

Winter 2019

VILLAGE LIFE

YOUR community
magazine



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From the Editor... And the good news is



Firstly, Scarecrow Weekend. Super array of top quality entries, the best ever so a big thanks to everyone who took part and thanks to Alison Morgan for organising. Can't say that your handsome editor was wildly keen on the Surgery scarecrow – not so much the image, which was remarkably lifelike, but the caption "Private" Shaw. Surely someone in my position should be Captain at least! Well done girls, thought it was great!!! When I saw it I thought I was going to need some pills. With next year's theme wonder if they will have me playing the Ukulele!!!!

Next is the Village Hall Car Park. It was decided to keep the Honesty Boxes rolling so that a fund could be built up to cover continual maintenance to avoid big bills in the future. Amazingly the box take has gone up since the work was completed. This can only be because the

Village Hall Committee delivered exactly what they promised and everyone can see where the money went. Great stuff!

And finally some really good news about the success of your Community Library & Wellbeing Centre. In just over three years since the volunteers took over they have mounted over 1,500 activities to help residents with their welfare which has resulted in over 17,000 new visits. Library wise the picture gets better by the day. From a high point years ago of 3,600 members this had eroded to under 800 when the volunteers took over and was dropping 20% per year so by now, had this continued, today's figure could be as low as 400. Instead of this the volunteers have multiplied the figure of 800 by an astonishing 135%!!!!

The good news just keeps getting better.



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Please email articles to: david@dsaimaging.co.uk

Jiffy Bear is hiding somewhere in Village Life. Can you find him? >>>>>>



News from the pews

St Philip's and St John's

Christmas will soon be upon us, whether we like it or not. Most people I think welcome this time of year, though there are a few 'humbugs'! For many, Christmas is a mixed blessing. There's much stress over buying the right presents or cooking the dinner right and accommodating relatives. But when we consider the reason for the season, the birth of a baby at Bethlehem, we should always have cause for hope. It's a wonderful time, seeing the joy and delight in children's faces, perhaps in light reflected from candles or decorations.

We are again holding a Christmas Tree Festival at St John's. Community groups are invited to set up a Christmas Tree with a theme to represent what they're about. The trees will then be on display from Friday 13th -Monday 16th December, 10am – 4pm. Refreshments will be available.

You are invited to celebrate Christmas with

us every Sunday and at special seasonal services:

Community Carol Service at Moorside High School – Thursday 19th December at 7:00 pm (tickets available from the churches and the library)

St John the Baptist, Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks

Christmas Concert: Friday 6th December, 7:00 pm

Carols in the Cowshed - Christmas Eve, 6:00 pm

Christmas Communion – Christmas Eve, 11:15 pm

Holy Communion – Christmas Day, 9:00 am

St Philip, Ash Bank Road, Werrington

Memorial Service – Sunday 1st December, 4:00 pm

Nativity Service – Sunday 15th December, 10:15am

Carol Service – Sunday 22nd December, 6:00 pm

Christingle Service - Christmas Eve, 6:00 pm

Christmas Communion

Christmas Eve, 11:30 pm

Holy Communion – Christmas Day, 9:30 am

Our usual Sunday services are 8:45, 10:15, 18:00 at St Philip's, 8:00, 10:45, 18:30 at St John's – but do check our website at wvrchurches.com

Something a little different is Messy Church: crafts, songs, story, and food for children with an adult on Sunday 8th December, 4pm at St Philip's.

Early News for April next year: at St John's we are holding a 'Celebration of Marriage 1950s to Present Day' weekend.

We will have wedding dresses, bouquets, albums, etc. on display. Refreshments will be available. On the Sunday, we are hoping to have a renewal of vows service, where any couple may want to come along and take part. The exhibition will be open from 10am til 4pm Fri 24th to Mon 27th April. Apart from Sunday 26th, where the Church will be open for services. Put the dates in your diaries!!!

God bless,

Rev. Michael Follin

Werrington Methodist Church

As another year draws towards its close we can look back at a time of political uncertainty and concerns about our planet's future but it is not all doom and gloom because Christmas is coming and "Jesus is the Reason for the Season".

Christmas is the time when we exchange presents with those we love, the time when everyone seems happier, the time when stresses seem less important, the time we spend with family and friends and the time when we spend a little extra on a few luxuries. The true meaning of

Christmas is, however, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ after whom Christmas is named. Jesus was born to the Virgin Mary, in a stable in Bethlehem. His birth was the most significant event in world history since the Creation.

Every year, all Christian Churches, throughout the world, hold special services to mark this momentous event and your churches, here, in Werrington are no exception. Before you open your presents and tuck into your turkey you might think about coming to church to give thanks – for the birth of Jesus Christ and for everything else that makes Christmas special for you.

At Werrington Methodist Church we will have:-

Carol Service 6pm
Sunday 15th December

Nativity Service 10.40am
Sunday 22nd December

Midnight Service 11pm
Tuesday 24th December

Christmas Day Service
at 10am

Our weekly Sunday Service always starts at 10.40am and we have many groups which meet either weekly or monthly and everyone, and that includes you, is very welcome. At a time when everything seems to be in turmoil remember that Jesus Christ is our Rock and you can get to know Him better by coming to church.

John Smith

WERRINGTONFRIDAY YOUTH CLUB CELEBRATES GOING INTO ITS 10th YEAR

September 2019 saw the Werrington Friday Youth Club move into its 10th year and the launch of the new term which got off to a really good start with numbers increasing and new volunteers joining the band of helpers. Every evening there is an assortment of games and activities in addition to special events each night. The club is open during term time, from 7 to 9 pm, at the Methodist Church Schoolroom on Ash Bank Road and is for 9 to 15 year olds. This year is the first session with new Youth Leader TeeJay Dowe

who has a wealth of experience internationally and is Global Prosperity and Peace Ambassador for England and she hails from Werrington! Chairman David Shaw said that he was delighted with this terms intake and looked forward to yet another successful year with even more activities for the youngsters to enjoy.



Some of our Friday Club volunteers with TeeJay front centre

WERRINGTON WELLBEING ADDS WEIGHT WATCHERS TO ITS LIST OF LIFESTYLE ACTIVITIES.



Wellness that Works™

The Community Library & Wellbeing Centre in Werrington joined forces with the Village Hall, which is opposite; to extend lifestyle activities as the hall can cater for larger events such as indoor sports and recreation. One aspect residents wanted to see was an intergenerational health programme dedicated to weight loss covering times when those retired and working

could attend.

As a result the hall is pleased to announce that Weight

Watchers have now come on board with afternoon and evening sessions on Wednesdays. At 2pm they will be in the Johnstone Room and at 6.30pm they will be in the larger main hall, both of which can be accessed from the newly refurbished car park with its famous Honesty Boxes.

You can just turn up or pre-book on-line at - www.weightwatchers.co.uk

weightwatchers.co.uk – and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee during the session. The team will also provide 7-day meal planners and help residents of all ages keep their weight under control.

Werrington Wellbeing Chairman David Shaw said that he was pleased to welcome Denise Gilbert of Weight Watchers to the village which completes another aspect in the community lifestyle programme which has so far mounted over 1,200 wellbeing activities since it was launched just over three years ago.

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A big thank you to everyone who helped to raise the funds for the new car park.

Doesn't it look great? We will continue with the Honesty Boxes so that the Village Hall Committee can cover regular maintenance to avoid big bills in the future. So please continue to donate - 50p Short Stay or £1 All day. But if you are school running every day and just pop in briefly a coin in the box once a week is fine.



The Dudson Museum Re-opens its Doors!



Back in April, many people in our city, myself included, were rocked by the news that Dudson had been forced to close after producing ceramics for almost 220 years. Until the

closure, Dudson represented the oldest, continuous family run ceramics business in Stoke-on-Trent, producing ceramic tableware for the worldwide hospitality industry and was a brand with a proud tradition of quality. Turning a cup or plate whilst out and about, at home or abroad, frequently reveals the distinctive Dudson backstamp. (This practice is of course familiar to local people but always bemuses onlookers from outside of The Potteries!)

As the Curator of The Dudson Museum since 2000, I am privileged to have been part of the team assigned to be the custodians not only of the long history and rich heritage of the Dudson story but also of the Dudson Ceramics Collection. Sadly, the doors of the museum closed at the same time as the company in April.

However, I am now delighted to confirm that thanks to the 'Dudson Heritage Trust' and to VAST at the Dudson Centre, who have taken on the management of the museum, this important contribution to our local heritage is now open to the public once again. Our opening week was extremely eventful with the BBC broadcasting from the site for the whole week!

Initially, anyone wishing to visit the museum can now do so on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am until 3pm. The museum is uniquely housed in a Grade II listed bottle oven which is in the courtyard of the Dudson Centre on the site of the original factory in Hope Street, Hanley. Stepping inside one of the few remaining bottle ovens, you can view the stunning Dudson Ceramics Collection and learn more about the fascinating history of the company. There are free activities for youngsters on Thursdays in the school holidays too! We look forward to welcoming you.

Telephone 01782 285286 for further information.

Alison Morgan

Dudson Museum Curator

(Alison Morgan is a member of the Werrington Community Volunteer Group and organises the wonderful annual Scarecrow event)

Holistic Therapy Taster Sessions continue for 2020

Give yourself a pick me up for the New Year and book a free holistic therapy taster session with 'About You, owner Belinda Allen on one of the following dates:-

Indian Head Massage – January 17th 2020, Reflexology – 14th February 2020, Thai Hand Massage - 13th March 2020.

All sessions will be held in the Werrington Library and Wellbeing Centre between 1.00pm and 3.30pm. Please contact Belinda on 07947 378266; email Belinda@aboutyou-therapies.co.uk or visit www.abouyou-therapies.co.uk to book a session or to find out more information about the therapies available at About You.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Retirement was always frowned upon by myself. I had 43 years of being 'useful' and always interested in my profession as Probation Officer in Stoke on Trent. Major changes in the job and increasing stress forced my hand so at age 63 I left a daily routine of being functional within a people industry. I had specifically enjoyed and felt rewarded when working with women either in groups; on a one to one or during the six years whilst working in a Women's Prison. With little to no preparation of my somewhat redundant position, the question was asked 'what am I to do?'

Following a little research of activities within my local area, the existence of the Womens Institute grabbed my attention. Subsequently I joined Wetley Rocks branch of

Why join Wetley Rocks WI

Staffordshire Federation of Women's Institute. Over the last few years I have found friendship and enjoyment; have been tested and challenged whilst being encouraged to participate in various activities as offered through the WI. I cannot believe that my crafting skills have particularly been brought to the forefront and have been appreciated not least complimented by others. Needless to say I am enjoying a new role in life and continuing to learn about what the WI both locally and nationally has to offer. An example of work is the new banner as in the photograph, which was created by some members of Wetley Rocks WI.

The comradery and support of other women as we share social times and outings or commit ourselves to competitions and joint ventures, is second to none. Wetley Rocks WI has been extremely busy during

2019 and will finish the year visiting Tissington Hall for "12 days of Christmas" event and of course our traditional Christmas Meal at The Queens in Freehay. We will be making a donation of gifts for a local Womens Refuge and bring together all those unwanted bras which will be sent to needy women in Africa. The WIs motto of Inspiring Women is forever present as we try to welcome other women to join our group and make a positive difference to people's lives at a personal level; in the local community or nationally through the numerous resolutions and policies which NFWI have committed to for over 100 years. If anyone is interested in joining please contact Secretary Linda Brindley on 01782305002 or 07799491356 or visit our website www.wiwetleyrocks.btck.co.uk. There is also a Facebook page – Wetley Rocks WI.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS NOW EVEN BIGGER



As well as the Christmas Tree at the Jubilee Garden we are to light up the Oak Tree behind - or rather the intrepid David Gray is! - so Werrington will shine even brighter. Switch-on will be 4pm on

Tuesday 3rd December. The Werrington School Choir will be singing and there will be Sherry and soft drinks plus the ultimate attraction . . . Betty's Mince Pies. Make a date now

WERRINGTON VOLENTEERS HELP SAVE THE PLANET WITH FREE WATER BOTTLE RE-FILL SERVICE

If you live in Werrington or just passing through you can always call into the Community Library & Wellbeing Centre and get a free water bottle refill. You can also rest awhile with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit in a nice friendly environment and pick up a bargain in the Community Shop. So put Werrington Library on your drop-in list - help the planet and enjoy



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DROP-IN AT WERRINGTON WELLBEING CENTRE AND LIBRARY
Every Friday 1st November 10am-12pm (not the 22nd November)
to the 20th December 10am-12pm

If you want to talk to someone then qualified counsellors are here to listen, or come and join one of our creative groups

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SCARECROW WEEKEND TRIUMPHS AGAIN

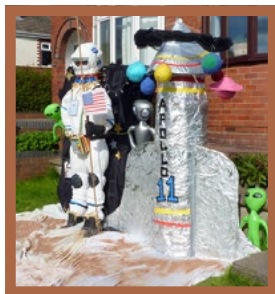
Now in its fifth year the Werrington Scarecrow Weekend was another big success with the inventiveness quite mind blowing. Without doubt the standard was higher than ever which made the decisions of the judge extremely difficult. It was not an easy task so thanks to Andrea Hodgson from the Werrington Pharmacy for doing such a great job. Congratulations to everyone who took part. On both days there were lots of families going around waving blue maps so it was a real village event. Alison Morgan who organises the event said that she was thrilled with the response and commented – “Every year you wonder how the weekend will pan out but we needn’t have worried as the show beat all expectations and the exhibits more creative than ever. This has developed into a big event for our village with visitors coming from far and wide to enjoy a happy family weekend”



FIRST PRIZE - £50
Moorside High School
Marie Antonette



SECOND PRIZE - £25
Chris & John Shirley
Harald Bluetooth The
Viking King



THIRD PRIZE - £10
The Leese Family
Neil Armstrong

AND NOW - ADVANCE NOTICE
THE THEME FOR SCARECROW 2020
12th & 13th September 2020
THINKING CAPS ON



For more information contact Alison on **01782 766753** or alimorg@ntlworld.com

50+ DONATE TO CAR PARK

The final link in the car park funding chain was a cheque for £1,000 from the 50+Club who use the Village Hall. Our photograph shows 50+ Chair Derek Hallam presenting the cheque to Pauline Fielding Chair of the Village Hall. Pauline said that she was grateful for such a good donation and thanked Derek not only for the cheque but for being such valued long-term bookers at the hall.



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Whats on at the Library

The Library and Wellbeing Centre continues to be a hive of activity offering the following varied programme of activities: -

Library Services, Computer access, Baby Bounce & Rhyme, Werrington Breast Babies, Staffordshire Police drop-in, Knit & Natter, the Ukulele Group, Foot Health Care, Mental health support/advice, Diabetes support (via GP referral) and, Police and District Councillor drop-in surgeries. You can also buy a competitively priced cuppa (with a biscuit) as well as browse newspapers and magazines.

Creative children's craft activities are offered during school holidays and the Community Shop continues to offer a huge variety of inexpensive items for sale to suit all tastes. As always, thank you to all those who have kindly donated

such a varied range of items for sale in the Community Shop. Donations are always greatly received.

Thanks also to our Knit & Natter Group members who create beautiful hand-made items which are also for sale.

Proceeds from all sales go towards the Library and Wellbeing Centre upkeep and costs of activities.

Look out for special activities and events in this magazine but also via the Library notice board, e-news and posters around the Village. You can also call the Library on 01782 302706, pop into the Library or Village Surgery for a monthly "What's On" leaflet or, visit our website - werringtoncommunitylibrary.org.uk .

If you would like to offer an activity or put on a session please contact Wendy Sandbrook on **01782 302493**.

Rethink Mental Illness offers a range of supportive opportunities

Rethink Mental Illness is a charity that improves the lives of people severely affected by mental illness through local groups and services, expert information, training and successful campaigning. For more than 40 years we have brought people together



to support each other and directly support almost 60,000 people every year across England.

Our Social Inclusion and Recovery Service supports people across North Staffordshire. Since the beginning of the year we have been running a number of mental health drop in advice sessions throughout North Staffordshire including the 2nd Monday and Friday of the month at Werrington library from 2.30-4pm. We

also offer a range of peer groups, 1 to 1 support, educational courses and telephone support.

As well as this we offer support to carers and a range of opportunities to volunteers within our service. For example, our John Hall Garden project based in Leek offers volunteer and support opportunities to help to maintain the garden and also admin roles in a picturesque, tranquil environment. The garden is open to the public for a visit and plant sales every Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 3pm and the 3rd Saturday of the month 9am to 4pm, except December when it is open on 7th.



So come along and take a look for yourself!

For more information on any aspect of our service please contact our community hub on **(01538) 387111** or email: northstaffs.communitysupport@rethink.org

By *Laura Bosworth*, Service Manager, and the team at North Staffordshire Social Inclusion and Recovery Service

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CONGRATULATIONS TO LIZ

Once again Liz Sherratt - near camera right - organised our Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Library which was well attended despite the rain. A whopping result as nearly £200 was raised for this very worthwhile cause. Thanks Liz for doing a great job.



Come along and have a great afternoon out at Werrington Village Hall.

From 2 to 4pm on the last Saturday in the month. Prizes, refreshments and good company. Just come along and enjoy yourself. Plenty of car parking too. Please note that there are no sessions in January, August and December

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For more info get a special leaflet from Jocelyn Morrison on 01782 303192 or - jocelynmor@btinternet.com

WERRINGTON COMMUNITY LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS:

FEBRUARY	83	MAY	20	August	191
MARCH	154	JUNE	127	September	168
APRIL	25	JULY	89	October	168

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KAREN TO BOOST VOLUNTEERS BID FOR CHARITABLE STATUS



I receive many letters and emails and often speak to residents in Staffordshire Moorlands who suffer from social isolation and loneliness. This prompted me not only to start hosting my very successful Senior Tea Dances but also led to the event 'Beyond the Front Door', a Conference on Loneliness and Isolation Awareness that I hosted here in Staffordshire Moorlands.

The aim was to bring together interested professionals, organisations and charities from every community in Staffordshire Moorlands, including the Werrington Community Volunteers Group, to get together and find out what is already happening locally and what could work well here in the future.

I am proud to have been involved with the Werrington Community Volunteers Group for some years now and more recently met with some of them to discuss their fantastic Therapy Log Cabin project and to see how I can help with their application for charitable status. The Log Cabin idea is such a great wellbeing

project and I am sure will be of benefit to many local residents.

Pictured at Karen's visit are (L-R) Betty Johnson, Karen Bradley, Jean Fryer, David Shaw and Wendy Sandbrook.

I am proud of the work taking place across Government taking forward the proposals made by the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness but know that it's locally, in your own communities, that people make lasting friends and find companionship. While everyone feels lonely from time to time, feeling always or often lonely can cause significant health issues and bring other negative consequences. People who are often or always lonely are more

likely to go to their GP, A&E, be in local authority funded residential care, struggle at school or struggle at work.

So, if you are lonely or have neighbours or relatives that you feel might be suffering, think about getting together or suggest they get in touch with fantastic organisations such as the Werrington Community Volunteers Group and help me and others to try and tackle this important issue of loneliness and isolation.

Please do contact my Leek office on 01538 382421 or email me at karen.bradley.mp@parliament.uk if I can ever be of assistance.

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP



Pictured at Karen's visit are (L-R) Betty Johnson, Karen Bradley, Jean Fryer, David Shaw and Wendy Sandbrook.

YOU CAN NEVER READ THIS TOO MANY TIMES!!!

Try to remain calm, and REMEMBER THIS! A possible lifesaver

This comes from Dr. Patrick Teefy, Cardiology Head at the Nuclear Medicine Institute University Hospital, London, Ontario.

1. Let's say it's 7:25 pm and you're going home (alone of course) after an unusually hard day on the job.
2. You're really tired, upset and frustrated.
3. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to drag out into your arm and up into your jaw.

You are only about five km from the hospital nearest your home.

4. Unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far.
5. You have been trained in CPR, but the guy that taught the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself.
6. HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN ALONE?

Since many people are alone when

they suffer a heart attack without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

7. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously.

A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

8. Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it to regain a normal rhythm.

In this way, heart attack victims can get help or to a hospital.

LET GRAIG SHOW YOU HOW YOU CAN DO IT TOO!



Since my previous article in Village Life explaining how delighted I was to have completed the Advanced Driving East Midlands Programme,

I subsequently qualified to become an Advanced Driving Tutor.

This is really enjoyable; I get to meet a wide range of people which is always interesting and I love to help others to get the most pleasure from driving and also enhance their safety on the road. Being a tutor helps me to maintain the high standard of driving that I have been trained to and

prevents me from slipping back into bad habits.

The Programme helps you to improve your driving skills and makes you more aware of what's going on around you in terms of anticipation and planning.

The Group meets every other Sunday morning in the Village Hall from 9.00am. Come along and join us for a chat. There is no obligation to take the course, you can book in for a free assessment drive and then take it from there if you decide that it is for you.

You can book in by calling Ian on **07971961553**.

GHOST OF BONFIRE PAST

I live in the old stone cottage, a mile or so from Eggington a tiny Hamlet on the outskirts of Hollywood it's a lovely spot I've lived in this 200 year old house this past twenty years! All alone except for Tommy my pet cat. Since my wife died five years ago. The thought of Bonfire night fast approaching sends shivers down my spine, ever since that awful night 10 years ago, on the 5th of November 1925.

My young son Johnny aged 9 got very excited about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, the Bonfires everywhere and the Fireworks. He loved playing tricks on us, Hide and seek was his favourite game he would scare his Mother and I rigid with his antics, but most of the time we always found his hiding place and there would be a big laugh about it afterwards, he wasn't a very bright boy at School he always came bottom of the class with his lessons, although he was aged 9 he had the mental age of a child of 4 nothing phased him!

No sense of danger, always smiling and full of mischief his Mother and I loved him very much! He was our only child! You see, so on Bonfire night we bought some Fireworks for him to go with the grand bonfire we had built with a well-made guy to sit on top of it. We had just finished our tea, when Johnny wanted us to have another game of hide and seek with him, so I said all right just a quick one he then ran off to hide, and we always had to count up to 100 before looking for him. A crowd of neighbours had gathered around our huge Bonfire in the Garden while we were still searching for Johnny, I don't quite know how it happened but suddenly the Bonfire was alight somebody had set fire to it without our permission! while we were still frantically searching as it was getting late, people started to let off Fireworks all around us we remarked that Johnny was missing the Bonfire and Fireworks! And people said what an excellent job we had made of Guy Fawkes on top of the timber and old packing crates now blazing fiercely in the darkness.

This time we didn't find Johnny's hiding place, we were by now very worried about him and decided to call the police, about the missing boy, the police and neighbours searched everywhere for the boy but no sign of him that night. Next day the Bonfire was reduced to a few dying embers Johnny's Dad started to collect the ashes, ready to dig in the garden as fertilizer for next year's crop of vegetables, and was horrified to discover a skeleton form, he gasped , Oh no! It isn't is it! And quickly rang the police who arrived within minutes to confirm later after forensic tests that it was the remains of a male child around 9 years old, Oh how awful my wife screamed out loud, whatever made him do it! To dress up as Guy Fawkes and climb up to sit on top of the Bonfire.

My wife was taken ill shortly after and died suddenly; we all put it down to the shock of losing our only son like that. Now as I sit here in my room in the darkness, listening to the steady tick tick of the old grandfather clock in the corner of the room, the date on the calendar November the 5th 1935, suddenly there is a chill in the atmosphere, I look up an apparition of a young boy approaches me.

I am petrified the ghost of my dead son! It beckons me to go outside in the way Johnny used to do, when he wanted to play hide and seek with him. And this



happens every November the 5th the anniversary of his death. I use not to believe in Ghosts before this happened but I do now! And when I tell my friends about it they just laugh, when I have invited them to sit with me on November the 5th, but they see nothing only the flickering glow from the warm log fire and the sound of the steady tick tick from the old Grandfather clock in the corner of the room.

Andy Anonymous

Staffordshire Commissioner celebrates success of Junior Police Cadets at Werrington School



Staffordshire Commissioner Matthew Ellis met members of the Junior Police Cadets scheme when he visited Werrington Primary School on 17 September. The original cadet scheme, for 14- to 17-year-olds, was initiated by the Commissioner in 2013 to strengthen links between police and young people and promote good citizenship. The programme later expanded with Junior Cadet Schemes for eight to ten-year-olds launched in primary schools across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

As part of the scheme, a group of 10 Werrington pupils took part in five one-hour sessions led by local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Steve Sherratt during school time, covering areas including road safety, police investigations and anti-social behaviour. Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire and Rescue and Crime Matthew Ellis said: "It was great to speak to the cadets and hear how much they have enjoyed and learnt from the scheme, and I'd like to thank PCSO Steve Sherratt for his fantastic work with the school.

Find out more about the Staffordshire Police Cadets scheme:
www.staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk/get-involved/police-cadets/

JEAN FRYERS SILVER SURFERS RIDE AGAIN

As I mentioned in the last issue of village life I am hoping to organise another Silver Surfers course in conjunction with Moorside High School in 2020 to help anyone who would like to improve their computer skills. There is a short list of those who want to do this next course but not enough to make it viable at this stage. If anyone is interested in coming along to this informal, instructive, enjoyable, informative 'one to one' course please let me know as soon as possible so I can arrange dates with the school around Easter time.

Ring me on 01782 304890 or email jfryer229@gmail.com.

WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Over the past few months the Parish Council have met with the Werrington Wasps and Werrington 2000 Bowling Club to find out more about them and offer support in increasing membership and helping their clubs to grow. We have seen some great initiatives, such as the Wombles of Werrington litter pickers and the Werrington Wheelies workshop, where young people learnt to fix their bikes.

Following on from the consultation earlier this year into potential new facilities at Meigh Road playing fields, we have been meeting with companies to get quotes for a zip wire and to discuss the potential for a pump track. The pump track design would allow people of all ages to enjoy having a go, whether it be on a bike or a micro scooter.

We continue to develop the Werrington Sports and Events Ground. We are about to undertake improvements on the ground itself, and have enabled the WASPS football team to go from strength to strength. The WASPS, who have been responsible for running this year's very successful car boot sales, have reinvested some of the money back into the grounds. We are investigating how we might be able to restructure the grounds management, allowing the community to have a greater say and to provide a wider range of sports and events.

The Parish Council are pleased to welcome back Councillor Jocelyn Morrison, who has been co-opted back on to the Council. However, we do still have some vacancies, so if you feel that you would like to get involved and support your local community, please contact the Clerk for further details.

Email: werringtonparish@gmail.com

Website: werringtonparishcouncil.com

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council meet at 7.30pm on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August) in the Johnston room of the Village Hall. There is the opportunity for questions from the public at the start of each meeting. The agenda is displayed on the Council and Village Hall noticeboards, as well as on the website, a few days before each meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

Applications for the small grants scheme are now open. The aim is to assist local groups and organisations with projects benefitting the community. For further details on eligibility and how to apply, please contact the Clerk at werringtonparish@gmail.com or use the 'Contact Us' page on the Council website at werringtonparishcouncil.com.

WERRINGTON KNITTERS HOLD SPECIAL DAY FOR SCOTTY'S LITTLE SOLDIERS



For some time now the Werrington Community Volunteers Group have supported Scotty's Little Soldiers, who look after the children

of the fallen, but this has now taken on a new dimension thanks to the generosity of the Knit & Natter Group who are based in the Community Library. The group held a special Coffee Day with outdoor marquee offering an array of goods for sale including toys, gifts and all kinds of newly knitted garments. They had already raised £60 at the

annual Funday which they were able to add to £200 taken on the Coffee Day. Organisers Barbara Hughes and Jean McNicol said that they were delighted with the result which had exceeded their expectations and said that they would like to thank everyone who came along and donated on the day.



Werringtons Knit & Natter ladies in the Library

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SEVENTH YEAR SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO HELP DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN THE MOORLANDS FROM THE RED COW GOLF SOCIETY

Kidz2Kidz is an administration cost-free group run entirely by the Werrington Young Persons Support Group volunteers.

K2K is now seven years old and since it started over 500 distressed mums have received cash help at Christmas plus a special toiletry pack and well over 1,700 disadvantaged children have received Christmas presents, each child receiving three gifts. The project is supported by the Red Cow Golf Society who provide our cash funding - over £13,000 to date - and the Co-op who organise the toy collection - over 5,000 to date. This year the Red Cow Golf Society joined forces with the Windmill Golf Society for a fundraiser and additionally held their own event. A nice touch was that the winners of all prize money was put back in the pot. As always a donation was made to Scotties Little Soldiers who look after the children of the fallen and this year as a one-off offered support to the mums and children affected by the Whaley Bridge disaster. Something of which Werrington can be proud.

JEAN FRYER COMMENTED - "After 7 years of supporting the KIDZ2KIDZ Campaign the Red Cow Golf Society have donated the proceeds from their sponsored Golf Days to raise over £13,000. This year Tony Simpson suggested that the Windmill Golf Society join forces with them to which they readily agreed. So Tony and John Curley, from the Windmill, set about organising a golf day playing Texas Scramble Style which they all enjoyed. Every member who took part from both clubs donated all prize monies to KIDZ2KIDZ. What a wonderful gesture. To thank Tony and his team they were presented with a framed certificate to acknowledge their support over the last seven years. We are lucky to have such community spirited people in Werrington."

Our photograph shows K2K Treasurer Jean Shaw receiving the cheque for £1,137.50 from Red Cow Manager Julie Kelly on the right with Martin Massey and Tony Simpson from The Golf Society on the left with Jean Fryer a founder member of the children's group.





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CELLARHEAD AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW

"THE BEST SHOW I'VE SEEN SO FAR" was the comment from the Leek Post and Times photographer as he covered the 18th Cellarhead and District Horticultural Society's annual show, which took place on Saturday 31st August. The show attracted entries from around the area including two prize winners from the prestigious Shrewsbury Flower Show.

The Society's Chairman Joe Smith said "despite poor growing conditions this year the standard of entries was high and the judges had their work cut out for them choosing winners."

The highest accolade awarded is "Best in Show". This year's winner was Kevin Godwin, a well known grower and society member with a stunning display of Chrysanthemums.

The society meets the first Tuesday in every month at Wetley Rocks Village Hall at 8pm. At each meeting there is a guest speaker covering the spectrum of gardening from pests and diseases, organic growing and edible herbs to name but a few. Admission is free and new members are always welcome. Refreshments are available. For more information contact Joe Smith on 01782 551609

As you all can see this article is a joint effort and all the above content was written by Jocelyn Morrison to that I would add that any opportunity to visit a local flower show enables the gardener to find the varieties of plants which will or can be grown to excellence in your area or region. Talk to the growers and Show Judges and you will also find that growing methods are usually freely given. Let that influence your seed/plant order and as the sages used to say "give knowledge to a wiser person and they are yet wiser"

Happy gardening

Joe Smith

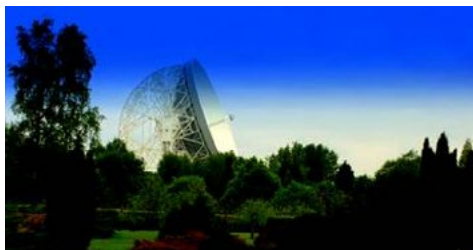
Werrington Pre-School

The Autumn term has been full of fun. We've got to know lots of new friends and enjoyed settling in. We have explored themes like; all about me, people who help us, pets and seasons. We really enjoyed a visit from "builder John" who showed us how to safely use real tools and our ladies JoJo and Kirsty brought in their pets for us to see (some were more unusual than others). There is still time for your child to join our setting to receive high quality care and education in the heart of Werrington. We offer funding for 2,3 & 4 year olds. To arrange a visit or for more information please get in touch on 07929904175 or take a look at our Facebook page.



Snapper Shaw

The Jodrell Bank Observatory (originally the Jodrell Bank Experimental Station and from 1966 to 1999, the Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories) hosts a number of radio telescopes. The observatory was established in 1945 by Bernard Lovell, a radio astronomer at the University of Manchester to investigate cosmic rays after his work on radar during the Second World War. The main telescope at the observatory is the Lovell Telescope, which is the third largest steerable radio telescope in the world. It has played an important role in the research of meteors, quasars, pulsars, masers and gravitational lenses, and was heavily involved with the tracking of space probes at the start of the Space Age.



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I will be showcasing some of the Scentsy products at the library on Thursday 12th December 2019 9.30-13.00, please come along and have a look, they will make excellent Christmas presents and come with a lifetime guarantee.



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WHATS ON WITH WENDY AND DEREK



Werrington Community Library & Wellbeing Centre

Queens Award Presentation
 Children's craft sessions -
 papercraft, painting and ceramic
 Children's Animal Magic session
 Christmas Mince Pie mornings
 Creative Writing Group
 Crossroads Care Carers Support
 Programme
 Dementia Friends training

Dementia Support Carers sessions
 Diabetes Support Programmes –
 including Ingeus referral programme
 District Councillor Surgery
 Flower arranging events
 Foot Health Care
 Friends Against Scams informative
 events
 Hairdressing
 Healthwatch drop-in information session
 Jewellery evaluation and purchase
 Knit & Natter
 Moorside High School reading support
 for Werrington Primary School
 Musical social afternoon tea
 North Staffordshire Combined
 Healthcare Trust confidential group client
 meetings
 Rethink Mental Health drop-in sessions
 Scarecrow event refreshments, trail
 maps distribution & awards sessions
 Slimming World informal drop-in and
 taste sessions
 Slimming World evening group meetings
 Staffordshire Poet Laureate session
 Staffordshire Police drop-in sessions
 Support Staffordshire drop -in sessions -
 volunteering opportunities
 Together for Health Lifestyle sessions -
 weight management, smoking cessation,



By the time you read
 this the Werrington
 Community Volunteers
 will have run the Library
 & Wellbeing Centre
 for over three years
 and what an amazing
 success it has been.
 Taking advantage of

what was the Children's Centre room
 which was uneconomically only used for
 a few hours each week they launched
 the "UK-First" Wellbeing Centre in
 conjunction with the Village Surgery and
 the Patients Participation Group.

To date over 1,500 activities have taken
 place attracting more people than ever
 to this unique venue which works closely
 with the Village Hall to provide even
 more facilities. To see what has been
 done take a look at the list below.

"About You" holistic therapy sessions
 and drop-ins

Adults ceramic craft sessions

Age UK Heartstart training

Baby Bounce & Rhyme

Baby Massage

Baby Yoga

Beth Johnson Foundation drop-in
 sessions - advocacy support

Breast Feeding Support Group

Carers Drop-in event

Chess sessions

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alcohol dependency

Trip Down Memory Lane reminiscence
 sessions

Ukulele Group

Winter Driving Safety session

Hosted Village Hall Committee meeting

Hosted confidential (individual) staff
 meeting for local schools

Hosted Community Managed Libraries

Network meetings

Hosted Parish Council meetings

Hosted Practice Managers Local
 Meetings

Hosted Macmillan Big Coffee Mornings

Hosted Sepsis UK fundraising event

Wendy Sandbrook

Werrington Wellbeing Centre Co-ordinator



and friendly Line Dancing
 group meet on Thursday
 afternoons. There is Bingo
 on the last Saturday
 afternoon of the month.

There is a regular Fitness
 class each Sunday Sunday
 morning between 9:30 and
 10:30 and Advanced Drivers
 East Midlands meet every
 Sunday morning from 9:00
 am in the Johnstone room.



The village hall also
 has a very busy diary
 with on-going regular
 meetings and activities
 including; the Women's
 Institute Endon Players
 Dramatic Society;
 Weightwatchers;

Werrington Parish Council and
 Werrington Village Hall Committee.
 There is a range of activities for all levels
 of abilities i.e. Yoga and pregnancy
 Yoga, Jujitsu, Ballet & Tap, Pilates,
 Kettlercise and Kickboxing. There is a
 postnatal Yoga class on Fridays between
 10:00 – 11:00 and a new Yoga class
 on Thursday evenings. The Drovers
 Line Dancing group meet twice monthly
 on Saturday evenings and a small

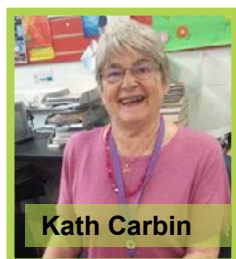
In addition to all that, there is also a wide
 range of 50+ activities - Table Tennis,
 Sequence Dancing and 2 Art classes.
 During the school terms, Preschool,
 which caters for 2 – 4 year olds, is
 available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
 mornings and Thursday and Friday
 mornings and afternoons.

The village hall could be the perfect
 location for your special event. The main
 hall is available for regular or ad hoc hire
 on; Saturday afternoons or evenings
 up to 11:45 pm and Sundays from
 11:00 am to 11:45pm. The smaller
 Johnstone room can provide a lovely
 alternative function room and currently
 has more availability for hire.

www.werringtoncommunitylibrary.org.uk

Introducing three more of our library volunteers.

Hello again! As promised in the autumn edition of Village Life I am introducing three more of the library volunteers who work hard to maintain the library in Werrington. It is due to all our volunteers that the library is so successful and is going from strength to strength. I'm sure they would be delighted to welcome new library members, young and old, so just pop along to join your library, see what other things we do or to become a volunteer. More in the Spring. *Bye for now, Jean*



Kath Carbin

"My name is Kath Carbin. Volunteering at the library has been the best thing I could have done after my husband died. I have made so many new friends among the other library volunteers and learned new skills. It is such a delight to see so many young children enjoying and visiting the library." people of Werrington"

"I love being a volunteer at the library. There has been a lot to learn – it's certainly keeping my brain active! We have such a lovely, friendly group of volunteers and it has been wonderful to see how both adults and children enjoy visiting."



Joan Williamson

"Volunteering is so worthwhile both to ourselves and to our community, we all obtain the benefits. We meet lovely people who use our library and we all gain from this wonderful facility." putting the books away."



Margaret Smith

"FOREST" IN WERRINGTON

On Tuesday 18th September, children from Year 3 and Year 4 enjoyed a special shelter building Forest School session. Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Ellis, our local PCSO Steve Sherratt and some of our school governors came along to see how the shelters were progressing. A super morning's work!



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ASH GROVE TO ONTARIO

Number 13 was one of the first three houses to be built in the Grove.

Unlike most of the other houses, it did not have a name and before the renumbering of the houses, was simply number 7.

In October 1929 the first owner of the partly completed house was William Henry Hall, the son of a Hanley butcher. It is possible that he had been attracted to the Ash Hall Estate by one of the many adverts that had been appearing in the Sentinel. The area was expanding fast and, in 1928, permission had been granted for the bus companies to extend their routes beyond Bucknall as far as Ash Hall.

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BUCKNALL, Stoke-on-Trent.
Phone: Hanley 2231.

Bill was a Commercial Traveller for earthenware manufacturers Johnson Brothers, but was destined to take on a much more important role for the company.

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In 1930 he married Vera Woodhouse, also from Hanley. The couple were well known in the area and the reception was held at the Grosvenor Café in Hanley, where over 50 guests sat down to luncheon. They honeymooned in London and on the South Coast.

Doctors say:—
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Golf. (Ash Hall Hotel)

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Ladies	£2 3s 6d
Daily Fees	18 per Sixty
Week-days	2/-
Saturday	2/-
Sunday	2/-

Tennis.
The Courts, in splendid condition, can now be reserved.

Dancing every Saturday evening 8 p.m. to 12 p.m. as usual. Admission 2/6.

Their first daughter Pat was born in 1933, then Marion in 1935, Valerie in 1938 and finally Jennifer in 1942. Ash Grove was a happy place to grow up in. The children used to play in the woods at the end of Bridle Path, and would collect blackberries for bottling and jam making. Bilberries were to be found on the common as well. On Guy Fawkes Night a bonfire was lit at the top of the Grove, which was not properly surfaced at that time.

For the first 3 years of the war Bill spent 6 months at a time in South America on Johnson Brothers

business, but he was able to send food parcels home for his family. The family car was put on blocks in the garage for the duration of the war, as fuel shortages prevented its use. When Bill was away two therapists from the Cassel hospital at Ash Hall were billeted at the house. The three older girls were often invited to parties and film shows at the Hall. The blackout was very strictly enforced and a brick and reinforced concrete air raid shelter was constructed behind the garage at the side of the house. (I remember in 1984 how difficult it was to demolish!) Fortunately it was never required for its intended purpose.

Pat remembers that, amongst other things, sacks of potatoes and a primus stove were stored there. She remembers the fuel from the stove being spilt on the sacks and the subsequent taste of the potatoes all that winter. Vera was a keen gardener and some of the plan she laid out nearly 100 years ago is evident today, including a beautiful rhododendron bush and a lawn on which the family enjoyed playing clock golf. When Bill had completed his trips to South America, he became a Lieutenant in Werrington

Home Guard. Pat remembers his smart uniform, complete with rifle and bayonet. Vera's uncle Bert was a Corporal in the same unit.



Because she was married, Vera had not been allowed to continue her work as an elementary school teacher in Hanley. However, for at least a year, when the regulations were relaxed after the war, she helped out at the primary school in Salters Lane, where she taught

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A WERRINGTON IN BLOOM SPONSOR?

All the flowers you see in planters around the village are organised by the Werrington Community Volunteer Group who raise the money to fund this lovely project which is done at no cost to residents. What we could do with is having some sponsors to help take the project forward. Each planter cost around 30 per year and so if you would like to have your name on a planter call David on **01782 302019** or e-mail **david@dsaimaging.co.uk**. We need some help to cover the funds.



youngest daughter Jennifer, who was in her first year at the school.

Bill and Vera together with their four daughters lived at the house until 1948, when they moved to a bigger house at 195 Ash Bank Road. They sold No 13 to Douglas and Irene Twigg, their friends from down the street.

In 1947 Johnson Brothers purchased Canadian pottery manufacturers Sovereign Potters and Bill was appointed president of operations. In 1953 the whole family left Liverpool on the Cunard line SS Samaria headed for Toronto, where they made new lives for themselves.

If anyone has any comments, further information or photos relating to Ash Grove, please get in touch with Steve Williams on 07903 746410 or at mrstevewilliams@hotmail.com

MAKING A DATE WITH A BOOK AT WERRINGTON LIBRARY

Staffordshire's Young Teen Fiction Book Award is aimed at KS3 pupils, age 11-14, who live or go to school in Staffordshire, or who use Staffordshire Library Services.

In order to encourage young people from Moorside High School to participate in nominating books for this year's award we're really excited to be hosting a 'Young Teen Fiction Event' at Werrington Library. The students will have access to lots of book that are eligible for the 2020 award. They will have a 2-minute speed date with each book to decide which they would like to borrow.

These nomination will decide the titles that make the shortlist, and then the winner will be announced at YTF Celebration Day in July.

www.werringtoncommunitylibrary.org.uk



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CHRISTMAS PARTY

LET'S CELEBRATE

Saturday 14th December 2019
2:00 - 4:00pm

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