morrall Plate (Longest Runner Bean) – Ra. Bullock

The Canalside Salver (Fruit) – Y. Lycett

The Great Haywood Memorial Hall Challenge Cup (Preserves) – J. Lawson

The Great Haywood WI Trophy (Baking) – J. Lawson

The Little Haywood Ladies Club Cup (Bread) – A. Hurley

The Davies Floral Art Challenge Cup (Flower Arranging) – J. Lawson

The Marjorie Chilton Trophy (Best Floral Art Exhibit) – J. Lawson

The Burbridge Tray (Handicraft) – F. Burton

The Jan Pugh Art Cup (Art and Photography) – T. Morris

The Alison Mayo Junior Trophy (Children 5-7 years) – S. Duncan-Muller

The Bishton Hall Cup (Children 8-11 years) – H. Holland

The Flower and Vegetable Show Trophy (Children 12-16 years) – A. Lycett

Longest Runner Bean (16 years and under) – Ru. Bullock

The Broome Junior Baking Cup (Junior Baking) – Ru. Bullock

The Francis Hill Cup (most successful New Entrant) – Ru. Bullock

The Alan Fuller Perpetual Challenge Cup (Second overall runner up) – Ra. Bullock

The Peter Handy Perpetual Challenge Cup (First overall runner up) – S. Jones

The Earl of Lichfield Challenge Cup (Overall Winner) – J. Lawson

Well done to everyone. See you in 2027!











Beatles Album Gets Bidders In A Spin With £3,000 Result

An original UK mono pressing of The Beatles' debut album, Please Please Me, proved music to collectors' ears when it sold for an impressive £3,000 at Staffordshire auction house Cuttlestones.

The highly collectable record led a strong selection of vinyl in the Staffordshire sale room's recent Autumn Antiques & Collectors' Auction, with the highlighted lots achieving combined hammer prices of more than £12,000.

Released by Parlophone on 22 March 1963, Please Please Me was the album that announced the arrival of The Beatles.



Cuttlestones' Ben Gamble with the £3,000 vinyl of The Beatle's Please Please Me

Ten of its 14 tracks were famously recorded during a marathon session at EMI Studios on 11th February 1963, capturing the raw energy of the group's early live performances. The album went on to spend 30 consecutive weeks at the top of the UK album chart before being displaced by the band's second album, With The Beatles.

Offered as Lot 137, the record bore the mono catalogue number PMC 1202 and the distinctive black-and-gold Parlophone label associated with the earliest UK pressings. Both its sleeve and vinyl were graded Very Good.

The album's track listing includes early Beatles favourites such as I Saw Her Standing There, Love Me Do, Please Please Me and Twist and Shout – the latter famously recorded at the end of the day-long session as John Lennon battled a heavy cold and increasingly strained voice.

The £3,000 result was the high point of an excellent showing for vinyl records throughout the sale. Around 60 Northern Soul 7-inch singles achieved £650. Featuring a host of dancefloor favourites, the collection included recordings by Major Lance, Darrell Banks, The Exciters, The O'Jays, Martha Reeves, Dobie Gray, Chuck Wood and The Elgins.

A further group of seven LPs, which included stereo copies of Please Please Me, With The Beatles, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and Help!, sold for £550. Meanwhile, seventeen LPs by artists including Whitesnake, Rush, Deep Purple, Judas Priest and Def Leppard fetched £500, while another 17-record collection featuring Scorpions, Rainbow, Metallica, Neil Young and a limited-edition Cheap Trick album on red vinyl made £400.

Cuttlestones is inviting owners of vinyl records and wider music collections to take advantage of its free, no-obligation valuation service. Anyone with records gathering dust in the loft, tucked away in a cupboard or forming part of an inherited collection can email photos and details to valuations@cuttlestones.co.uk, send them via WhatsApp to 07949 603872 or call 01785 714905 to arrange an appointment.

Acton Trussell, Bednall & Teddesley Hay Community Centre News And What's On

First Autumn Film Season Announced

The Acton Trussell Community Centre Trust has announced its first season of monthly films for the Autumn following installation of its professional-standard projector and big screen.

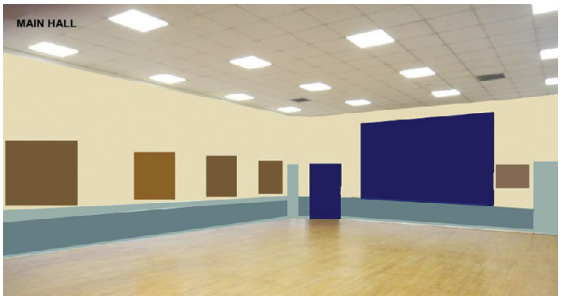
The first film marked Halloween and was shown on Saturday 31 October with a screening of the devilishly hilarious comedy, ***"Hocus Pocus" (Cert PG)*** starring Bette Midler. Patrons were invited to bring along their scary pumpkins and come in appropriate costumes to win prizes.

During the remembrance month of **November, on Saturday 28,** the acclaimed First World War film ***"1917" (Cert 15***) will be shown, telling the dramatic story of two young British privates who are given an "*impossible*" mission to deliver an urgent message to another battalion that will avert them from stepping straight into an ambush.

Then, to celebrate the festive season, on **Saturday 19 December**, an animated comedy for all the family, ***"Arthur Christmas" (Cert U),*** will be screened, featuring the voices of James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie, Bill Nighy, Jim Broadbent, Imelda Staunton and Ashley Jensen.

All shows start at 7pm and tickets priced at £6 Adults and £4 Concessions can be purchased in advance online from **www.ticketsource.com/whats-on** or by telephone: 0333-666-3366.





Operation Facelift Nearly Complete

The long-awaited redecoration of the Centre is now underway, giving the place a warm, clean, fresh, more modern appearance for the many different functions it hosts.

Started on Monday 26th October, work to the Main Hall, Meeting Room and Foyer will take two weeks, with completion expected by Friday 6th November.

New flooring will be laid in the foyer and meeting room on 9 & 10 November with all work planned to minimise disruption, although the Read & Return Library will be closed. This bright and attractive new-look will be welcomed by all our existing and new users.

For more information please visit
actontrussellcommunitycentre.org

ACTON TRUSSELL BEDNALL & TEDDESLEY HAY
COMMUNITY CENTRE

Regular Club Meetings

Our regular weekly clubs and activities extend an open invitation to everyone who will be made most welcome. Please check beforehand that the club is meeting, especially around public and school holidays. See you there !

Club	Day	Times
Indoor Bowls	Monday	2-4pm
Photography Group	Tuesday	7.30pm-9.30pm
Art Group	Wednesday	1.30pm-3.30pm
Yin Yoga	Wednesday	6.45pm-7.45pm
Tea Room	Thursday	10am-12.30pm
Local Vocals Choir	Thursday	7.30pm-9.30pm
Acton Trussell WI	3rd Thursday of month	7.30pm
Craft Group	Friday	2-4pm

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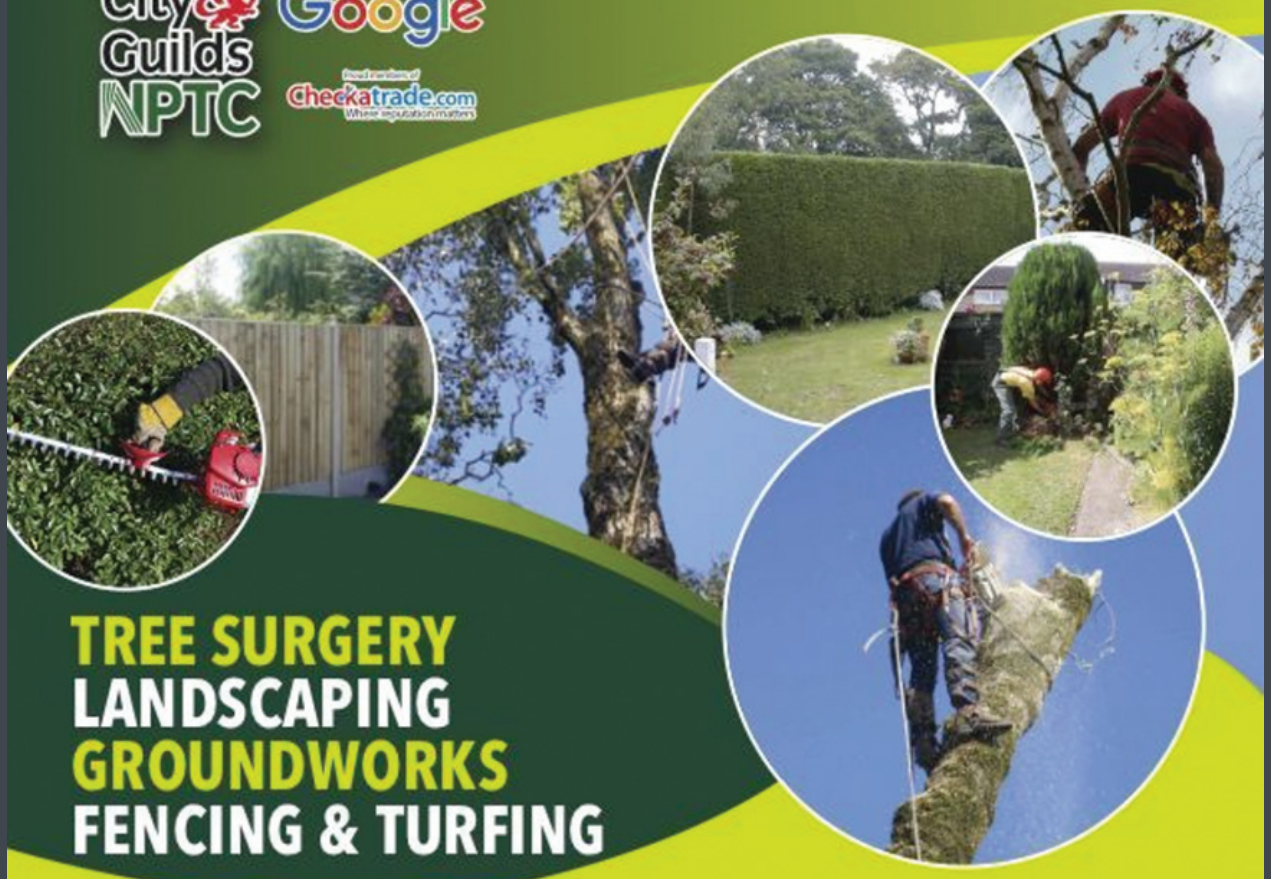

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