



Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**December
2023 –
January
2024**



This on-line edition supports the printed version.

Please see the printed issue for full advertisements.

A list of advertisers plus their contact details is at the end of this on-line issue.



Severn Parishes Service Rota December 2023 & January 2024

December 3rd	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Advent Service	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
December 10th	9.00am	HC-CW	Rushock
	10.00am	FS	Ombersley
	10.30am	MP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Hampton Lovett
December 17th	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	11.00am	Carol Service	Doverdale
	4.00pm	Carol Service	Ombersley
	4.00pm	Carol Service	Hartlebury
	6.30pm	Carol Service	Elmley Lovett
December 24 th Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Crib Service	Rushock
	4.00pm	Christingle Service	Hartlebury
	6.00pm	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	7.00pm	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	11.00pm	Midnight HC	Ombersley
	11.00pm	Midnight HC	Rushock
December 25 th Christmas Day	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmley Lovett
	10.30am	HC-BCP or MP	Doverdale
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	10.30am	FS	Ombersley
December 31st	Service on ZOOM		

January 7 th 2024	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
January 14 th	9.00am	HC-CW	Rushock
	10.00am	FS	Ombersley
	10.30am	MP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
January 21 st	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	MP	Hartlebury
	10.00am	MP	Ombersley
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
	6.00pm	Evensong	Hampton Lovett
January 28 th	9.00am	HC-BCP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
February 4 th	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	10.30am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley

HC Holy Communion; CW common Worship; BCP Book of Common Prayer; FS Family Service;

MP Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer, 9.15am: 20th December at Ombersley; 3rd January at Doverdale

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the February Magazine by

Wednesday 10th January

Parish Register: St Andrew's Church

Baptism

October 6th	Polly Jane Harrison
-------------	---------------------

Interment of Ashes

26th October	Robert Edward Dodd
--------------	--------------------

Rota for St Andrew's Church

Date	Service	Sidespeople	Intercessor	Lector
Dec 3rd	HC-CW	Louise & Mark Tarleton-Hodgson	Stephen Winter	Anthony Hughes
Dec 10th	FS	Hazel Smith, Judy Baer	-	-
Dec 17th	Carol Service	Angie Randall, Claire Gathercole	-	Various
Dec 24 th	HC-CW	Jane Hill, Fiona Davies	Stephen Winter	Chris Day
Dec 25th	FS	Gail & Philip Filer	-	-
Dec 31st	HC-CW	Streamed Zoom Service		
Jan 7th	HC-CW	Lynne Hunter, Jenny Ransome	Stephen Winter	Claire Gathercole
Jan 14th	FS	Meg & James Martineau	-	-
Jan 21st	MP	Maureen Callow, Marjorie Workman	Liz Hooper	Jenny Batelen
Feb 4th	HC-CW	Tony Checketts, Jenny Batelen	Stephen Winter	David Wood

Holy Dusters

December 1st	Pernilla Asplen, Jeanette Horn
December 15th*	Liz Hooper, Heather Barningham, Marjorie Workman
December 22nd	Fiona Davies, Pernilla Asplen, Jeanette Horn
January 5 th	Liz Hooper, Heather Barningham
January 19th	Myra Cowdrey, Fiona Davies
February 2nd	Marjorie Workman, Pernilla Asplen

*After 11am

If you'd like to help, please ring Liz 01905 630837 or Fiona 01905 621176

Flowers

	Pedestal	Porch
November 10th	Heather Barningham	Julie Hall & Sue Arnold
November 24th	Jan Berry	Ann Dorn
Thursday 14 th December from 2pm: Christmas Decorations		
Friday 5 th January from 10am: Remove Christmas Decorations.		
January 5th	TBA	TBA
January 19th	TBA	Maureen Callow
February 2nd	TBA	TBA

Note: Monday 12th February – remove flowers for Lent. No flowers until Easter.

Thursday 7th March: Flower Arrangers' Meeting at 2pm.

If you'd like to help, the flower rota is posted on the notice board in the Narthex; please sign up or contact Jane Hill if you want any information or come to the meeting on March 7th: hill4family@icloud.com or 01905 620192.

Rector's Thoughts

*Reverend Stephen Winter
Rector of St. Andrew's, Ombersley and St
Mary's, Doverdale (and five other
churches in the Benefice)*



"So here it is, Merry Christmas!" and even as I write these words, that I am sure are familiar to you all, I do so in the knowledge that Noddy Holder, the man who made them famous, is currently being treated for cancer. As a near neighbour to us as a Black Country man, we think of him and his family in our prayers.

In these troubled times there are words that are read in our churches each year at Christmas, up and down the land, that mean an awful lot to me.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never put it out."

If you have ever lit a single candle in a darkened room you will notice that it changes the atmosphere of the room in a way that switching on a light cannot do. Recently we lit candles for those who have died in the last two years in church services in Ombersley and Elmley Lovett. I know, as I spoke with people who attended those services, that lighting the candles had a powerful effect on them and a number of them told me that they light candles when they visit churches. So do I. I light them for the people that I especially love and for the troubles of the world.

I have already spoken about one moment in the Christmas services that especially moves me. That moment comes in the Christmas Service of Holy Communion and we read those words on Christmas night. Another comes in a Christingle Service when everyone who attends is given an orange to symbolise the world with a candle that is placed in it. I have been involved in Christingle services in many different places, including cathedrals and small churches, for many years now, and when the moment comes when the candles are lit and the lights are turned down something magical happens. I feel it myself and I see it in the faces of children and their families who have come to the service.

And that leads me to my last point. One of the sadnesses of growing older is that so many of us lose our childhood sense of wonder and delight. Then Christmas comes along once again and for a moment we remember. I recall hearing the distinguished psychiatrist, Professor Anthony Clare, say that if he wanted a quick way to find out a person's current state of mind he asked them about their memories of Christmas.

But what we tend to do is to ask our children and grandchildren to carry that sense of wonder and delight on our behalf. We say things like, "Christmas is for children" and we are partly right. I even find myself saying things like that, or at least I feel them. But I wonder if one of the big problems in the world right now is that we do not think that wonder and delight have anything to do with the adult world. They are just for children.

So, I want to challenge you to try this spiritual practice this year, at the very darkest time of year. When you go to a Nativity Play or Carol Service, Christingle, Family Service or Holy Communion and a moment comes when you recall a childhood memory, or are touched by your children or grandchildren, or by the singing of a favourite carol, or a magical moment of any kind, don't just let it go by but stop a while. Lean into your feelings, whatever they are. Take notice of them so that you can come back to them later.

And make sure that you do come back to them from time to time. Let those feelings start to do their work in your hearts. And then, I promise you, the light that shines in the darkness, that the darkness that can never put out, will start to burn more brightly in your heart too.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

RETIREMENT OF OUR RECTOR, REV. STEPHEN WINTER

I will be 70 years old in February 2025 and I have noted in recent months that I don't have the energy that I once had, even when I took up this appointment in 2018. I have long held the view that I should leave while people still want me to stay and not stay until people start to think that it is time for me to go! There is a place for respected elder statesmen and women, but it should not be in the main job.

So, I will be retiring at the end of August in 2024 and my last Sunday services will be on Sunday 25th August.

Laura and I live in our own home and not in a vicarage and so we look forward to remaining a part of your lives in the future, but our formal connection to the Worcestershire Severn Parishes will end at that point.

Stephen Winter

St Andrew's News

www.st-andrews.church www.achurchnearyou.com

It is now that cold, dark time of year where a light in the window and warm place to sit becomes much more important and appreciated. We are fortunate that we now have warm seats in church, as the pew heaters have been fitted, and there will be a heater in the loo and food prep area! Bliss! We have also just had the seals on the south upper windows re-done as we had had a couple leaking in the hefty storms this Autumn.

For those who don't have this warmth and light we will be raising funds Carol Singing in the village on December 19th and collecting for Maggs Day Centre and St Pauls Hostel in Worcester.

Just as we were thinking all in the garden is lovely we have a problem with the Tenor Bell in the tower! Some of you will have noticed the clock chimes were sounding odd. The Bell has had its clapper removed and we have had to stop the clock. All the bells will be inspected toward the end of November and a way forward on removing and repairing the Tenor Bell will be decided. Not surprisingly this will come at a price, and will require permission from the Diocese before we proceed, which will take some time. Until that time our sterling team of ringers will keep going on the remaining five bells.

We are looking forward to the Christmas season starting on Dec 3rd, which is Advent Sunday this year when our Mary, Joseph and Donkey figures (the Posada) will be blessed and start their journey around the Parish. Owl Hill Farm Park are hosting our Nativity story with real animals and singing....and hot chocolate and mince pies on Tuesday 12th at 4.15pm. There's no charge but you leave feeling 'good'.

Ombersley School service on the morning of Dec 15th

A Traditional Carol service on the 17th at 4pm

Carol Singing in the village on the 19th

Christmas Eve 'midnight' service at 11pm

Then Happy Christmas!! 10.30 Family Service

Creative Coffee: Thursday 7th December – a Coffee Morning, craft stall, handbells and refreshments and a chance to 'chat and do' if you fancy. Funds raised will support Crisis at Christmas and St Andrew's.

We will then have a break over Christmas and start back on Thursday January 4th at 10.30am. We meet in the Narthex at the back of the church and welcome anyone so please drop in and say Hello. If you have ideas of crafts or projects you would like to try, meet people or chat over tea or coffee call Fiona (01905 621176) for more information.

'Stay and Play' for 0-3 years, Monday mornings from 9.30 to 11am, £2 (*not Bank Holidays*). If interested, please email stayandplayombersley@outlook.com or call 07837928531. We are open to everyone, so do come along. There are various toys and play areas, and a chance for a drink and a chat with circle songs at the end. We will finish 2023 on December 18th with our Christmas Session and start 2024 on January 8th.

Bible Reading Discussion Group: 7pm on December 4th and January 8th. Please just come along if you are interested, or ring Richard on 07496 850192.

Happy New Year!

We hope 2024 will bring its own joys for you all and we hope a major Charity Concert! Keep your eyes peeled!

Fiona Davies and Chris Day
Church Wardens

ECO BRONZE AWARD



At St Andrew's, we are pleased to tell you that we have been awarded the bronze award for our efforts to become a more sustainable church. This has taken a while - but looking at what we have done to achieve this shows a change of mindset and an awareness of our responsibility to care for God's creation. It is now quite normal for us to sing hymns, include prayers and spend time thinking about our response to the climate crisis, plastic pollution and rubbish management across the world. When planning and

investing in building improvements the sustainable options are always considered. Our care for the churchyard is beginning to allow more wildlife to flourish and we are increasing our awareness of the global issues. We hope that as part of this community we might encourage you to think about these issues more and put in place mitigating factors to help ensure there is a beautiful planet for all to enjoy in the future. We hope it's not too long before we can report that we have achieved the silver award.

PRAYING ROUND THE PARISH

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

Rev Stephen Winter 07773 760899 mail@stephenwinter.net

Angie Randle 01905 620753 angierandle@hotmail.com

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



Areas for December:

Sunday 3rd December – Lincomb, The Winnalls, Acton, Mount Pleasant

Sunday 10th December – Sandys Road, Wellington Road, Chestnut Walk, The Hamptons

Sunday 17th December – Main Road North, Oakfield Road, Woodhall Lane/Close, Faber Orchard, Deans Walk

Sunday 24th December – Families represented by all in our community

Sunday 31st December - Clergy, lay readers and PCCs

Areas for January:

Sunday 7th January – Haye Lane, Oldfield Lane

Sunday 14th January – Main Road South, Church Lane, Hill Top, Ombersley Court

Sunday 21st January – Chatley, Woodfield, Hadley and Hunt Green

Sunday 28th January – Those who have moved into the parish

If you would like a place of quiet to pray, or think, or just rest, St Andrew's Church is open every day from 10am.



www.st-andrews.church

St Andrew's Services & Events this Christmas



Thursday 7th Dec 10.30am – 12.30pm (in church)

Christmas Celebrations with St Andrew's
Creative Coffee & Handbells Groups



Tuesday 12th December 4.15 for 4.30pm
Share the Christmas Story with
the Animals at Little Owl Farm Park

www.littleowlfarmpark.co.uk



Sunday 17th December 4pm
The Carol Service (in church)

Tuesday 19th December at around 6pm (TBC)
COME CAROL SINGING AT LORD HILL GDNS & FABER ORCHARD

Christmas Eve 11pm
A Service of Holy Communion
for Christmas Eve



Christmas Day 10.30am
An Informal Service,
Carols & Story
for Christmas Morning



ROVING REPORTER

A TIME OF JOY AND REFLECTION

- Pumpkins - A new use for all the pumpkins and squash from Halloween. Why not cook them into a purée and give as a vitamin enriched supplement for your dog! One teaspoon of cooked pumpkin purée per 10lbs weight of dog given every other day. NB: ALWAYS check with your vet first before giving this puree to your pet.
- Ombersley Play Area will be having a little refurbishment over the next two months (weather permitting). Please be patient if you see a sign saying it is closed. Hopefully it will be ready for the New Year.
- The Hadley Bowling Monday Club held its end-of-season dinner on October 30th. The 2023 Singles Shield was awarded to Richard Standen of Ombersley and the Doubles Trophy to Mike Lovatt of Ladywood and Dick Buxton of Hartlebury. The 2024 season will open after the clocks change next Spring. Membership enquiries to David Brownridge at vernhouse@btinternet.com
- The recent Quiz night held on October 28th at OMH raised a magnificent sum of £1,329 plus 3 boxes of food for Droitwich Food Bank. Over 80 people attended and enjoyed a fun evening with delicious fish and chips. A Huge thank you to the organisers.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- Crafts with Chimes – Thursday December 7th 10.30am-12.30pm in St. Andrew's Church Narthex. A time to maybe try a new skill on the Chimes or simply have some delicious cake and coffee and browse through the crafts that will be on sale.
- Carols with the Animals at Little Owl Farm on Tuesday 12th December, 4.15pm for 4.30pm. FREE ENTRY and refreshments. Everyone Welcome!
- Children's Christmas Movie Matinee on December 16th at 2.30pm - 'Polar Express' in Ombersley Memorial Hall. Adults are FREE, Children £5. See advert in magazine for full details.

- Have you considered becoming a Volunteer Defibrillator Guardian within the village? – contact the Doctors' surgery or PPG chair John Cope on wjaycee82@gmail.com
- Bring in the New Year by watching our Blockbuster Movie on January 13th starring Tom Cruise. Mission Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part 1 - further details elsewhere in the magazine.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND A HEALTHY AND FUN-FILLED NEW YEAR

If you are planning any special event either as an individual or as a club, or have any snippets of local news please email Diane at maxdiane@outlook.com

Parish Magazine Subscription

The subscription for 10 issues in 2024 remains at £6. Please give the money (cash only) to your distributor either before or when the February magazine is delivered.

The magazine is subsidised by advertising so please continue to support the businesses that advertise with us.



ART CLASSES 🎨

- Creativity for all
- No experience needed

JUBILEE ROOM in the Memorial Hall Ombersley (rear entrance) 10am - 1pm

- use any medium you like & bring a canvas, board or paper, brushes & paints, flat pallet etc

Exploring composition and having fun; Sketch book supplied; Ideas for making cards and lots more!

Session 1: Thursday mornings: 10am - 1pm; 18th & 25th January: 1st & 8th February
Cost £15 each session: £60 for 4 sessions

Session 2: 22nd & 29 February: 7th & 14th March
Cost £15 each session: £60 for 4 sessions

Places limited so please call or email to secure your place. Patkingstudio@gmail.com
07976 941376

Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Council

Fly Tipping

Due to a significant increase in the amount of Fly Tipping that has taken place over the last few months Wychavon District Council will be placing mobile CCTV cameras in certain areas of the Parish in a bid to identify the offenders. If you see any fly tipping on public land or are a victim of fly tipping on private land please report it immediately to wychavon.gov.uk/report-it

Solar Update for Ombersley and Doverdale. (Food or Fuel)

Following on from the article published in the July/August magazine, Wychavon Council has now received a full planning application from Tyler Hill Renewables for two plots of Grade A agricultural land in Comhampton. In addition, an application has been submitted for land at Norchard and a Battery Storage Power Plant at Lincomb. A planning application has already been approved for a solar site in Doverdale. Time for objection to the above sites has now passed, but the above applications can be viewed on the Wychavon District Council Web Site by selecting planning, quick search a planning application and then entering the appropriate reference number.

Comhampton Solar (Crossway Green) - W/23/01894/FUL

Lincomb Battery Storage – W/23/01540/FUL

Norchard Solar – W/23/01483/FUL

Doverdale – 21/01363/FUL

See 'Comhampton Solar Plant Action Group' on Facebook for up-to-date details.

Playground Refurbishment

Following several requests from parents, the Parish Council have arranged to refurbish certain parts of the play area to include drainage, matting and repairs to some equipment. The work will take place in November and will last for approximately two weeks weather permitting. For Health and Safety reasons the play area will be closed during this period.

Playground: Historical Note from the Memorial Hall Minutes

In October 1959 the Parish Council asked if the Hall Committee would consider installing playing equipment for local children, the equipment to consist of a 4-piece swing, merry-go-round, see-saw and two seats - all on concrete base. The response was: '*Whilst the Hall Committee was prepared to grant facilities, money to finance the venture would be needed. The Hall Committee would organize an event to raise money.*' The following September, the Parish Council took over a piece of land 50 x100 feet alongside the bowling green to build a children's playground at a rent of 1 shilling per annum.



Christmas Fair & Market

at OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL

SAT 2ND DECEMBER 2023

OUR FAMOUS TEA ROOM WILL
BE OPEN
MULLED WINE WILL BE
AVAILABLE

THERE WILL BE LOTS OF STALLS
SELLING A WIDE

RANGE OF GIFTS TO INCLUDE:
GOURMET DOG TREATS, VEGAN
WINE, SILVER JEWELLERY,
FRESH CUT XMAS TREES AND
WREATHS AND MUCH MORE

£1 entry adults, children free.

Sandys Road, Ombersley

www.ombersley Memorial hall.co.uk



Ombersley Walk Group

Next walk: 10am Saturday 9th December 2023

Meet at Sytchampton Village Hall where parking is available



Our winter walk leaves Sytchampton Village Hall and takes a circular route to the north-west of our parish, towards Comhampton and Winnall Coppice, following woodland tracks, field paths and quiet country lanes. En-route there are eight well-maintained stiles, all easily accessible.

After the five-mile circular ramble, hot drinks and mince pies will be provided in the hall. We are inviting everyone to make a small donation of £1.50 per head towards costs with the surplus being donated to the village hall as a contribution towards overheads.

Children are welcome. Dogs are welcome too, but under close control and on a short lead. Everyone is responsible for their own safety. There is no need to register for the walk. We hope to see you on the day.

Peter Reynolds, Parish Paths Warden, 07855 441804



Tea & Coffee Shop, Ombersley Memorial Hall

Opening Times

Tuesday 5th December 2-4 pm

Thursday 25th January 2-4 pm

**Christmas Fair: Saturday 2nd December
11am-4pm**

The weeks when guns were carried by many Parishioners

It was not to repel the occupants of Holt Castle claiming the Court's land, nor was it the result of a family feud being settled in the Kings Arms car park. It could have been a report of German paratroopers landing in Doverdale as the Ombersley Home Guard rushed to round them up. The actual cause of this call to arms, and the shotgun army was the humble wood pigeon!

In the early 1960s Ombersley was still major vegetable growing area, and one of the specialities was the growing of Brussel sprouts. There were acres of them around the village, and an Ombersley sprout rivalled those produced elsewhere! The winter of 1963 was one of the hardest recorded with deep snow and hard frosts. This meant that the wood pigeons could not find their usual food sources, and as the tops of the sprout plants were the main thing showing above the frozen landscape, they became their food supply.

While it was only the local birds, it was not a major problem, but as the cold spell continued, more and more birds arrived from surrounding areas until there were huge flocks of several hundred birds descending on the crops. Growers were beginning to become concerned about loosing their crops, and so the call to arms was issued. You did not need a shotgun licence at that time, and cartridges were easily available at Brandons Hardware shop in Ombersley, so growers were grateful for anyone who could shoot to come and protect their crop.

The local postman would carry a gun in his van. My neighbour took my gun during the day as I was still at school, and as he was a builder, he would shoot out of his van window as he went to thaw out frozen pipes. Still the size of the flock grew, the birds would fly from one end of the field after being shot at only to be shot at again when they came down at the other end of the field. There were reports of one shot taking out multiple pigeons as the birds continued to come. My brother and I could only shoot at weekends and we brought our kill home to eat. However, eventually we were overwhelmed and even the cat refused to eat them!

If you find the occasional bangs from the clay pigeon shoot slightly annoying, imagine what it was like when guns were going off all around the village every day for around two months!

Stephen Hopkins

Foot note: I have walked across Turnmill Lake on three occasions in my life when it was frozen sufficiently thickly to walk on - 1963 was one of those years.



'OMBERSLEY MOVIE NIGHT' 2023 - 2024 FILMS

Doors and Bar Open at 7pm, Movie Starts at 7.30pm

£5 entry on the door (Please note – cash payments only)

Saturday 9th December

'A Man Called Otto'

Otto is a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around.

Saturday 16th December – Special Children's Christmas Matinee

'The Polar Express'

Starring Tom Hanks, On Christmas Eve, a young boy embarks on a magical adventure to the North Pole on the Polar Express, while learning about friendship, bravery, and the spirit of Christmas.

Doors open at 2.30pm, Film starts at 3pm; £5 PER CHILD, PARENTS FREE

See the full advert in magazine

Saturday 13th January

'Mission Impossible – Dead Reckoning – Part 1'

*Starring Tom Cruise, Rebecca Ferguson, Pom Klementieff
Ethan Hunt and the IMF team must track down a terrifying new weapon that threatens all of humanity if it falls into the wrong hands.*

Saturday 10th February

'The Baker'

*Starring Damien Lewis, Michael Gambon
Thriller/comedy about a hitman who is mistaken for the village baker.*



OMBERSLEY WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Thursday 7th December – 6.30 for 7.00 p.m.
CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER



A fun evening in a relaxed atmosphere with your girlfriends!
There will be a glass of prosecco on arrival, hot turkey rolls with stuffing, mince pies and brandy sauce.

Don't forget your secret Santa gift

Members: £5 Guests: £8: Contact Marie or Ann 07901522412 / 07712 811552
no later than Tuesday 28th November to book your place.



OMBERSLEY WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Thursday 4th January 2024 – 7.00 for 7.30pm



**Helen Woodman, Head of Conservation, Worcestershire Wildlife
Trust will talk about
'Wildlife of Old Orchards'**

Old orchards are an important habitat for wildlife. Find out about some of the wildlife of old orchards, why deadwood and holes are necessary and why cidermaking is important for the conservation of orchards.

Members: Free; Guests: £6: Contact Marie or Ann 07901522412 / 07712 811552

Carols with the Animals



St Andrew's Ombersley and Little Owl Farm Park invite you to

SHARE THE CHRISTMAS STORY AND CAROLS WITH THE ANIMALS

Tuesday 12th December
4.15 for 4.30pm

www.littleowlfarmpark.co.uk

FREE ENTRY & refreshments - more info contact Fiona - 07837 928531

OMBERSLEY GUIDES AWARDS CEREMONY

On Wednesday 18th October, a celebration evening was held at the Guide Hut for girls who had achieved their Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards. Family & friends were invited and Jo Chester, Droitwich Division Commissioner, attended to support the event.

Carol opened proceedings by welcoming everyone. She then presented Gold Awards to 3 guides: Rhianna, April and Sadie. As she handed them their certificate and badge, she congratulated each girl on their hard work and effort over the last 3 years which is the time it takes to complete the 3 challenges needed to attain this prestigious award. Silver awards were then presented to Sophia, Ava, Ellie-May, Faith, Zia and Sadie.

Bronze Award winners were: Meg, Evie, Faye, Ellie, Hannah, Amelia and Isabelle. Some of the younger guides had also achieved goals and were presented with their awards by Carol. All the girls received a well-deserved round of applause.

There followed 4 girls who wished to take their promise and enrol as Guides and 2 new Guides were presented with their neckers by Carol.

Refreshments of tea, coffee and delicious cakes were then served to the guests by the girls themselves. The evening concluded with the Guides forming a circle with Carol to sing "Taps" to mark the end of the meeting. A very enjoyable and special evening and so heart-warming to witness the personal achievements of so many young people. Well done, Girls!

In October 2023 there were:

- 3,694 Face to Face appointments with clinicians (GPs Nurses & Pharmacists)
- 994 telephone consultations
- 162 DNA (Did not attend)
- 12,710 medications issued
- 2,144 letters regarding patient care requiring action
- 11,921 test results reviewed and actioned



Autumn/Winter Covid and Flus Vaccines

Just a reminder there is still plenty of time to book in for your covid and flu vaccinations. These vaccinations are vital to help keep you well this winter.

GP updates

Dr Conway has now started her Maternity leave. We have 2 GPs covering her during this time including Dr Prashanth who has worked with us for a few years. We also have Dr Ukorebi, a local GP, providing cover during this time.



Ombersley Gardening Club



The beautiful reds and oranges of the trees and other foliage this year during Autumn are amazing as we start heading into the cold days and darker nights of winter.

As November slowly crawls into December tidying the garden is important in preparation for the year ahead. Clearing debris and decaying leaves to be added to the compost, cutting back perennials and planting and potting up bulbs for the Spring and it's also the time to be planting and transplanting trees and shrubs. Cover less hardy plants and shrubs ready for the frosts and colder weather and prune acers, vines and fruit trees taking any hardwood cuttings. Harvest your winter vegetables and enjoy the fruits of your labour and remember to care for the wildlife in your garden.

Going into December, the gardening club looks forward to the **9th December** when we are holding a wreath making workshop, followed on the **14th December** with the club's Christmas dinner.

Nearing the end of 2023 and heading into 2024 the club looks to a great year with some excellent events and speakers starting on the **18th January** with Julie Ritche whose talk is Winter into Spring.

As 2023 draws to a close, Ombersley gardening club would like to wish everyone a very happy, merry and peaceful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to welcoming members old and new to the club in 2024.

Happy Gardening, Ombersley Gardening Club Committee.

St Andrew's Creative Coffee and Handbells Groups invite you to a Celebration of Christmas



in St Andrew's on Thurs 7th Dec from 10:30 til 12:30

Come and buy or try your hand at Crafts or Ringing
and enjoy Coffee/Tea, Cakes and Conversation

Collecting for
Crisis
at Christmas

Ombersley History Group

If you have an interest in local history, why don't you join our group? We have been going for a few years now and you may have seen or attended some of the public meetings at the Memorial Hall. The group has written a small booklet on interesting Ombersley facts and contributed regular articles on aspects of history to the Parish Magazine. We also have smaller meetings for members to discuss aspects of local history.

The group have decided to open up membership and have even written a constitution! The £10 annual subscription entitles you to free attendance at the three public meetings a year, and to join the small group meetings/visits. You can even vote at our AGM.

Membership runs from the 1st February. If you are interested in joining please contact David Collier at drdcollier@gmail.com or phone 01905622262.

Next public meeting: Anthony Hughes will talk about

"Routes to the Rule of Law - UK and USA – a contrast"

Ombersley Memorial Village Hall, 7 pm on Thursday 22nd February. Details in February Parish Magazine.

**Ombersley Memorial Village Hall presents a
Children's Christmas Matinee with a visit from Santa**

**'The Polar Express'
Saturday 16th December**

**Children are invited to wear their onesies/pyjamas/dressing gowns and
bring a pillow or blanket for comfort.
Tea, coffee and squash will be available**

**To guarantee your place pre-booking and payment is recommended by
emailing neumann@sky.com**

**Doors Open at 2.30pm: Film commences 3.00pm prompt
£5 per child, parents are free**

Please note: Pay on the door – Cash only – no credit card facility



Ombersley Dramatic Society Pantomime

**Our third Pantomime at Hartlebury Parish Hall is 'Sleeping Beauty' written by
Damian Trasler, David Lovesy and Steve Clark.**

Wednesday 24th – Saturday 27th January at 7.30pm.

Matinees on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th January at 2.30pm.

**Ticket prices are unchanged at £10 for adults and £7 for under 16s.
Tickets are available from Mike Turner 01905 620757 and Chris Marsh 01905
774210. Tickets also available at Holt Post Office, Hartlebury Post Office and
Ombersley Village Stores. Reserve seats for this hilarious local amateur show.**

What do Bude's forgotten genius and motorcars have in common?

Firstly, who is Bude's forgotten genius? Sir Goldsworthy Gurney (1793 to 1875), a son of Cornwall, was a Medical Surgeon, Chemist, Architect, Musician, Builder, Lecturer and Inventor: a prototypical gentleman scientist of the early Victorian era. However, unlike Stephenson, Brunel and Trevithick, he is comparatively unknown. Trained initially in Cornwall as a surgeon, he moved to London where he continued with his medical practice, but lent his fertile mind to the scientific developments of his age.

As a musician, he built his own piano. However, his earliest most famous development was the oxyhydrogen blowpipe. By adding oxygen and then hydrogen into the centre of the flame from an ordinary oil lamp, he was able to intensify the light produced significantly. He then spread the light by a clever design of mirrors. So efficient was this, that the Houses of Parliament in 1839 used three of his "Bude Lights" to light the House of Commons – replacing 260 candles. It wasn't until 60 years later that they were changed for electrical lighting. His oxyhydrogen pipe in conjunction with burning lime was used to give a brilliant light to light the stage in theatres – hence the expression "Being in the Limelight".

His list of other inventions is too great to mention in detail, but briefly they were as follows. He built his home in Bude on sand dunes, using a "concrete raft" instead of foundations; his invention is now used regularly in building work today. He invented the "Steam Jet" whereby injecting waste steam from a steam engine into the exhaust from the boiler greatly increased the air flow over the fire and hence the power of the engine. This was used in 1829 to power the first successful railway engine – Stephenson's "Rocket".

His "Steam Jet" was used to ventilate mines, increasing production as well as cleaning sewers. The smell from the drains around the Houses of Parliament was so great that work became impossible there – "The Great Stink" of 1858. Gurney's steam jet was used to ventilate the drains, discharging its steam up through Big Ben, using it as an exhaust chimney! Part of his investigation of the smell required setting off great amounts of gunpowder to observe the smoke direction in order to identify the air flow. At the time, he was described as a greater danger to Parliament than Guy Fawkes!

Another great innovation was the "Gurney Stove", patented in 1856. Before that time, heating was by open fires. He set his fire in a bowl of water, using the steam generated to heat fins on the side of the stove, increasing the radiant heat dramatically. By 1897, over 10,000 churches, schools and public institutions used his stove. The base hut

built for Captain Scott in the Antarctic for his 1910 – 1913 expedition was heated by a Gurney Stove.

So, what is his connection with the motor car?



Most people would suggest that the motorcar is a 20th century invention. However, Gurney in 1825 patented “an apparatus for propelling carriages on common roads without the aid of horses, with sufficient speed for the carriage of passengers and goods”. Over the next few years, he developed a road-going, steam powered vehicle – a motorised carriage or motorcar.

Initially the boiler was part of the car, however he soon realised that the public weren’t impressed with sitting on top of a steam boiler, so he separated the boiler from the carriage. This was patented as the “Gurney Steam Drag”. The first commercial service ran from Cheltenham to Gloucester in 1831. Drags were sold to a number of other companies, including in Glasgow. Unfortunately, the drag in Glasgow was mishandled by the owners and exploded, resulting in “Questions in Parliament” and public outrage.

In 1832 he was forced to close his workshop. The Government, conceding to landowners with vested interests in selling land for railways, granted money for the development of the railways and imposed a hefty tax on road going steam powered vehicles. This was the death knell for road driven motor vehicles for another 64 years. It wasn’t until 1896 that the “Red Flag Act” was repealed. This Act of Parliament required vehicles to travel at a maximum of 4mph in the country and 2mph in towns along with a man walking in front with a red flag. The repeal of this Act is commemorated each year when about 400 pre-1905 cars drive from London to Brighton. If you want to know what that is like, may I suggest you watch the film “Genevieve”, made in 1953. This is a delightful comedy highlighting the eccentric characters who drive on this run – some of whom live locally!

David Collier, Ombersley History Group

Ombersley Endowed First School



We had a very successful and busy Open Day in October with lots of new prospective families coming around to visit our newly refurbished school.

Remembrance

After learning about Remembrance Day and why we wear poppies, we were honoured to take part in the Remembrance Ceremony at Ombersley Church.

Children in Need

For Children in Need Day, we all came to school wearing spots or colourful clothes. We had a wonderful surprise when we went into assembly – Pudsey Bear came to pay us a visit!

Trips

As part of their Stone Age topic Year 3 has a fabulous trip to Bishop's Wood. The children learnt how to be hunters and gatherers as well as learning to build their own shelters.

Year 2 enjoyed a 'multiskills' morning with other first schools at Westacre Middle School. They took parts in lots of sporting activities and games.

As part of their Christmas treat pre-school and Reception have a trip planned to 'All Things Wild', while the rest of the school will be going to see 'Cinderella' at Malvern Theatre in December.

Christmas Preparations

We are all practicing our acting and singing skills ready for our Christmas Nativities and performances.

It was lovely to be able to celebrate Cluster Carols at Tibberton First School. When we returned to school, we had our Christmas Fayre and a special visit from Father Christmas.

We are also really excited about giving The Posada a home for a few days; the children always love taking part in retelling The Christmas story and sharing the Nativity characters.

The choir are now looking forward to their Young Voices concert in January at the Resorts Arena in Birmingham.



Lloyds Educational Foundation – 300 Year Celebrations

The 17th October 2023, marks the 300 Year Anniversary of the establishment of the Lloyds Educational Foundation. The Foundation, founded in 1723, was responsible for creating Ombersley First School and Sytchampton Endowed Primary School in order to provide a free education for children of poorer families in the local area.

In order to mark the 300 Year Anniversary, both schools spent a day immersing themselves in the history of their schools and the Lloyds Foundation. The children at Sytchampton Endowed Primary School dressed up in Victorian clothes and studied some of the artefacts kept by the school, including Log Books and Admissions Records. They also learnt how life in school was different when the schools were first established. At Ombersley First School, the children also learned about the history of the Lloyds Foundation and what life was like 300 years ago. They also created a whole school photograph in the shape of the number, 300!



Pupils in Years 3 and 4 recreated an old photograph in the style of those taken in the 1800s. The teacher even had the original cane!

Some of the current Trustees of the Lloyds Educational Foundation joined both schools on the day for a celebratory assembly and awarded the schools a commemorative plaque. Pupils in both schools also received a commemorative pin badge. The Trustees were delighted to see how enthusiastic the pupils were at both schools in their research of life in the 1700s, and wished both Ombersley and Sytchampton well for the next 300 years!

Governors

We currently have some vacancies on our Governing Board. If you are interested in supporting our school as a Governor, please contact Jane Lawson (Clerk to Governors) on seps-govclerk@sytchampton.worcs.sch.uk.

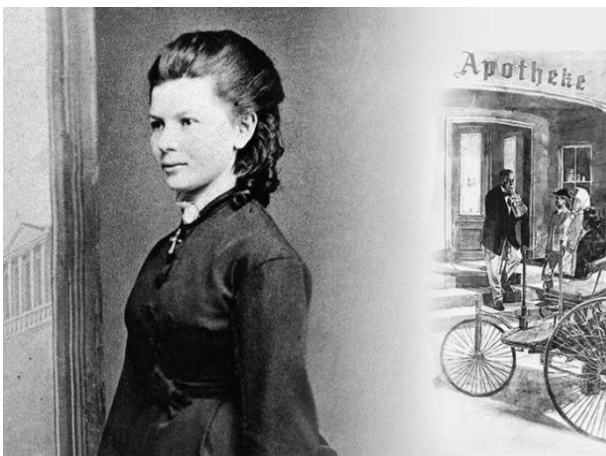
The First Car Journey

was made in 1888, by a lady.....

There has long been some dispute as to who invented the motor car. Both Otto Daimler and Carl Benz designed and built motor vehicles driven by an internal combustion engine in about 1886. However, it is indisputable that the first real car journey was undertaken by Bertha Benz at 5am on Sunday 5th August 1888.

To set the scene, the Vatican had declared that an automobile was a devil's or witch's contraption and people were advised that they shouldn't even look at such a vehicle. The Grand Duchy of Baden, where the Benz family lived, had banned vehicles from public roads and indeed had stationed policemen outside the Benz home to prevent him from taking his automobile onto public roads.

At 5am on that Sunday in August, Bertha and her two sons, Richard 13 years old and Eugen aged 15, set off from Mannheim, leaving undetected via a back gate. All this without the knowledge of her cautious husband, who was merely left a note on the breakfast table alerting him of their plan, which was to drive the 66 miles to Pforzheim to see relatives, using the Benz Mark III Patent-Motorwagen (see photograph below). This car was capable of 2hp and a speedy 10mph – on the flat. However, it was remarkably economical, running at 25mpg. The only problem was the fuel tank's capacity of 1.3 gallons. Bertha, ever prepared, had arranged for Herr Ockel, a chemist at the Stadt Apotheke to sell her some Ligroin – cleaning fluid which early cars used as a petrol. The Stad Apotheke is now recognised as the World's first filling station.



The many hills soon showed that the simple wood block brakes were ineffective. Ever ingenious, Bertha bought some leather from a shoemaker to line the wood – inventing the first brake pad. She used her hat pin to unblock the fuel line, and her garter to insulate the frayed sparking plug wire. The radiator had to be constantly refilled from streams and rivers on the way.

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-N](#)



As a result of this journey, Karl Benz was eventually allowed to drive at 3.5mph in Mannheim and 7.5mph outside the city limits.

The 66-mile journey took over 12 hours to complete. On hearing of her arrival, her husband, fearing legal and religious repercussions, begged her to return – which she did by driving the return journey!

Her sheer determination and perseverance have won her recognition as the first real driver of an automobile and showed the true possibility of the automobile and its real function – to visit relatives.

If you want to read more, this article is a precis from “The Car: The Rise and Fall of the Machine that Made the Modern World”, by Brian Appleyard, published by Weidenfeld and Nicholson.

David Collier, Ombersley History Group

A BIG THANK YOU
to all of the volunteers who distribute the magazine
throughout the Parish.



The Editorial Team wish all our readers a Happy Christmas
and a Healthy & Prosperous New Year.



THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, DOVERDALE

CHURCHWARDEN:	Mr. R. Coppini	Tel: 620963
LICENSED LAY READER:	Mr. Richard Jeynes	Tel: 620441
TREASURER:	Mrs. L. Tarleton-Hodgson	Tel: 07748 968992
SECRETARY PCC:	Mr. G. Crow	Tel: 772850
Sidesmen:	Mrs V. Harris, Mr. C. Harris, Mr G. Crow, Mrs S. Crow, Mr J. Chapman, Mrs A. Chapman, Mrs W. Hawkins	
Organists:	Mrs L. Moyse	

FLOWER ROTA: December – Christmas Flowers

PARISH REGISTER

INTERMENT OF ASHES

26th October: Roger Downing

27th October: Jeffrey Oakey

PEWPOINTS

Sunday 17th December 11.00a.m.

ST. MARY'S CAROL SERVICE with seasonal refreshments after the service.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Monday January 15th: St Mary's PCC at 7p.m. in Ombersley Narthex

HARVEST AT ST. MARY'S

On Sunday 15th October, we were very pleased to welcome the Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick, to lead the Harvest Festival Service of Thanksgiving at 11.00a.m. Also made welcome were worshippers from Ombersley Church together with friends and members of the local community. All had come together to give thanks for the labours of farmers and growers everywhere for providing food to sustain us through the coming months.

The church was beautifully decorated with the vibrant colours of autumn flowers, fruit and vegetables. Whilst the seats were filling up, the pealing bells rang out to summon everyone to Harvest worship.

Bishop Martin opened proceedings by saying how privileged he felt to be visiting St. Mary's. In his address, he spoke of his connections with farming as a young boy and despite his chosen vocation, has continued to interest himself in farming practices and techniques.

During the service, harvest offerings of bread, flowers and water were brought to the altar as symbols of the earth's bounty. The readings and harvest hymns which we have all come to know and love, were read and sung with great enthusiasm and feeling.

After the service, a delicious buffet of savoury nibbles and sandwiches were laid outside on a trestle table. The dry, sunny weather enabled people to mingle and chat with a glass of wine.

Thank you so much to all those who helped in any way to make the Harvest Service such a special and enjoyable occasion: the flower decorators, church cleaners, readers, organist and service organizers - not forgetting the contribution from the choir members and bellringers from Ombersley. Thank you, also, to those who came along to support us in our recognition of all those involved in farming and agricultural communities.

St. Mary's Parochial Church Council Meeting

Members of St. Mary's PCC met for their last meeting of the year on Monday 9th October in Ombersley Narthex. Chairman, Revd. Stephen Winter, welcomed everyone and opened proceedings with a short prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed upon and duly signed.

The Treasurer's report then followed. Louise Tarleton-Hodgson invited discussion on the Parish Share contribution and reported on the increase in church insurance. It was agreed that a gardener was needed to keep the churchyard tidy and enquiries were to be made. Fabric was then discussed with Geoff Crow reporting that he is awaiting the Consultant Engineer's report on the appearance of fissures at the West End of the church.

Next on the agenda were future services. Final arrangements were made for the Harvest Festival Service led by the Bishop of Dudley. Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Carol Service were discussed.

Following the standing down of John Chapman as Safe-guarding Officer, the role has now been filled by Richard Jeynes who was duly appointed.

Richard Jeynes updated everyone with the purchase of a new microphone and associated equipment. Hopefully, the new microphone will be in place for Harvest.

A.O.B. Richard Jeynes suggested that the mud scrapers either side of the church door posed a possible tripping hazard. It was suggested that a splash of white paint on them would alert people.

John Chapman reported that his wife, Ann, had very kindly agreed to help Marjorie Workman with Open the Book at Sytchampton School. Revd. Stephen expressed his thanks to Ann for helping to promote a liaison with the school.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 15TH JANUARY at 7pm in OMBERSLEY NARTHEX

The meeting concluded with a parting prayer.

SERVICES

Sunday 3 rd December 1 st of Advent	11.00 a.m. MP (BCP)	Lectors: Mrs. V. Harris, Mr. R. Coppini Sidesman: Mr. C. Harris Readings: Isaiah 64 (1-9); Mark 13 (24-end)
Sunday 17 th December 3 rd of Advent	11.00 a.m. CAROL SERVICE	Lectors : TBA Sidespeople: Mr. G. Crow, Mr. J. Chapman
Monday 25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY	HC.BCP TIME: TBA	Lector: Mrs. A. Chapman Sidesperson: Mr. J. Chapman Readings:- Isaiah 52(7-10); Gospel John 1(1-14)
2024 Sunday 7 th January 1 st of Epiphany Baptism of Christ	11.00 a.m. MP.BCP	Lectors : Mr. D. Hawkins, Mrs. V. Harris Sidesperson: Mr. C. Harris Readings: Genesis 1(1-5) & Mark 1(4-11)
Sunday 21 st January 3 rd of Epiphany	11.00a.m. HC.BCP	Lector: Mrs. S. Crow Sidesperson: Mr. G. Crow Readings:- Genesis 14(17-20) & Gospel John 2(1-11)
Sunday 18 th February 1 st of Lent	11.00a.m. HC.BCP	Lector: Mr. D. Hawkins Sidesperson: Mr. C. Harris Readings:- Genesis 9(8-17) & Gospel Mark 1(9-15)

Adverts (Electronic) 2023

- AJ's Window Cleaning Services – windows, gutters etc. – 07809 730085
- AS Locks & Services – 01905 726671 / 07956 371673
- AY Services – general maintenance – 01905 759151 / 07876 308058
- Alena Morton – ladies' personal trainer – 07857 753340
- All-inc-Cars – taxi service – 01905 826261 / 07739 109590
- Andy Johnson – chimney sweep – 01886 821933 / 07798 790913
- Andy Pritchard – painter and decorator – 01886 889001 / 07973 783240
- Bedwardine Funeral Services – 01905 748811
- Best of British Garden Services – 01886 889070 / 07983 351634
- Bluebird Care – care visits at home – 01386 764830
- Bowbrook Gardens – landscaping etc. – 01905 937852 / 07792 613020
- Brace Developments – house renovations, conversions – 01386 750459
- Bromsgrove Allergy & Nutritional Centre – 01905 780721
- Castle Farm Designs – wooden garden furniture for sale/hire – 07841 500735
- Catkins Cattery – 01299 250472
- Ceramics at the Croft – pottery lessons – 07897 624792
- David Ward Firewood – 07866 441154
- Doorbars – chartered surveyors/land agents – 01905 27288
- E J Gumery & Son – funeral directors – 01905 22094
- Elite Marquees – 07958 288510
- Elite Sweeps – sweep/log burners – 01905 700701 / 07712 220671
- Fisher Performance Cars – high quality performance cars – 01299 251444
- Forever Living Products – health/skin care – 01905 620318 / 07906 701589
- GJS Dillon House Surveyors – 01905 676169

- Graham Pugh – decorating/carpentry – 01905 621147 / 07967 883121
- Green Thumb – lawn care – 01905 840740
- Home Carer, Home Help – 07899 784272
- I & S Stoves – woodburning stoves etc. – 01886 812452
- Jenny Davis Fitness – 07886 726102
- Jeremy Billingham TV Aerials – 01905 799152 / 07850 969307
- Jones & Associates – Estate Agents – 01386 291010 / 07496 625205
- Karol Kleen – carpet/upholstery cleaning – 01299 404275
- Lee Russell Independent Funeral Directors – 01905 347588
- MG Domestic Heating – 07870 498879
MSB Plumbing & Maintenance Ltd. – 07769 342897
- Manor Hill House Ltd. – Wedding & Events venue – 01527 861 1200
- Mark Foster Podiatry/Chiropody – 07941 138957
- Marshall-McKay Kitchen & Interior Design – 07765 447704
- Me..Time Pilates – 07791 873870
- Mick Miles – gardening/pest control – 01905 620394 / 07732 223825
- Oldfields of Ombersley – country/equestrian – 01905 622295
- Ombersley Family Dental Practice – 01905 621881
- Ombersley Golf Club – 01905 620747 (restaurant 01905 620621)
- Ombersley Memorial Hall – 07936 467390
- Overageamers – oven cleaning – 01562 702883
- Oven Magic – oven cleaning – 01905 700500
- Parks Café Droitwich – 01905 776633
- Phillip Serrell Auctions – 01684 892314
- Professional Willwriters – Amba Legal Services – 01299 251442 / 07966 053887
Protex Midlands Ltd – long life wall coverings – 01905 622164 / 07833 965258
- RNA Heating Ltd – central heating maintenance – 01299 40515801299 405158 –

- Reynolds Heating Services – central heating installations etc. – 07857 755340
- W Roberts Tree Care & Landscaping – 01299 250664 / 07772 456692
- S G Electrical – electrical services – 01905 620693
- S J M Locksmith Services – 01905 570999 / 07871 442011
- SMB Electrical Solutions – 01905 428892 / 07917 182945
- Severn Soaps – hand-made soaps and gifts – 07811949049
- Shelter-Adams Ltd – home heating experts – 07990 523790 / 07922 548915
- Solar Select Ltd – Solar installations – 01905 349813
- Stephanie Cope Mortgage & Protection Advisor – 01299 549820
- Steve George of Ombersley – landscaping etc. – 01905 621427 / 07745 597050
- Studio Smith Architects – 01905 622373 / 07921 623709
- Sytchampton Community Centre – 01905 620943
- T M Shouler – carpentry/joinery – 01905 620374 / 07900 268075
- Taylor & Co Architects – 01905 621600 / 07831 146738
- Walkercrisps – stockbrokers & financial advisers - 020 3100 8285
- Whitlence Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669
- William's Professional Decorating Services – 01886 888186
- Worcestershire Imaging Centre – MRI scans – 01905 771500