

Tutnall and Cobley Parish Council



Newsletter 2025



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Note From the Chair 2025



Well! here we are again, another year chalked off. A rather hot and exceptionally dry one at that. Last year I commented on the main issues put to the Parish Council - planning, new build targets and the lack of Traveller sites. Have any of those issues been resolved?

Planning applications continue to be high on the agenda. Applications range from minor improvements and extensions, to change of use from agricultural to dwelling, the latter being the more contentious.

Regarding the number and location of new houses in the area, Bromsgrove District Council published its Draft Development Strategy Consultation Document. The closing date for consultation was 20th October.

As far as I am aware, to date, there has been no increase in the number of dedicated Traveller sites. The reorganisation of the Parish boundaries and subsequent County Council elections has given the parish a new County Councillor, Alan Bailes.

Following the national Government's requirement, Worcestershire County Council and some other Unitary Authorities are required to reorganise 'to make things simpler, clearer and better value for money'. The preferred option is to put the six Borough, City and District councils into two Unitary Councils. The consultation for this closed on the 27th of October. We wait for the next round.

Our meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of each month (except August) and are held in the main hall of the Community Hall off High House Lane; the councillors having been joined at some of the meetings by several concerned residents. For those interested, the agenda is posted on the notice boards on Broad Green and in the car park at the Community Hall

Mike Pengelly

*Parish Bench through the
apple blossom
Alcester Road
by the wild flowers .*



Tardebisse Community Hall



Another year has passed, and our storeroom extension has been completed. Conrad, our builder, has made an excellent job and was easy to work with. We now have a hall that has more space for hirers to use. The light, pine coloured floor has been sanded back, resealed and polished. Unfortunately, we were unable to take the wood to the mid-brown colour, that I suggested. Companies that estimated for the job would not re-stain to a darker colour, only refurbish the original colour.



I was very disappointed about this, as I had basically persuaded my colleagues that a mid-brown colour stain would be best as it would not show the marks that will inevitably appear, as soon as the first chair/table is dragged across the floor. Mike is to put a metal plate in the doorway to the extension, as tables can easily catch the floor when carried under the doorway arch. We shall see how long it takes for scratches to appear. I hope my pessimism is unfounded.

During the Spring, an oak tree branch on our land, next to the road, was deemed to be in danger of breaking. It was causing a threat to passers-by

and was reported to Highways Department at Worcester County Council, and they contacted the hall. I understand it is usual in these circumstances for the landowner to be asked to employ a tree surgeon to take down the branch. If this doesn't happen, the council will do the work and send a bill. The hall is not the landowner, the church is. We are responsible for the land we rent from the church. As I had not heard from the council, I contacted them. I was pleasantly surprised to find that Highways Department intended covering the cost of the work. My colleagues, Rob and Mike, were dubious about this, so I asked the Council to confirm in writing, which they did. So, a big thank you to Worcester Highways department for helping us out.





Unfortunately, the large oak tree on the side of the car park is sadly dying. Some years ago, our committee member at that time, Lucy, tried to save it by providing nutrients to the roots. She took professional advice on how this was to be done but time has shown that it did not work. There is just a small amount of growth left on the one side now. Mike has bat boxes situated in the tree, and we will leave it be, until such time as it becomes unsafe. Hopefully that won't be for a long time yet.

Last year I said that the grasscrete on our carpark had worn away in places. As it was going to be very expensive to be professionally re-laid, Rob and Mike

decided to repair the badly worn areas. (with me making the tea!). They then needed to see if the repairs would last with the weight of cars in the carpark over a period. I am pleased say that after a year the repairs are still in place. Well done Rob and Mike. Now as areas wear out, we know who will be doing the job, with me making the tea!

It was quite a few years ago that we had professional help from Worcester County Council on how to 'lay' a hedge. This was the hedge on the right of the carpark. It was a very interesting day. We have left a few trees growing through. When the leaves have fallen and John Browning has got his son to cut back the branches, our effects will still be visible, which is good to still see.

Until next year have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year.

Lynn Denyer, Treasurer



A day in the life of a Lock Keeper

I have been walking the Tardebigge canal flight for over 25 years. Following, retirement, I decided to give something back, volunteering to become a lock keeper. The process is simple to do from the Canal and River Trust website and when they done their checks etc. you are invited for a trial to see if you're going to like it. The Tardebigge flight is 30 locks long, across a stretch of about 2.5 miles.

One of the many lock keepers said that he would be my mentor and this is where my friendship with Trevor began. He is a fantastic guy who is very kind and exceptionally patient. He guided me as to how the locks worked and how we get the boaters either up or down the flight. This is called Locking up or locking down. Within 5 months he decided I was ready to be assessed. Thankfully I passed and am now a fully-fledged lock keeper.





Trevor and I have stayed together as buddies, as we work together well and meet twice a week to do 4-hour shifts. You can obviously decide to do as much as you want to. There are no set rules but there is a code to advise who is on the canal at any time and inform when you leave for safety reasons. The team in the office at the wharf are amazing, as are the paid workers along the canal. They are very helpful and willing to advise if needed. Once we arrive on the locks at the hovel - our term for the hut, we then look on the app to see if there are any boats either coming down or going up. We very often pick a boat

from top of bottom of the flight and take the boat all the way through. It's quite a feat going through 30 locks, especially if you have a single hander, meaning that the person is on their own and they really could do with some help. It generally takes us approximately 3 hours 15 minutes to navigate the locks. However, someone on their own could take as much as 5 hours to get through.



The concept is that you open the locks with a windlass, which is a winding tool a bit like a spanner but specific to the canal. On the lock there are paddles and gates. The gates are the larger ones and there are 2 of them. The paddles, again 2 to open or close on either side of the lock but only 1 gate. To learn more about this I will give you the websites at the bottom, which will be useful if interested. The paddles at times can be quite stiff and you may need your buddy to help to turn them. Thankfully there is a winder on each side of the paddle.





Dependent on which way your boat is moving you have to decide if you need to purely open the gate and let it in, or whether you need to fill or empty the lock. When the locks are busy with boaters, this is the best time as water management is easier to address. Your boat will go into the lock and then it is either lowered or raised to suit. It sounds quite complicated at first, but it really is quite straight forward just common sense. A lot of boaters are on holiday - some coming from all over the world. It is so nice to meet and greet people and I have met so many. We generally get quite a lot of Americans, Australians and New Zealanders as they don't have the canal waterway. They ooze about how lucky we are to have such beautiful countryside, which I totally agree with but sometimes it

would be lovely to leave near to a beach and the weather to be better!!

There are various roles within the Canal and River Trust with another being on a work team. When lock 58 (Top Lock) was out of action for almost all of the season, we were still very busy trying to keep the penny wort down and tidying up the sides. I suggested a work group to do this and found myself working with plenty of others on what could only be described as a Lego brick in the middle of the canal. Official term being a pontoon, pulling the weeds with a rake and colleagues pulling me back to the side. Although difficult and hard work, that was the easy bit. The worst part was actually getting the penny-wort out of the canal as the roots are so long and extremely heavy. We had work parties twice a week for up to 6 hours at a time to clear this.



We also report if anything needs to be repaired / replaced. The CRT do their absolute best to repair as not forgetting that the locks are over 200 years old. There is a happy to help attitude amongst us all and I have made many friends along the way. I thoroughly enjoy my time on the canal whether it be volunteering or just simply a walk,

plus I was able to cancel my gym membership as I get more than enough exercise!





I feel very privileged to be so close to the canal and able to give back to the community in this way.

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk>

By Lynda Hakesley



Energy matters

Smart meters are going rogue all over the UK and are delivering wildly inaccurate or incomplete data which has resulted in wildly changed bills.

This data has been saved on NAND memory chips in the meter. NAND flash memory is a type of non-volatile storage technology that does not require power to retain data. The chip saves data as blocks and relies on electric circuits to store data. When power is detached from NAND flash memory, a metal-oxide semiconductor will provide an extra charge to the memory cell, keeping the data. Now I do not pretend to understand this at all. However, the problem seems to be that each meter reading wears down the flash memory, and it slowly loses the ability to store data accurately, also the old data accelerates memory loss - very much like me...





new limit will be minus 10% to 207 volts which will bring us into line with Europe.



chargers to shut down into self-protection mode. This causes DNOs to limit the number of renewables that can be connected. This means that households with Photo voltaic panels (PV) may be unable to get their full export allowance.

The DNOs say they will aim to reduce the average by 2% or 5 volts freeing up the ability to connect more renewables but initially they will try 1% and see what happens. Most UK domestic loads should be unaffected? What will the effects be on standby generators and uninterruptable power supplies? Will consumer units be affected? Watch this space.

Power outages and low voltages can affect the log if power outage occurs when writing the log and it could fail to reboot. Thus, requiring a replacement meter and the inconvenience of having no power-what Joy.

On the subject of low voltages, the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) are proposing a lowering of UK mains voltage. This will make it easier to connect renewables. At present UK supply 50 cycles per second (Hz) at 230 volts +10% and – 6% although most of us get near 240 volts. The

Problems can happen when solar inverters push up the local voltage when exporting power to the grid. The DNOs currently operate at the top end of the legal limit where there is little space to cope with that rise. This voltage inflation can cause electric equipment to detect voltage approaching 253 volts and kit like EV

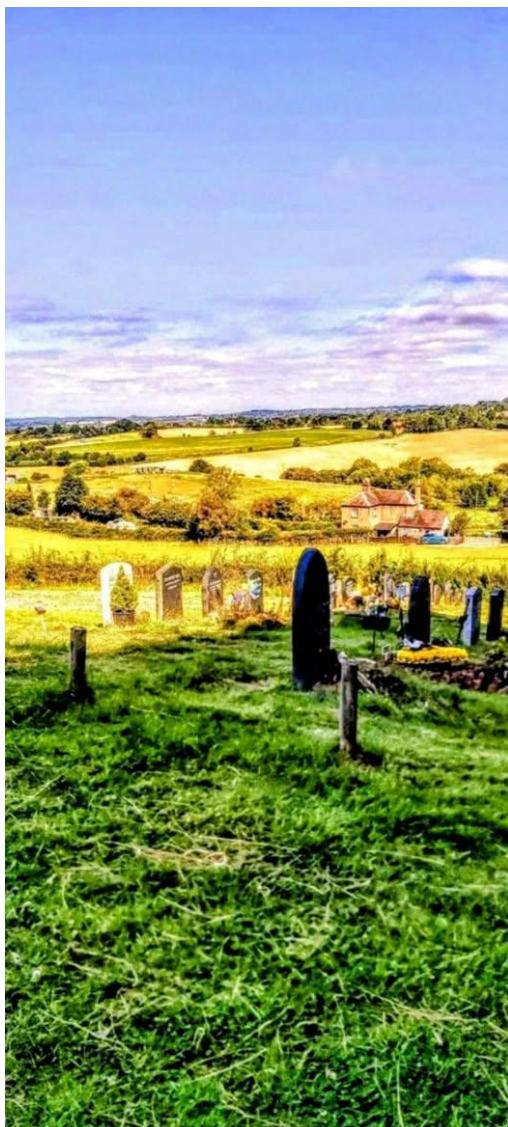




PV panels on roofs and battery storage installations have been in the news of late. According to a Major insurance company QBE, UK fire services faced a PV installation fire every 2 days.

The occurrence of fires is rising faster than the rate of installation by a factor of 2. In 2024 there were 171 fires. But this number was based on a return of

only 37 out of 49 fire services- so the actual number is likely to be larger.



Number of solar panel fires in 2024, by reported location. (10 others)	
Residential buildings	97 fires
Commercial properties	27 fires
Solar farms	17 fires
Industrial buildings	10 fires

The causes are fairly equally attributed to various components, but hardworking inverters are slightly more cited as a cause. The Batteries in PV installations are also a cause for concern. In 2024, UK fire services tended to a lithium-ion battery fire once every three days (1,330 in total). The increased use of lithium-ion, battery units could soon become a leading source of fires linked to solar panel systems.

If you think you are having a problem with your smart meter go to the Citizens Advice website- there is lots of practical help there.



By Steve Cooper



Little Egret Tardebigge

Around the Parish

The Parish Orchards on Hewell Lane after the lovely but very dry summer haven't cropped quiet so well this year, with the plum and Pear suffering the most. However, there has been enough fruit fit for picking by some residents.



Broad Green Rose Bed

The dig.



Copious amount of organic matter



New roses planted



After some precious rain



Mike Pengelly



Down on the Farm

I am trying to be positive as a farmer. After 3 years of floods and heavy rain, suddenly this year we have blue skies and hot weather - wonderful! It's lovely to get up in the morning to the birds singing. What more could you ask for? Then of course we have a full-blown drought!



Instead of the fields we planted drowning, they are now shrivelling up in the sun. Of course it has affected the yields, but that's how it is in this farming game. I would still rather get up in the morning with blue skies though.

We had a nice crop of lambs in the Spring. They also enjoyed the sunshine and fattened up in record time; it was good to see the market prices holding firm.

The cattle prices are probably at a record high, due to a shortage of numbers across the country. There are still big losses in the herds due to the Tuberculosis debacle, what a mess.



Inheritance Tax will be in the minds of all family farms, to say we are worried would be a massive understatement. The old chestnut of being capital rich and cash poor is as true today as it has ever been. We sit on a large wealth of land, farm buildings and a large house. Of course, when one buys a farm, you never know what house comes with it, or the upkeep!

We, my family, have invested everything into the farm. Altering the building to be useful for modern equipment, developing old brick buildings that would have fallen down, being of no use to modern farming. The likelihood of having to sell off land to pay Inheritance Tax is a big problem and counterproductive. Let's hope the Government see sense and at least try to keep family farms working.



Targeting investment companies buying up vast swathes of land would, in my opinion, be far more lucrative without destroying family farms.



Now that I'm an OAP farmer, I do get extra time off. So, the royal we go off to see our grandchildren taking part in their sport activities and such like. We watched our eldest, Bella, taking part in a swimming gala and winning the breaststroke race. We also saw Ollie getting knocked over just before scoring a try and Ben coming second in his football match. We witnessed

Rachel carrying the flag for the Girl Guides on Remembrance Day and Charlotte taking part in her first gymnastics competition, whilst young James (5) did his thing. Absolutely marvellous!

A big thank you to all the parish councillors. The decisions we have to make are not always easy. Mike, our Chairman, works tirelessly behind the scenes and it's a pleasure to be part of the team. Thank you to Lorraine, our hardworking Clerk.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year To everyone

Keith Tolley, Parish Councillor



68 years in Tardebigge



Born in 1957 at the Dusthouse Farm, Tardebigge part of Tardebigge orchards, I went to school in the 1960s at Tardebigge School. I had to walk to



school in all weather, even in driving snow so the schools closed. I used to walk up Dusthouse Lane to the shop, then along the side of the old quarry, where the sandstone comes from that was used to build the church. Then across the fields to the canal,



along the towpath to the Top Lock Cottage.

I would then go up the bank to school and remember the soil draining out of the canal, as there was no fence between the field and the canal on the opposite side. School started at 9am and finished at 4pm. The headmaster was Mr Hutchinson. The class I was in had Mrs Phillips as Teacher. The headmaster lived in the School House and Mrs Phillips lived on the Alcester Road, at the New Wharf Tardebigge. She encouraged me to open a savings account at the Post Office, saving a small amount each week, which I've still got today.

At School, we had free milk each morning but in the Winter this was

frozen. The blue tits would often break the top to get to the milk. We had dinner in the Hall, cooked on site by the lovely dinner ladies. We used to go to the Dentist caravan once a year and the nit Nurse. We had a Nativity play in the church at Christmas and were given a small hamper.

When walking home in the Summer past the old quarry, I used to have to make a lot of noise as the snakes would be basking in the sun on the path. They were adders. In the Summer holidays I used to have to stop on the Orchards, which was Duggans, then the Slaughterhouse and is now Tutnall Lane. I used to go there with my Dad or go with my Mum, on the back of her bike, to another fruit farm at Hollow Tree.





I used to like that because we used to stop at Broad Green Post Office/shop and I was allowed to run in and get sweets. At home we used to have a Milkman and a Postman every day, and lovely fresh bread was delivered 3 times a week. A Pop Man would deliver once a week, as well as a Mobile Shop run by Robertsons in

Aston Fields.

My Dad used to keep bees, so we sold honey and had regular customers who travelled from afar. Tardebigge school was great and still is now, I am told. After this, I moved on to Parkside School and the South Bromsgrove School, riding my bike every day. When I left school, I started work at Tardebigge Orchards driving the tractor, I had been driving a tractor from a young age. We had a local Bobby on the beat, and he used to turn a blind eye to me driving across the roads. We gave him a box of apples to keep him sweet.

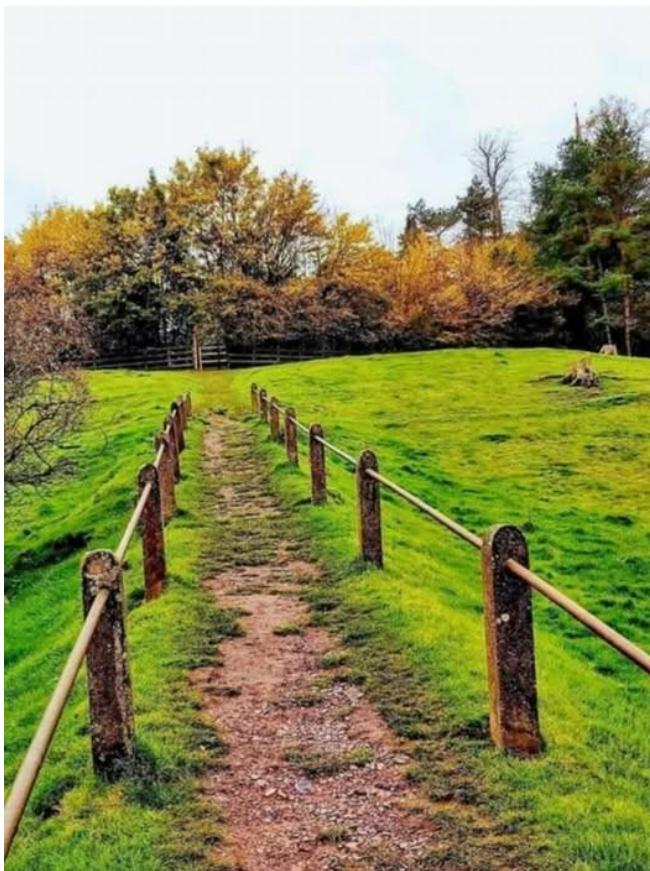
John a local resident



District Council Matters 2025

Reading through my ramblings last year and wondering once again what to write about this year, I am confronted with a deadline but with no real thoughts of how to make an interesting read for you all. So, I'm starting with the weather and how it has affected the farming fraternity.

Last autumn, 2024, was fairly kind for sowing winter crops, but it ended with a considerable amount of **rainfall**, which made further planting impossible. Following a very wet **Winter** the **Spring** started with some fine weather, which turned into a prolonged drought extending throughout the **Summer** months. This difference from normal **summer** conditions brought comparisons with the **Summer** of '76, from those



who could remember it, and comments regarding climate change and global warming from many who couldn't.

I am not a scientist or a climate change denier, but what I do know is that the seasons have changed and we no longer get colder winters like we did when I was a child. What is causing these changes is what is unknown and is commonly blamed on the burning of fossil fuels. They may well be right, but the race to net zero is destroying British industry and making us less competitive.

I believe that the world's resources are very precious and they should be used as sparingly as possible. Making the maximum from the Sun's energy and wind power. I expect now that we will have an exceptionally cold Winter to rubbish my ramblings!



The long summer drought was unhelpful for agriculture, grass growth for grazing animals and conservation of fodder for winter feedstocks was used up, supplementing for the lack of grazing.





Arable crop yields were extremely disappointing, depending on what type of soils they were being grown on. Taken together with a falling in grain prices, to a similar price to that achieved in the 1980's, the prospect of profitability for arable farmers looks slight. If and when the Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme reopens, then I can see more farmers signing up to it. This will mean less food being produced in the UK and increased reliance on foreign imports.



The definition of insanity, attributed to Albert Einstein, applies to farmers. We plant our crops again and hope that next year will deliver a different outcome. We will achieve massive yields and sell them at a price unheard of in the past. Having said that, this Autumn has been exceptionally kind, and the crops are now looking better than they have for many years, so here's hoping.

Just over twelve months ago, we were selling some of our Free-Range eggs at the farm in a shed with an honesty plate. Something which I had been doing for the last twenty years. Regrettably, the amount of money received never matched the number of eggs leaving the building, and the problem continued to worsen each week. We replaced an old wooden shed by purchasing a shipping container, installed a vending machine, and—with help from my

son, daughter, and daughter-in-law—launched a website and social media for Whittakers Eggs Ltd. Sales of eggs, local honey, and more have been outstanding. Thank you to our loyal customers and welcome to new ones—the machine is always open!

Moving on to national politics, I don't think that anybody would have thought that the present Government would, after only one year in office, be so unpopular and with an approval rating of only 16%. It was unsurprising that Reform's popularity grew after five years of coalition government, followed by nine years of a conservative administration that seemed to lose sight of its principles.

The Chancellor's budget of 2024 together with the Spring statement have unfortunately had the opposite effect to which she intended.



The lack of basic business credentials by the front bench has once again led to the government spending more than it earns in taxation. Contributing more borrowing to the national debt, which now stands at a staggering £2.6 trillion or to show with all figures £2,600,000,000,000. In July of this year the government borrowed £20,000,000,000 of which £16,000,000,000 was INTEREST on the debt.



The country cannot carry on like this. Politicians of all parties should be truthful and responsible about what the country can afford and not keep building up debt for future generations to contend with.

County politics took an interesting turn when, after May 2025, Reform gained more influence on the council but still lacked overall control. Some newly elected councillors were disgruntled conservatives. Most were newly elected councillors

knowing nothing about how the council was run, what its role was and what services they were supposed to deliver. This has led to confusion and uncertainty where education is concerned with the cancellation of a planned secondary school around Worcester and the planned upgrade to the train station at Redditch.

Taking into consideration the large increase in housing planned for Worcestershire, the question must be where are our children and grandchildren going to be educated?



Moving on to local politics, I have to say that we are **living** in exciting and turbulent times. Angela Rayner (whatever happened to her?) increased our housing targets from 386 to 703 per annum. In response to the District Council's request for a lower figure because of Green Belt and infrastructure issues she raised it to 713!



The Local Plan, I discussed last year, is currently under review and was open for public consultation throughout the Summer and early Autumn, ending in October. I hope everyone had an opportunity to share their views. The Strategic Planning Department have now to respond to all the suggestions and responses from members of the public and various statutory bodies, about Highways, Education, Social Services etc.

A modified plan should then emerge, which will go out to consultation again before the whole thing is presented to a public enquiry. In front of an Inspector who may or may not find the plan sound.



During the last year the government has taken the decision to change governance arrangements within Worcestershire. They are abolishing the County Council along with all the six District or Borough Councils and are intending to set up a unitary authority.



Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council propose a single unitary authority. While Malvern Hills District

Council, Wychavon, Worcester City, Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council propose dividing into separate North and South unitary councils, which have more of a feel for the area and would be more responsive to local needs. Responses are due by November, with the minister's decision anticipated by May 2026.



The timetable for Local Government Reorganisation, LGR, means that by the time the new arrangements are in place the new Local Plan may be in force. I think that may be wishful thinking, as there is so much opposition to the housing numbers and the district's ability to assimilate all the houses required.

If you take the existing housing numbers now of somewhere in the region of 40,000 in the whole district, then an increase of some 12,000 by 2043 is a massive increase of 30%. Where on earth are these houses to be built and what infrastructure can we expect? If housing is scattered across the district without large-scale developments, needed infrastructure will likely not be delivered, leaving Bromsgrove congested with through traffic and outward commuting.



to live.

One solution would be to build a new town of some 9,000 houses somewhere where the impact would be less and developers could be better held to account. One thing is certain that Bromsgrove District will never be the same again, if all these houses are to be built in what has been up to now a very nice place

Angela Rayner's promise to build 1.5 million houses by the end of this parliament is doomed to failure. Builders are not building houses as they can't sell them, and they haven't got enough builders anyway.

On that cheery note it only remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

District Councillor, Peter Whittaker.

07966 275154



Nominated Neighbour Scheme – Giving Cold Callers the Cold Shoulder



A scheme to deter cold callers and rogue traders can help neighbours work together to ward off doorstep criminals this winter.

The Nominated Neighbour Scheme uses bright yellow window stickers to show potential house callers that they will only be seen if accompanied by a known and trusted person after their identity has been verified by that

person.

All it takes is a neighbour, family friend or family member to agree to be nominated and have callers directed to them.

The scheme deters non-genuine callers, who will not want their identity to be checked.

Cllr Peter Whittaker, Bromsgrove District Council's portfolio holder for Community Safety, said: "It's that time of year when criminals and rogue traders go around posing as officials or offering fake maintenance work as a cover for rip-off work or even for distraction thefts and burglary. Sadly, this despicable behaviour can leave people including the most vulnerable members of society traumatised and out of pocket.

"Let's make it harder for them and help our neighbours, relatives and friends give cold callers the cold shoulder."

Nominated Neighbour has been warding off doorstep criminals and rogue traders since 2017, with every scheme member asked reporting significantly fewer cold callers or, in most cases, a complete stop. Here are what some scheme members have said:

"I've had no cold callers since. Prior to this I was constantly harassed by people at the door, making me feel vulnerable."

"I've had people see the sticker and go away. I definitely feel safer."

"The salespeople have stopped."

The scheme is free, as it is funded by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner to help reduce doorstep crime, and it is delivered to homes by the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership.

In addition to window stickers a pack containing useful information on keeping safe is also provided.



For further information and details of how to join the scheme please contact the Bromsgrove Community Safety team at communitysafety@bromsgrove.gov.uk or on 01527 881472.



You can find more information about Community Safety and lots of advice at <https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/residents/keeping-safe/> or follow this QR Code.

Lucy Bird

Tardebigge Relief in Need Charity



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**



Captain of the Horse to Charles I, Endymion Cannynge (Canning) would probably have been astounded to think that a donation he made in 1631, to be invested and the income used for charitable purposes, is still making a real contribution to those "In Need" locally. Together with an additional bequest from James Holyoake in 1839 these form the basis of the Charitable Trust now known as the Tardebigge Relief in Need Charity.

Income from the fund was originally used to distribute bread and blankets amongst deserving residents in the old Ecclesiastical Parish of Tardebigge. This includes the current day parishes of Batchley, Brockhill, Webheath, Bentley Pauncefoot, Tutnall, Broad Green, Cobley Hill and Hewell Grange.

The charity is administered by a Chairman, a Secretary and a group of Trustees representing the Parishes under the watchful eye of the Charity Commission. Only the dividend from the fund and not the capital sum is accessible to the Trustees, which might well explain why the charity has survived for nearly 400 years.



to her through other organisations such as Redditch Nightstop and Batchley Support Group.

The object of the Charity is the relief of persons resident in the area who are in need, hardship, distress or sickness, to relieve their suffering and assist in their recovery.

Contributions from the fund are not paid directly to individuals but to pay for goods, services or facilities supplied on their behalf. This can be done as result of an application directly to the Secretary, or





Items most frequently provided include white goods (cookers, fridge/freezers, washing machines), carpeting and occasionally clothing. Recipients have included homeless individuals, those with mental health needs or other disabilities, who have no family support.

The Trust Secretary was delighted recently to receive a *“huge thank you”* following support given to one young woman and her support worker who commented *“it’s outstanding what you and your team are able to achieve for the community”*



To Apply for assistance from this charity.

If you or anyone you know anyone in the area needs some help due to unforeseen events, contact the Parish Council, or councillors or the Charities secretary by email gail.teague@icloud.com phone 01527541991

Barry Spence, Trustee (Tardebigge Relief in Need Charity)



Meet your safer neighbourhood team

Officers can be contacted on the below numbers concerning community issues. To report a crime in progress call 999 and for non-emergencies, report online at www.westmercia.police.uk/report. If you are unable to report online, you can contact us via the 101 non-emergency number.



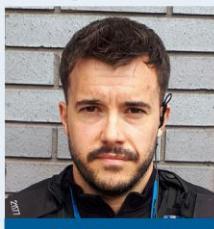


Inspector
Richard Field



Sergeant
Sonny Wright

Bromsgrove North and Rural SNT (bnr.snt@westmercia.police.uk)



PC David
Gresswell
07773 050704



PC Jasmine
Hutton
07929 783259

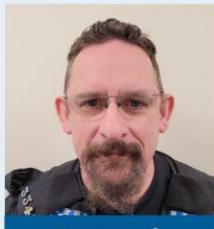


PCSO Simon
Cadwallader
07773 044333



PCSO Iain
Smith
07976 326295

Bromsgrove South and Rural SNT (bsr.snt@westmercia.police.uk)



PC Mark
Hollingworth
07773 042211



PC Dylan
Darby
07977 728202



PCSO
Jane Brothers
07773 046472

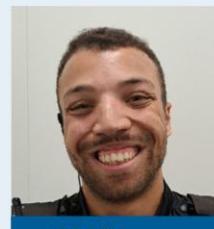


PCSO Johnathan
Evans
07970 870101

Bromsgrove Town Centre SNT (bromsgrovesj.snt@westmercia.police.uk)



PC Sean
Green
07814 285130



PC Reece
Miller
07929 800793



PCSO Joanne
Birch
07773 053940



PCSO Sharon
Wilson-Dixon
07773 053591

Information correct at date of publication (October 2025).



Sign up to receive alerts from your local policing teams www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk



ACROSS

1) Quench
 6) Beach locale
 10) Issue a caveat to
 14) Personnel director, often
 15) Sometime today
 16) Cookie brand
 17) It might be jumpin'
 20) Lay waste to
 21) When the expectant are expecting
 22) Type of whale
 23) Permitted
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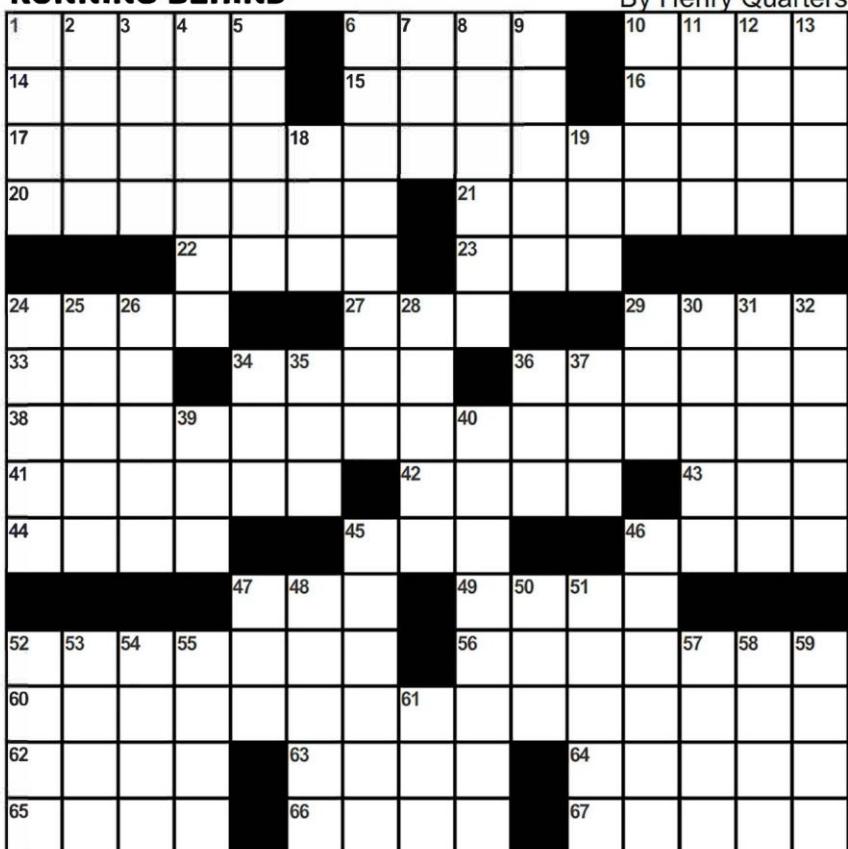
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RUNNING BEHIND

By Henry Quarters

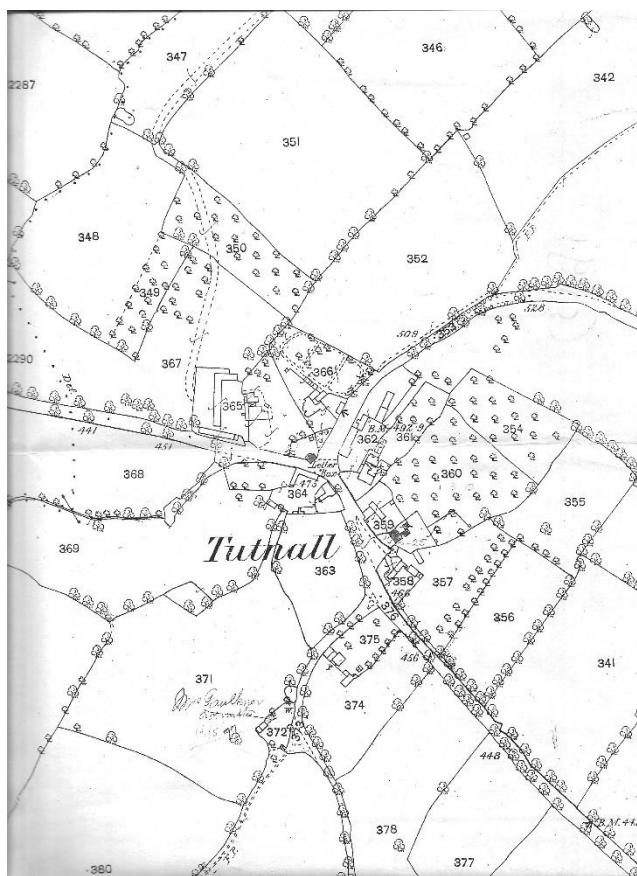


Citizens Advice Bromsgrove and Redditch: Your local Advice Charity with National Quality



When new volunteers join the Citizens Advice Service the two things that often surprise them the most, are the depth/quality of advice that we can provide, and the sheer number of clients we support.

Our service model works on providing simple, and if required, in-depth advice. Across a number of key areas including debt, benefits, housing, employment, and consumer advice. We also provide specialist support around debt (FCA regulated) and benefit appeals. If a client approaches us on a subject that we are not equipped to support on, or where someone else may be better placed to help, then we will signpost or refer the client to them. This makes us a powerful “switchboard” for anyone facing challenges.



easily find us, i.e. the Alvechurch Community larder, The Pod at Charford and the Library at Rubery, amongst others. The aim of these services is to help those who would struggle to contact us electronically, or to physically come into Bromsgrove itself. These services have proved very popular, and we are delighted with how they are developing.

Most of our advice continues to be delivered by a team of well trained and supported volunteers. They are an incredible group, and it is a real privilege to work alongside them. If you feel that you would like to help us raise that call answer rate a little bit further by joining the team, then please do reach out to us at www.cabr.org.uk/volunteering.

Last year we supported 9,747 households. Given that there are approximately 75,000 households across the two districts, this shows how critical our service is for so many people in these areas. Our demographic data also shows us working with a good spread of ages and backgrounds as well, showing how we reach across all communities.

Despite the huge number of people helped, our demand does remain incredibly high, and although we have managed to improve our call answering rate from 24% to 38%, that is still far lower than we would wish. In order to aid access, we have managed to open a small number of outreach points this year, thanks to additional support from Bromsgrove District Council.

These are located where people can





Finally, just a reminder that our service is free, independent, confidential, and impartial, but we still rely on funding to operate. As a charity, we are grateful for financial contributions from local authorities, county and parish councils—including Tutnall and Cobley Parish Council—alongside support from trusts, grants, and personal donations.



What did people ask us?

During 2025, we were asked for advice, support and help in many areas including Council Tax arrears, credit card debt, rent arrears, parking fines and fuel debts.

Those with Welfare Benefits received help with Housing Benefit, Employment Support Allowance, Personal Independence Payments (PIP), Universal Credit, Working and Tax credits.



We continue to gather evidence of injustice and hardship and use it to campaign for changes in policies and practices that affect people's lives.

Our community 'Advice First Aid' programme has trained over 220 people and 41 organisations, helping signpost those in need to the most appropriate support services, as we know that early intervention is beneficial for clients. The training is offered to the community from our Birmingham Road office

If you or someone you know needs advice, we are here for everyone. To reach us:

- **Call:** 0808 278 7890
- **Online:** www.cabr.org.uk/contact/#email-us



Useful support services



Best Start Worcestershire - The Best Start Worcestershire Website (www.worcestershire.gov.uk/beststart) brings together the wide-ranging support, information and services for expectant parents and families with babies and young children; from pregnancy to postnatal, baby /toddler groups, feeding and sleep advice, plus lots more. Please contact JWilliams4@worcestershire.gov.uk

 **Stop Loan Sharks is now on WhatsApp!** - You can now access support or report illegal money lending quickly and confidentially by messaging the team on **07700 102773**. This new service is available **Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm**, and all messages are treated in confidence.

Outside those times, you can still reach the team by calling the 24/7 helpline 0300 555 2222 or visiting stoploansharks.co.uk

Digital Drop In Sessions, Age UK - These monthly 'Digital Drop-Ins' provide a friendly space to ask questions or get problems with a Mobile Phone, Tablet or Laptop solved. The 'Drop Ins' are held on the **1st Wednesday of the month, 1.30-3.30pm** at Amphlett Hall Crown Close, Bromsgrove, B61 8DW. No need to book, residents can go along with their device and speak with one of the knowledgeable and friendly volunteers. 01527 570490 enquiries@ageuknorthworcs.org.uk or www.ageuk.org.uk/northworcs/

Bereaved by Suicide Service - now being delivered by MIND (previously Victim Support). A free and confidential service offering non-judgmental, client-led support to children, young people and adults in Herefordshire & Worcestershire who have been bereaved or affected by the suspected suicide or suicide of someone they know, or by witnessing such an event. Further information can be found at <https://cwwmind.org.uk/wor-bbs/or> or contact 01905 674202 wor.bbs@cwmind.org.uk

Healthy Worcestershire is a free health improvement programme (funded by Public Health) that offers weekly sessions that are **free** to join and cover topics such as: Improving strength and balance, supporting mental wellbeing, social activities and healthy eating. The aim is to help anyone aged over 18 who lives in the County to be active and healthy and have fun meeting new people in their neighbourhood. Residents can simply turn up on the day or they can book a place by emailing Healthy.Worcestershire@nhs.net or calling 01905 928185 or 0800 772 0307 healthyworcestershire.org.uk



MOONS OF SOLAR SYSTEM PLANETS

M W
R M I E
R I K D M Y
H I M A L I A R
B N V P H O B O S Z
G H E O W Y Y E F N K C
Q K J R L B P B G O Z E W A
B W D U E V R E M M E P P I I R
L R H E A I W H R R T R Y M A L O Y
Z E V P I Y D T R I T O N O D O A U S L
X E B I M I W T T O V A N T H A P Y N E
G M Q O A A O I N B S U I L P P Y W
D A S S L K T H Y I I V X L D O
E N C E L A D U S Z B Y K T
L R D O N R P F R O S S
Y Q M O N I Z E I I
L I S V N E A L
I E F E I L
F K D A
I C

ARIEL CALLISTO DEIMOS DIONE DYSNOMIA ENCELADUS EUROPA
HIAKA HIMALIA HYPERION MIMAS NEREID OBERON PHOBOS
RHEA THEBE TITAN TRITON VANTH WEYWOT



ACROSS

1) Quench
 6) Beach locale
 10) Issue a caveat to
 14) Personnel director, often
 15) Sometime today
 16) Cookie brand
 17) It might be jumpin'
 20) Lay waste to
 21) When the expectant are
 expecting
 22) Type of whale
 23) Permitted
 24) Certain beach bird
 27) " ___ will be done"
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RUNNING BEHIND

By Henry Quarters



January	February	March	April	May	June
1 Th New Year's Day	1 Su	1 Su	1 We	1 Fr	1 Mo 23
2 Fr	2 Mo	6 2 Mo	10 2 Th	2 Sa	2 Tu
3 Sa	3 Tu	3 Tu	3 Fr Good Friday	3 Su	3 We
4 Su	4 We	4 We	4 Sa	4 Mo Early May Bk. H.	4 Th
5 Mo	2 5 Th	5 Th	5 Su	5 Tu	19 5 Fr
6 Tu	6 Fr	6 Fr	6 Mo Easter Monday	6 We	6 Sa
7 We	7 Sa	7 Sa	7 Tu 15	7 Th	7 Su
8 Th	8 Su	8 Su	8 We	8 Fr	8 Mo 24
9 Fr	9 Mo	7 9 Mo	11 9 Th	9 Sa	9 Tu
10 Sa	10 Tu	10 Tu	10 Fr	10 Su	10 We
11 Su	11 We	11 We	11 Sa	11 Mo	20 11 Th
12 Mo	3 12 Th	12 Th	12 Su	12 Tu	12 Fr
13 Tu	13 Fr	13 Fr	13 Mo 16	13 We	13 Sa
14 We	14 Sa	14 Sa	14 Tu	14 Th	14 Su
15 Th	15 Su	15 Su	15 We	15 Fr	15 Mo 25
16 Fr	16 Mo	8 16 Mo	12 16 Th	16 Sa	16 Tu
17 Sa	17 Tu	17 Tu	17 Fr	17 Su	17 We
18 Su	18 We	18 We	18 Sa	18 Mo	21 18 Th
19 Mo	4 19 Th	19 Th	19 Su	19 Tu	19 Fr
20 Tu	20 Fr	20 Fr	20 Mo 17	20 We	20 Sa
21 We	21 Sa	21 Sa	21 Tu	21 Th	21 Su
22 Th	22 Su	22 Su	22 We	22 Fr	22 Mo 26
23 Fr	23 Mo	9 23 Mo	13 23 Th	23 Sa	23 Tu
24 Sa	24 Tu	24 Tu	24 Fr	24 Su	24 We
25 Su	25 We	25 We	25 Sa	25 Mo Spring Bank Hol.	25 Th
26 Mo	5 26 Th	26 Th	26 Su	26 Tu	22 26 Fr
27 Tu	27 Fr	27 Fr	27 Mo 18	27 We	27 Sa
28 We	28 Sa	28 Sa	28 Tu	28 Th	28 Su
29 Th		29 Su	29 We	29 Fr	29 Mo 27
30 Fr		30 Mo 14	30 Th	30 Sa	30 Tu
31 Sa		31 Tu		31 Su	
July	August	September	October	November	December
1 We	1 Sa	1 Tu 36	1 Th	1 Su	1 Tu
2 Th	2 Su	2 We	2 Fr	2 Mo 45	2 We
3 Fr	3 Mo 32	3 Th	3 Sa	3 Tu	3 Th
4 Sa	4 Tu	4 Fr	4 Su	4 We	4 Fr
5 Su	5 We	5 Sa	5 Mo 41	5 Th	5 Sa
6 Mo	28 6 Th	6 Su	6 Tu	6 Fr	6 Su
7 Tu	7 Fr	7 Mo 37	7 We	7 Sa	7 Mo 50
8 We	8 Sa	8 Tu	8 Th	8 Su	8 Tu
9 Th	9 Su	9 We	9 Fr	9 Mo 46	9 We
10 Fr	10 Mo 33	10 Th	10 Sa	10 Tu	10 Th
11 Sa	11 Tu	11 Fr	11 Su	11 We	11 Fr
12 Su	12 We	12 Sa	12 Mo 42	12 Th	12 Sa
13 Mo	29 13 Th	13 Su	13 Tu	13 Fr	13 Su
14 Tu	14 Fr	14 Mo 38	14 We	14 Sa	14 Mo 51
15 We	15 Sa	15 Tu	15 Th	15 Su	15 Tu
16 Th	16 Su	16 We	16 Fr	16 Mo 47	16 We
17 Fr	17 Mo 34	17 Th	17 Sa	17 Tu	17 Th
18 Sa	18 Tu	18 Fr	18 Su	18 We	18 Fr
19 Su	19 We	19 Sa	19 Mo 43	19 Th	19 Sa
20 Mo	30 20 Th	20 Su	20 Tu	20 Fr	20 Su
21 Tu	21 Fr	21 Mo 39	21 We	21 Sa	21 Mo 52
22 We	22 Sa	22 Tu	22 Th	22 Su	22 Tu
23 Th	23 Su	23 We	23 Fr	23 Mo	48 23 We
24 Fr	24 Mo 35	24 Th	24 Sa	24 Tu	24 Th
25 Sa	25 Tu	25 Fr	25 Su	25 We	25 Fr Christmas Day
26 Su	26 We	26 Sa	26 Mo 44	26 Th	26 Sa Boxing Day
27 Mo	31 27 Th	27 Su	27 Tu	27 Fr	27 Su
28 Tu	28 Fr	28 Mo 40	28 We	28 Sa	28 Mo Substitute day
29 We	29 Sa	29 Tu	29 Th	29 Su	29 Tu 53
30 Th	30 Su	30 We	30 Fr	30 Mo	49 30 We
31 Fr	31 Mo August Bank Hol.		31 Sa		31 Th

2026 Calendar



**Tutnall and Cobley Parish Council would like
to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

Please contact us via

tutnallandcobleypc@gmail.com

e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish

