

Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine



July 2020

allaboutombersley.com

This on-line edition replaces the hard copy, which we had to cancel due to the current coronavirus crisis. We shall inform you when it is possible to return to hard copy.

**Please retain your March issue for full advertisements!
A list of advertisers plus their contact details is at the end
of this on-line issue.**

The editors would be happy to consider publishing articles of local interest in forthcoming on-line magazines. See last page for editors' contact details.

The Parishes of Ombersley and Doverdale are two of The Worcestershire Severn Parishes comprising Elmley Lovett, Hampton Lovett, Elmbridge, Rushock, Hartlebury, Ombersley and Doverdale, a family of Church of England parishes in the Diocese of Worcester working together to share the love of God in each of their local communities.

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Thursday 10.00am – 12 noon

**If you would like to receive the Parish Magazine please contact one of
the Editorial Team. (Details at the back!)**

THE PARISH OF ST ANDREW'S OMBERSLEY
Parish News

PRAYING THE PARISH

If you have a particular need or things to be grateful for, please let us know

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Angie Randle 01905 620753 angierandle@hotmail.com

or James Homer 01299 851637 ajfhomer@btinternet.com [lay reader with pastoral responsibility for the Worcestershire Severn Parishes]



These had been forgotten for which we apologise – praying around the parish has still continue and will continue to do so

Areas for July:

Sunday 5th July – Racks Lane, Chapel Lane, Longheadland

Sunday 12th July – Uphampton, Northampton, Lineholt, Malvern View, Abberley View

Sunday 19th July – Doverdale, St Mary's Church, Sytchampton, Sytchampton School

Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council

Good neighbour Network – People make Place

Helpline for anyone in need of help during the pandemic

01905 621123

The line will be open 9.00am – 5.00pm every day
and will be manned by volunteers

Please also visit the websites:

allaboutombersley.com

or the parish council site: <https://www.odpc.co.uk>

GENERAL VILLAGE NEWS

New Typist/Magazine Layout person sought

Please volunteer for this job – it only requires a few hours each month, you don't have to be a member of the church to do it and you don't attend the editorial meetings unless you want to!

I've been doing this for 10 years now so feel it's time to hand it on to someone else to take it to the next level. Please contact me for further information.

Jane Hill hill4family@icloud.com

Ombersley Endowed First School – Playing Field Update

Thank you so much for your help so far. Currently as we go to press, we have raised £955 which is nearly 20% of our target. It would be fabulous if we could reach our target by the end of the Calor crowdfunding window which is 16th July. To do this we would love more “likes” on our page on the website and some donations would be even more appreciated.

Please support us if you can – we really do appreciate your time and support.

<https://communityfund.calor.co.uk/ombersley-school-playing-field>

Ombersley Endowed First School

Ombersley School have continued their teaching for key worker and vulnerable children and have welcomed back year 1, reception and nursery children whose parents wish them to return. Based on the government guidance for school on “bubble sizes” our school is now full until government guidelines change.

Our teachers are still providing lots of work for the children who are not in school and continue to miss them. Many schools in our pyramid have decided to give the Year 4 send off in early September as we are not able to bring in extra children on site and mix the adults present so our Year 4 children will be receiving a gift from school delivered to their homes this term. We wish them well in their new schools.

Let's see what September brings but it will be a new start and a new school year!

Ombersley Book Exchange in St Andrews Church

This has had to move! We now have a box with a selection of books on the bench in the Lychgate please do use it as a 'bookshelf'. We will bring more out from the Church as needed, but we are happy for exchanges or donations of books. There is a jar for donations of money as well. Enjoy this time for extra reading.

Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council

Details of future meetings, together with agendas and minutes from Parish Council meetings and a series of other useful information can be found on the Parish Council's website – www.odpc.co.uk
The Clerk's contact details are also provided should you need to contact him.



Ombersley & Doverdale Tennis Club

has re-opened for play!

We are following strict Government & LTA Guidelines
Play is only permitted on the following basis:

- Pre-book your court
- Members of the same family
- Singles where Members are not from the same family
 - 1-1 Coaching
 - Clubhouse closed

For more information on how to book your Court, book a Public Court or take advantage of a special 'Half Yearly Membership' visit our website

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ombersleydoverdaletennisclub>

Keep active, stay healthy, play tennis at Ombersley & Doverdale
Tennis Club!

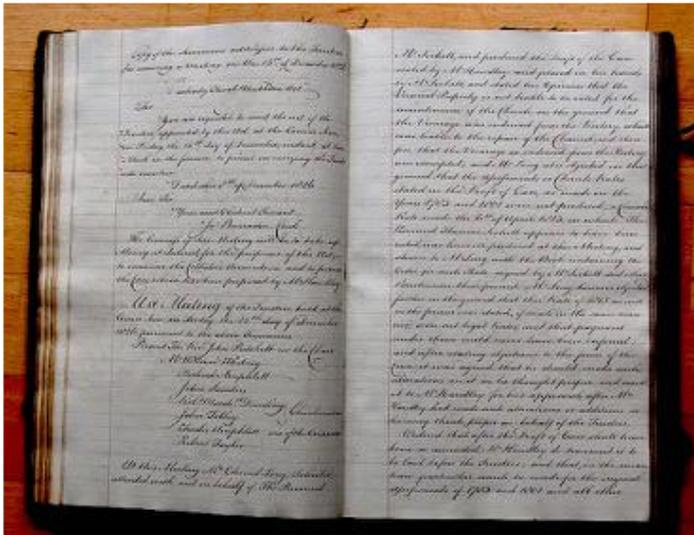
Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

This term has been an incredibly challenging term for our families and local community. However, we have rallied together and supported each other through the school closure. We have risen to the challenge and as a result are closer as a community. The staff have been working with pupils and families through an online learning platform, which has enabled us to have virtual conversations about work and learning. The response has been incredible, and we, as school, would like to thank our parents and carers for working so hard to support their children with their learning at this time, especially as many of our parents and carers are also trying to work from home. Teachers at the school have also been recording daily stories for pupils, PE sessions and weekly Assemblies, which we have shared through our new school Facebook page. Some of the assemblies have included themes like 'Rainbows' and we have even had a 'Sytchampton's Got Talent' assembly. They are well worth a look, as they are really uplifting!

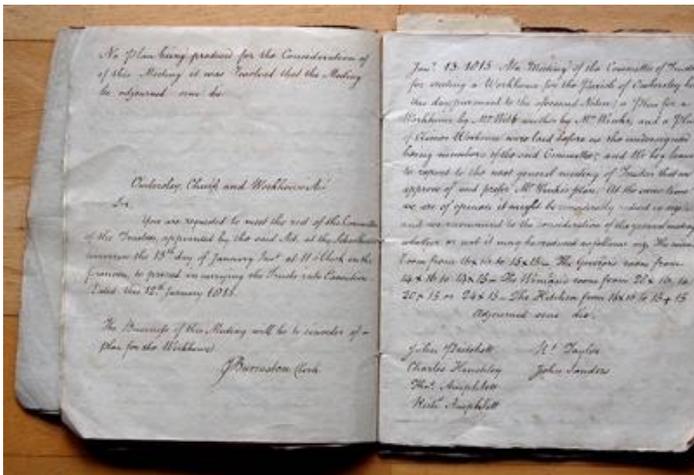
Now we are entering the next phase of the Government's plan for releasing the lockdown. We have worked tirelessly to create a safe and nurturing learning environment so that our pupils can return to school reassured and happy. We will begin to welcome our pupils back to school from 8th June, whilst still providing care for the Critical Worker and vulnerable pupils and will slowly widen our opening to other year groups, enabling us to take a cautious and measured approach. The staff are so excited about seeing the children again and we are very much looking forward to a time when we can all be back in school together.

Ombersley Church and Workhouse – a Shaky Start but a Happy Ending

An Act of Parliament in 1814 authorised the building of a workhouse in Ombersley and the rebuilding of the Parish Church, which was in a dangerous state of decay. The Act stipulated that a Board of Trustees should be responsible for carrying out the work, and these should be the Marchioness Dowager of Downshire (Baroness Sandys), the Vicar (Thomas Sockett), the serving churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor plus twenty-eight named worthy local individuals.



Joseph Burraston's Minute Book;
1814-1829



Joseph Burraston's Notebook

The Trustees were empowered to appoint successors, but to qualify, these successors had to be in receipt of rents amounting to £100 a year, or have a personal wealth of at least £2,000. The Trustees were given wide powers to raise money for the project by various means, including the taking out of loans, issuing bonds and levying Parish Rates.

The Trustees lost no time in appointing Joseph Burraston, the Ombersley schoolmaster, to act as clerk. We are fortunate to have his minute book – 173 pages of closely penned copperplate hand writing covering the years 1814 to 1829 – allowing some insight into the progress of the project.

The project got off to a slow start. At the first business meeting in November 1814, three plans for a new church were tabled; a decision on the preferred version was left to the Marchioness. Matters relating to the workhouse were quickly delegated to a sub-committee, and no further reference to them appears in the minutes for nearly three years. However, a surviving notebook of Joseph Burraston, indicates that the sub-committee did actually have some meetings, mostly aimed at reducing the size and cost of the proposed building.

As for the Church, nothing happened until July 1816, at which point the steeple on the old Church was in danger of falling. The Trustees borrowed 50 guineas to pay Mr Oakes to take the steeple down.

In October 1818, the Trustees voted (with one dissenting voice) that “*on account of the great expenses which the Parish has sustained ... by reason of the Inclosure and the making of roads*” the building of the Church should be postponed. On learning this, the Bishop of Worcester was most displeased, and wrote to the Trustees, essentially telling them to get on with it without delay. The Marchioness sought legal advice, and Counsel’s opinion was that the Trustees had acted beyond their powers in passing the resolution, which thus had no effect.

At the following Trustees’ meeting the acting chairman argued that the parish ratepayers could not afford the cost; the existing Church was a handsome building and it could be repaired, and in any case there were moves afoot to repeal the 1814 Act. However, a majority wished to proceed with the project. The chairman and a number of other trustees promptly resigned (the minutes state “*quitted the room ... and on being applied to, declined to return*”).

Despite all this, events still moved slowly. In late 1824, John Tolley, Ombersley Churchwarden, was at a meeting of churchwardens of the Diocese in Worcester Cathedral. He was invited to report on the state of the Parish Church; “The same as for the last twenty years” he said. At this there was anger, and threats

were made of possible legal proceedings against the churchwardens, who might face substantial fines for dereliction of duty.

This galvanised the Trustees into action. Within a few months Thomas Rickman had been engaged to organise the building of the new Church according to the plans he had submitted to the Marchioness years before.

At a meeting on 19th August 1825 an agreement between the Marchioness and leading parishioners made eleven years previously in January 1814 (that she would erect and complete a new Church if they paid her £7000 and gave her all the materials from the old Church) was ratified. The Trustees raised funds by issuing bonds paying 4½% interest, and levied a parish rate of three shillings in the pound, the maximum permitted under the 1814 Act.

A year later John Whitney and John Leek submitted competitive quotes for the construction of the workhouse at £835 and £1001 1s. 3d., respectively. John Whitney was awarded the contract, and it was finished within nine months.

The Church building was completed in June 1828. At a meeting on the 11th of the month it was resolved that “*the best acknowledgments of the Trustees are due and are hereby offered to Messrs Rickman and Hutchinson for the ability, taste, correctness and attention with which the handsome new Church designed by them has been erected.*”

The recasting of three of the bells, installation of the organ and completion of interior fittings plus the building of the churchyard wall took a further year. The Church was consecrated by the Bishop of Worcester on 22nd June 1829. A surviving Order of Service booklet bears the anonymous handwritten note “*a highly gratifying ceremony*”.

Robert Thornton, June 2020

LEISURE TIME

***“What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.”***

I often used to think of this famous quotation by the Welsh poet, W.H.Davies, when we were all busy living active and often stressful existences in the so-called “Rat-Race” of our times. It was therapeutic if, only occasionally, you stopped what you were doing and took time to look around you to absorb the wonders of nature. Aptly, these opening lines of poetry are taken from William Henry Davies’ poem entitled “Leisure”. Now that we have recently enjoyed more time on our hands, enforced by the current lock-down, there has been plenty of opportunity for quiet reflection on what is going on around us.

Whilst being “confined to barracks”, I have been intrigued by the vast variety of birds and birdsong in the garden. My RSPB pocket book of British Birds has been well-thumbed and, admittedly, I have felt a bit ashamed at my lack of knowledge.

A lovely, little Jenny Wren has been making her nest in the Pyracantha bush by our front porch. I wondered why it was called a “Jenny” Wren and on looking it up, discovered that many personal names were given to birds in the Middle Ages. The Jackdaw was originally a Daw, the Magpie was a Pie and Robin and Martin were two examples of other names used. So it was that the Jenny Wren got its name. The Wren, sacred to the Druids, was considered “supreme among all birds” and its musical notes were used for divine purposes. I was under the impression that the wren was Britain’s smallest bird, but apparently not: the Firecrest is deemed the smallest and the wren the shortest. Those of us old enough to remember the Farthing will recall the wren’s appearance on our smallest British coin.

Many things which we previously took for granted, are no longer accessible to us: but many things just went unnoticed before.

W.H.Davies ended his poem with the following line:-

*“A poor life this is if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.”
Yes, it would, indeed, be a poor life!*

Valerie Harris

King John ... was not a good man



*He had his little ways.
And sometimes no one spoke to him
For days and days and days.
And men who came across him,
When walking in the town,
Gave him a supercilious stare,
Or passed with noses in the air –
And bad King John stood dumbly there,
Blushing beneath his crown.*

Thus wrote A. A. Milne, the author of *Winnie the Pooh*. His poem about John was based on a reputation handed down over the years after a monastic chronicler had written scathingly about John not long after he'd died in 1216.

John was the last of King Henry II & Eleanor of Aquitaine's eight children. At the time he stood little chance of inheriting the throne of England. But his oldest brother, Henry, died aged 28 of disease in 1183; Geoffrey, another brother, died whilst jousting in 1186 but he left a young son, Arthur, who also had a claim to the throne; Richard came to the throne on the death of his father in 1189 but when he died in 1199, John inherited the throne of England, Normandy, Anjou & Brittany but not Aquitaine, since his entitled mother was still alive at the time.

John was born in 1166 in the Tower of London, a Norman Palace at the time, and then educated at Fontevraud Abbey in the Loire, not in the skills of becoming a warrior ... after all, with three older brothers, he was very unlikely to succeed ... but with a more general education including Latin & administration. John was not necessarily a very nice person: he had a ferocious temper & was spiteful; he also had 12 illegitimate children by 8 different women including Baron's wives & daughters. However, he could be genial, witty & generous with ability as a good administrator who kept detailed records throughout his seventeen year reign, this after his brother, Richard the Lionheart, had all but bankrupted England during his reign. {Incidentally, the Robin Hood stories were written hundreds of years after John died, so whilst they are enjoyable, they are certainly not factual.}

John had a penchant for falling out with powerful people the **first** of which was the French king, **Philippe II**. Why? John had been married to Isabel of Gloucester but they'd had no children. Of course, it was the woman's fault not being able to produce children but more importantly for not producing sons, and as king he needed an heir. So, on grounds of consanguinity ... being too closely related, a convenient excuse at the time ... their marriage was annulled in 1200.

John then met and all but snatched a 12-year old girl called Isabella d'Angouleme who was about to be married to one, Hugh le Brun in France. Hugh was indignant at this and so went to the court of Philippe II to seek redress. Philippe demanded that John come to the French Court to explain himself and offer recompense which he refused to do, not recognising its jurisdiction. As John's continental overlord, Philippe then decided to sequester all John's lands to the west of what was then the kingdom of France. In trying to regain his territories, John fought Philippe but only had one major success at Mirabeau when he captured Arthur, the young son of his deceased brother, Geoffrey, who'd died before John came to the throne. John then had Arthur, a potential rival for the English throne, killed and his body thrown into the Seine.

By the way, John was given the nickname **sans terre** {yes, the Plantagenets (**plante genet** ≈ broom plant) were a French speaking family who came from the Loire} not because he lost the lands on the Continent, but by his father, who earlier, after doling out territories to his other sons, found there was nothing left for his youngest son. Thus, he gave John this nickname which of course translates as '**lack land**'.

The **second** person John fell out with was **Pope Innocent III**, over the appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury in 1205. John wanted John de Gray; the Pope, in agreement with all the English bishops, wanted Stephen Langton. After several years of an Interdict and then Excommunication, John eventually acceded to Papal Overlordship and all restrictions were lifted.

The **third** group of people John fell out with were the **Barons**. Mind you, the Barons had a history of falling out with kings even from the time of William the Conqueror. They wanted more authority and felt that John had too much, especially regarding his tax demands - so, what's new? - hence the imposition of **Magna Carta** in 1215, known then as the **Articles of the Barons**. When John, with the support of his former opponent, Pope Innocent III, reneged on the 'deal' a few weeks later, the Barons invited the French king to invade

England. Instead he sent his son, Prince Louis, with a large army who, in 1216, occupied most of the country ... incidentally this is the last time the French have ever invaded England.



John, whilst skirting round the French Army in East Anglia, contracted an illness at Swineshead Abbey, this after losing the Crown Jewels in the Wash, and died at Newark in October 1216. On his deathbed he'd requested burial in Worcester Cathedral, a place to which he'd come quite often to worship at the shrine of St Wulfstan, hence the location of his tomb.

Howard Robinson

From the Archive

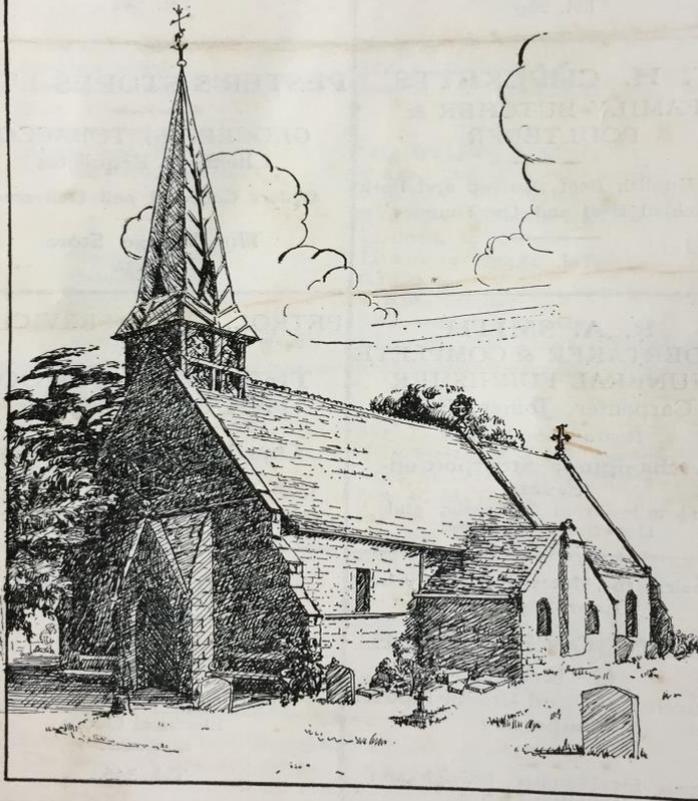
A Railway for Ombersley?

November 1899; The Ombersley Parish Magazine printed the following report from the Parish Council

The following resolution was moved. "That with a view to giving to the people and products of the parish improved access to the important towns of Worcester, Kidderminster, Stourbridge, Dudley and Birmingham, application be made to the British Electric Traction Co., to extend to Ombersley and Worcester their systems of Electric Light Railways at present working between Stourport and Kidderminster. Should this scheme be carried out, it will undoubtedly assist the fruit growers and market gardeners very considerably, as getting produce to the railway is one of the chief obstacles with which they have to contend. It is hoped that the resolution passed may take some definite shape in the near future."

Oops! Something's wrong here?

OMBERSLEY WITH DOVERDALE
REVIEW



St. Andrew

JANUARY, 1957

FOURPENCE

Were you at Ombersley school in 1951?

Were you in Mrs Watkins' Class or Mrs Styles Class or have a sibling there? We published the photos last month – please have a look and help Arthur Turner fill in the gaps! This month we finish off the photos for completeness – We have all the names for Mr Brooking's Class but there are 2 gaps for Mr Styles' class



Row (1 back) L to R: Mr T Styles, Janet Sapsford, Carole Rushton, John Goodhall, Graham Warner, Josie Betts, Peter Griffiths, Sheila Hemming, Andy Wade

Row (2) Susan Wood, Brian Baker, Jean Taylor, George Barnett, Joyce Cook, Gwynne James, May Harper, Charlie Spragg, Mr C Brooking

Row (3) Cynthia Gaddard, Derek Hines, Jean Harrison, Mike Keating, Derek Sanders, Philip James, Eileen Pearson, Trevor Weston, Dan Keating

Row (4) Mike Prosser, Eileen Hobbs, Alan Harper, Douglas Rhodes, Sheila Tidmarsh, Eileen Hayes, Alwyn Sanders, Jill Styles, Rosemary Taylor, Rhona Flemming



Row (1 – back) L to R Derek Hayes, Albert Baker, James Wilesmith,
Pam Sanders, Jenny Stevens
Row (2) ??, John Stevens, Marion Cooper, Mary Biddle, Rosemary
Passey, Thelma Cadwallader, Dorothy Sykes, Mr T Styles
Row (3) Colin Minton, Billy Burton, John Green, Gordon Hayes, Stan
Ballard, Arther Turner, Ivor Ellaway, Les Goodhall
Row (4) Brian Fell, John Rushton, Bob Goddard, Pauline Goddard,
Gladys Monk, Doris Sykes, ??, Jenny Harper, Doug Moule

Greetings

We used to greet each other on our way
But now we turn, avoid each other's eyes
Good Morning was a friendly thing to say.

A smile's not difficult to start the day
just take those headphones off, give it a try
We used to greet each other on our way.

We all need space to be, but come what may
Stretch out an arm to help the folk who sigh
Good Morning is a friendly thing to say.

Life's too short if there's no time to stay
And ask "How's things? The day is fine and dry"
We used to greet each other in this way.

So let's embrace each other and I pray
That we will learn to love not judge or spy.
Good Morning is a friendly thing to say.

Let's find our future as we learn to lay
Our kind hands open with no need to pry
We need to greet each other on our way
Good morning is a friendly thing to say.

©Claire Gathercole
July 2018

On my village morning walk

Sometimes A great tit sings his heart out
from the top branch of a tree
sometimes I meet Ebony, rescued by Beryl
with his tail wagging welcome
sometimes I wave to Jim on his motor buggy
as he wends his cheerful way
sometimes I speak to Roy on his walk to or from
Jukes to collect his newspaper
sometimes Doreen and I make each other laugh
as we discuss the heat or cold and
how much we each need to wear

sometimes Michael crosses the road ahead of me
and distancing ourselves from each
other, we ask, "How's things?"
always either Ian or Emma at Jukes pass our
papers to us at a distance with a
welcoming smile and offers of help
always they will try to get our daily needs and
the wine or bar of chocolate we crave
then there's those who need to come in cars and
they toot or wave as they drive past
then there's those who cycle now for exercise
as they fetch their newspapers
best of all most people now wave or smile
or stop for a distanced talk
and I realise COVID 19 has done something very special
for us all. We are greeting each other
we care about each other and
we've become a Village once again.

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Advertisers in the Magazine for 2020

Please see adverts in previous copies of the magazine.....

All-inc-Cars – taxi service – 01905 826261 / 07739 109590
Amba Legal Services – Will writers – 01299 251442 / 07966 053887
Andy Johnson – chimney sweep – 01886 821933 / 07798 790913
AS Locks & Services – 01905 726671 / 07956 371673

Bedwardine Funeral Services – 01905 748811
Best of British Garden Services – 01886 889070 / 07983 351634
Bluebird Care (Worcester & Wychavon) – home care – 01386 764830
Bowbrook Gardens – landscaping etc. – 01905 937852 / 07792
613020

CT Building of Ombersley – 01905 620942 / 07973 663442
Catkins Cattery – 01299 250472
Creative Landscapes – 01299 250720

Doorbars – chartered surveyors/land agents – 01905 27288
Droitwich Gymphobics – 01905 312424

E J Gumery & Son – funeral directors – 01905 22094

Eclipse Home Care – 01905 641070

Elite Marquees – 07958 288510

Elite Sweeps – sweep/log burners – 01905 700701 / 07712 220671

Evergreen Beauty – facials/manicures etc. – 01886 887867 / 07900 492604

Fisher Bodyshop – car body repairs – 01299 333131

Forever Living Products – health/skin care – 01905 620318 / 07906 701589

Graham Pugh – decorating/carpentry – 01905 621147 / 07967 883121

Green Thumb – lawn care – 01905 840740

I & S Stoves – woodburning stoves etc. – 01886 812452

Ian Palmer Property Maintenance – painting etc. – 07715 043188

Iona Bed & Breakfast – 07969 184127

J & S Trade Supplies – double glazing etc. – 01886.888024 / 07966 804007

Jack Hobbs – milkman – 01905 455336

Jeremy Billingham TV Aerials – 01905 799152 / 07850 969307

Jonathan Sproule & Sons Ltd – 07973 445048 / 07976 826065

Julie Davis – mobile hair stylist – 01905 427704 / 07977 590087

Karol Kleen – carpet/upholstery cleaning – 01299 404275

Kings School Hawford – 01905 451292

Me Time Pilates – 07791 873870

MG Domestic Heating – 07870 498879

Mick Miles – gardening/pest control – 01905 620394 / 07732 223825

Mobile Podiatry/Chiropody – 07989 964854

Oldfields of Ombersley – country/equestrian – 01905 622295

Ombersley Dental Practice – 01905 621881

Ombersley Golf Club – 01905 620747 (restaurant 01905 620621)

Ombersley Memorial Hall – 07936 467390

Oven Magic – 01905 700500

Phillip Serrell Auctions – 01684 892314

Re-Upholstery & Repair Services – 01584 881227

W Roberts Tree Care & Landscaping – 01299 250664 / 07772 456692

S J M Locksmith Services – 01905 570999 / 07871 442011

SMB Electrical Solutions – 01905 428892 / 07917 182945

Steve Birch Cleaning – carpets/upholstery – 01562 754750 / 07815 771345

Steve George of Ombersley – landscaping etc. – 01905 621427 / 07745 597050

Studio Smith Architects – 01905 622373 / 07921 623709

Sympathy Flowers and Teas – 01905 620937 / 01905 620076

Sytchampton Community Centre – 01905 620943

T M Shouler – carpentry/joinery – 01905 620374 / 07900 268075

Taylor & Co Architects – 01905 621600 / 07831 146738

Top Cut Mowing Services – 01905 621 858 / 07802 717057

Town & Country Stonemasons – memorials etc. – 01905 759191 / 07774 198968

Whitlenghe Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669

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