



Fairfield Village Community Association

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2018

IF YOU GO DOWN IN TO THE WOODS TODAY...



The unusual Herb Paris; grows in healthy ancient & semi-ancient Woodland & can be found in Pepperwood.

www.fairfieldvillage.co.uk
fvccommunityassociation@outlook.com

Flexible Engagement, Empowering YOU

Future meetings of the Community Association, which are open to all residents, businesses and friends of Fairfield and Stoneybridge, will alternate each month between the Village Hall (mornings) and Fairfield Villa (evenings). It is hoped that this new arrangement will enable more people to participate in helping to shape the community where we live.

The first meeting at Fairfield Villa will be on Monday 4th June, 7pm for 7.30pm. The bar will be open.

Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

Monday 4 th June	Fairfield Villa	7pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 7 th July	Village Hall	9.30pm for 10.00pm
Monday 6 th August	Fairfield Villa	7pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 1 st September	Village Hall	9.30pm for 10.00pm
Monday 1 st October	Fairfield Villa	7pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 3 rd November	Village Hall	9.30pm for 10.00pm
Monday 3 rd December	Fairfield Villa	7pm for 7.30pm

The Community Association works for a better and sustainable community; building and maintaining pride in where we all live.

Sustainable goods, made from coppiced Pepperwood: Fence Panels, (3' x 2' £10) Bean Poles (8' 6" x 10 £4), Charcoal (£5 bag) & more - pop along to the Pepperwood Volunteer Shed (Wed or Sun mornings) or phone 0787575698

Bread & Milk Now on Sale from the Café

Loaves of bread (white and brown) and Milk (various sizes) can now be purchased from the Village Café.

Please use this service – don't let us lose it

Is Our Local Community Spirit Alive & Well?

Recently there have been several comments that Fairfield is boring, that there is nothing to do and the Community Spirit that once existed has gone.

What is there in Fairfield? What activities and events have there been over the past 12 months?

In addition to a Post Office, Hairdressers, Café and School, Fairfield is fortunate to have a Village Hall, Church, Pub and Social Club.

Social Groups & Activities include Bingo, Line Dancing, Taekwondo, Football Teams (adults & young people), Welcome Club (for older residents), Zumba, Community Association, Women's Institute, Monthly Dining Group, Vegetable Society and Fuchsia Society.

Over the past 12 months village institutions have delivered a Flower & Produce Show, Craft Fayre, Magical Christmas Party, New Year's Eve party, Community Lunch, 1940's Night, Frock Swap, Carolling Around the Christmas Tree plus visiting Professional Entertainment (Angel Peacock Trio, Stinxville, Mummy Monster and Wind in the Willows).

The Community Association is the verified Neighbourhood Watch Group and the village church (St. Mark's) regularly delivers pastoral services.

It is appreciated that not all the activities and groups appeal to everyone, there is scope to expand what is on offer – any suggestions that would appeal to you and others?

So, back to the questions “Is our local community spirit alive & well?”

There is spirit in our community, people working hard to keep the flame alive. To sustain the flame requires local people to “buy in” to what is on offer and help to develop opportunities. **Please support your community and the Community Spirit Flame will burn brighter.**

Please clean up your dog's mess

Dog mess is still being found across our community, on paths, on verges and on resident's front gardens.

Our community is fortunate to have suitably located dog waste bins, there is no excuse to keep our roads, paths & verges dog mess free.



318 Bus Service

Update received from Cty Cllr Webb (14th May 2018) "The replacement service is currently out to tender and an extension has been agreed with Diamond buses to align the start dates, the service will continue with Diamond bus until September."

Remembering World War 1

To commemorate the end of the World War 1 and all those people that died during the conflict poppy seeds have been sown across Fairfield. Thank you to all the landowners that have enabled these poppy beds to be created. The poppies will be an annual reminder to those people that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Financial Support for Residents

Did you know that Belbroughton United Charities provides grants for the relief of poverty **for residents in the Parish of Belbroughton & Fairfield**?

If you know of a resident in the Parish struggling to pay their bills, keeping their home warm or have little food to eat Belbroughton United Charities offers one off grants.

To apply or for more information contact:

Pauline Jones, Telephone: 0121 453 7785, Email: pjones456@talktalk.net

www.fairfieldvillage.co.uk
fvcommunityassociation@outlook.com

Floral Fairfield 2018

July is Floral Fairfield, the annual competition that encourages households & businesses in Fairfield & Stoneybridge to create ribbons of colours throughout the community.

Certificates are awarded to the best floral displays and gardens that can be **seen and enjoyed by people passing by.**

The categories are:

- Large Property a) Best front garden & b) Best tub(s)/basket
- Small Property a) Best front garden & b) Best tub(s)/basket
- Business Property – Best tub(s)/basket(s)



Rules:

- 1) Competition is open to residents that live in Fairfield & Stoneybridge;
- 2) Judging will take place along the following roads
 - Bournheath Road
 - Brook Road
 - Dordale Road (Between Parish Hill and Brook Road)
 - Fairfield Court
 - Mount Road (properties in the Parish of Belbroughton & Fairfield)
 - Orchard Villas
 - Parish Hill (properties in the Parish of Belbroughton & Fairfield)
 - Pepperwood Close
 - School Drive
 - Stoneybridge
 - Stourbridge Road

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- Swan Lane
 - Wood Lane
 - Yew Tree Lane
- 3) To enter the competition, make sure your floral displays can be seen and enjoyed by the 1st July;
 - 4) Judging will take place during July;
 - 5) Displays must be sited on resident's property and not on public paths and highway;
 - 6) Floral displays must be seen and can be enjoyed by people passing by;
 - 7) Certificates will be award to the winner and runner-ups for each category;
 - 8) Judges' decision is final;
 - 9) The rules can change without notice;
 - 10) Even though this is a competition, it is a bit of fun.

Fairfield Village Hall: Facilities Management Contract

An opportunity exists for suitable person(s) to deliver Facilities Management services at Fairfield Village Hall, on a self-employed/service contract basis.

This is an important role in ensuring that the Village Hall runs smoothly, standards are maintained and the Village Hall continues to be a pleasant environment for all users.

The duties are varied and the role requires that the person can be flexible with regard to hours of work.

The value of the contract is up to £2500 per annum, depending on skills and agreed service delivery, working an average of 3.5 hrs a week. For further information visit email secretary.fvh@outlook.com

Job Opportunities at the Swan Inn

Several opportunities are available to join the Swan's strong team, full training will be given.

Please call in, Email your CV to: Swan.fairfield@marstons.co.uk or give the Swan a call on 01527 837196.

New Vicar for Fairfield

The Bishop of Worcester is pleased to announce the appointment of The Revd Canon Susan Oliver as Curate-in-Charge of Fairfield.

The Revd Canon Susan Oliver will also be the Priest-in-Charge of Churchill, Blakedown and Broome, and Curate-in-Charge (to be known as Associate Priest) Belbroughton.

Sue is currently Vicar of St. Mark's Pensnett, Dudley. She is married to Bob and they have four adult children.

The Bishop of Dudley will license Sue to her new post on Sunday 2 September at 4pm at St James's Church, Blakedown.



Take The 100 Yard Challenge

Spruce up your property with the simple 100 yards challenge.

Once a week or fortnight litter pick 50 yards either side of the entrance to your property/driveway.

By doing so not only will you help make the village grot free, you will also make the entrance to your property more attractive.



**Come and Celebrate our 24th
Annual Produce Show**

At

Fairfield Village Hall

on

Saturday 11th August 2018

**Entries welcomed from everyone
Open to the public from 3pm**

**Teas, Raffle, Tombola, Competitions
W.I. Cake Stall**

Auction of Produce at 4pm

Admission at the Door 50p

Free to Exhibitors and Children

Show Secretary:- Anne Griffin – agriffin490@hotmail.co.uk

**Show schedules available from the Café and can be downloaded from
www.fairfieldvillage.co.uk**

**www.fairfieldvillage.co.uk
fvcommunityassociation@outlook.com**

Swan Inn Update

The pub shuts for refurbishment on 14 May and will re-open to the public on Monday 4 June.

The Swan Inn has a new, fantastic, permanent senior team in place to deliver what will be the best thing to happen in the eating and drinking out market locally.

The Management Team are aware that the business over recent months has seen a lot of changes and would urge residents to pop in for a chat.

Introducing the new senior team.

- Jim - GM - 30 + Years' experience (Swallows Nest Romsley, Foley Arms, Seven Stars Stourbridge, Mitre Oak and many others.
- Jane Head Chef - 30 + Years of experience (Whitbread, Mitchells & Butlers and others)
- Phil Head Chef - 20 + Years of Experience, (Swallows Nest Romsley, Red Lion Alvechurch, Mermaid Whitwick and others)
- Carl - Assistant Manager, 12+ years experience (Whitbread, Mitre Oak and many others)
- Natasha Front Of House team lead - 6 Years previous experience at The Swan.

Here's to a great future for The Swan.

Village Hall 200 Club

With top prizes of up to £200.00, join the Village Hall 200 Club. It is only £1.00 p/mth. The Club supports the Village Hall's ongoing maintenance. Interested? Contact Linda Garvin, tel: 01527 834935



YOUR Community Association Meeting

FVCA Officers

At the Association's AGM that was held in April the following persons were elected to serve as the Association's Officers:

Conrad Palmer (Chairman), Robert Garvin (Treasurer), Carol Brogan (Secretary), Carol Edwards, Simon Baldwin, Mary Gibbs & Julie Baldwin.

To contact the Association:

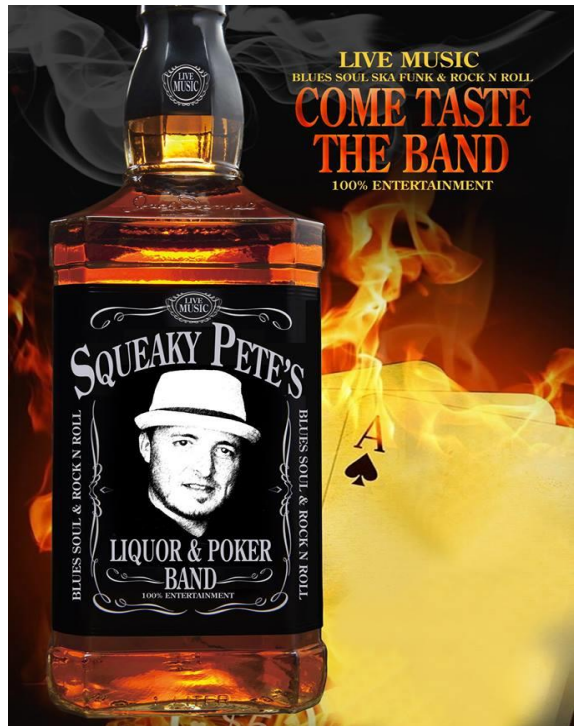
Email: fvcommunityassociation@outlook.com.

Friday Night is Music Night at the Swan

On Friday 8th June, **SQUEAKY PETE'S LIQUOR & POKER BAND** will be playing at the Swan on the newly refurbished patio area.

The band plays fabulous Blues, Soul, Funk, Ska and Rock & Roll. Expect to hear The Rolling Stones, Stevie Wonder, Frank Sinatra, Van Morrison, Madness, Ben E King, Rod Stewart, Bob Marley, Neil Diamond and many more!!

The entertainment starts at 8pm



Local Community Transport

BURT Community Transport

Bromsgrove Urban and Rural Transport, or BURT, is Bromsgrove's community transport minibus. The bus assists vulnerable residents of Bromsgrove District who are unable to make essential journeys by conventional transport, either because of personal mobility/disability difficulties or because of the non availability of a suitable service.

The bus is adapted for wheelchair users. BURT is operated by local charity Bromsgrove and Redditch Network.

All journeys are within Bromsgrove District and to book the service BARN will need 3-days notice.

For further information Telephone: 01527 585893
Email: burt@burtrides.org.uk

Rural Rides – New Service Provider

This is a community car scheme run by Community Transport Wyre Forest, previously operated by RVS.

Volunteers use their cars to provide transport to those who are unable to make essential journeys by conventional transport. This may be either due to personal mobility problems or, because of the non availability of a suitable service.

Eligibility:

- Must pay Council Tax to Bromsgrove District Council
- Journeys can be for social, welfare, recreational, medical or educational reasons
- You are unable to make your journey, due to personal mobility difficulties, by any other means or suitable transport

The journey can be outside of Bromsgrove district. A minimum of 3 days notice is required to book a journey

Booking Line: 01299 405820 (Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 14:00 hours).

The **RETRO RUN**

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THERETORUNBIKERIDE



primrose
hospice

centre of care

**ANNUAL CHARITY
RETRO BIKE RIDE**

8

**SATURDAY 14TH
JULY**

12pm Nailers Arms

PLEASE ARRIVE AT 11AM FOR
REGISTRATION

£10 adult

entry

Kids under

16 free

All under

16's must

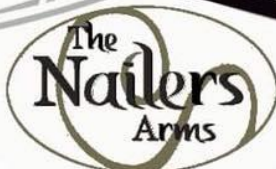
wear a

helmet &

be accompanied

by an adult

***RAFFLE PRIZES
*FOOD
*T-SHIRTS
*WRISTBANDS
ALL THE FAMILY
ARE WELCOME**



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Zumba at the Village Hall is popular with all ages and all abilities
Every Thursday 7pm

Do You Enjoy Playing Football?

Fairfield Villa Reserves are recruiting for talented players to join their squad for season 2018/19, aged from 16 + games played in the Midland football league reserves division, excellent opportunity to progress to MFL Div 2 1st team for details call 07976 607792 or 07988842551

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Afternoon Tea

Thursday 16th August

3pm—5pm



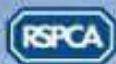
Fairfield Village Hall

£7.50 p/person

Includes FREE glass of Prosecco



www.fairfieldvillage.co.uk
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Your dog can harm and scare farm animals

Please put it on a lead near livestock

RSPCA, 100 Brookings Way, Southwark
London, SE16 6PU, 0203 255 255
www.rspca.org.uk
NSA, 100 Brookings Way, Southwark, SE16 6PU
NFU, 100 Brookings Way, Southwark, SE16 6PU

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Opportunities to Support Your Community

Treasurer - Fairfield Village Hall

After serving the Village Hall for a good few years, the current Treasurer, Mike White, stood down at May's AGM and the Hall are looking for a replacement. The Hall plays an important role in village life and you would have a key role in ensuring the smooth working of the Hall.

This unpaid job involves the following:

1. Keeping basic books of account for the Hall, which is a registered charity
2. Recording income and expenditure and reporting this to the board
3. Paying bills and banking cash/cheque receipts from Hall hires/events and reconciling bank statements with our records
4. Liaising with the chartered accountant who prepares our formal annual accounts

The time commitment:

- * typically 1 – 2 hours a week
- * attendance at monthly board meetings, normally 1 1/2 hours on the first Wednesday of each month.

Qualifications: no formal accounting qualifications are required. Basic bookkeeping experience desirable, IT familiarisation essential.

If you are interested, please email secretary.fvh@outlook.com; an informal chat will be arranged. Mike will help the new Treasurer for a handover period of a few months.



Charity Trustees for Fairfield Village Hall

Do you value your local Village Hall? Would you like to be involved in its future?

We are currently looking for trustees to help shape the future direction and the current management and operation of Fairfield's primary community building.

As a Trustee you will be involved in the financial stewardship of the Hall's funds, planning the future direction of the Hall's development and on occasion assisting with social events.

You need to be a resident of the parish of Fairfield, Wildmoor or Stoneybridge and over the age of 18.

Interested? Email secretary.fvh@outlook.com, an informal chat will be arranged.

Assistance needed to help maintain public footpaths around Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge

The Parish Footpath Warden (who is a volunteer) needs your help to cut back vegetation & repair styles.

Equipment and training will be provided.

If you can help, a few hours a month, please contact the Parish Clerk:

Tel: 01299 270722

Email: belbroughtonpc@live.co.uk

Pepperwood Volunteers

Pepperwood is managed on behalf of the Woodland Trust by an amazing team of volunteers, who coppice woodland, maintain paths and, using traditional skills, make fencing and charcoal. New volunteers are always welcome, with work parties taking place on Wednesdays & Sundays - meet at the Volunteer Shed next to the car park. For further information speak to Hugh tel. 0787575698

Be a Hero and Banish Grot from our Community

Be a hero on the second Saturday of each Month and help clear our community of Grot.

Grot is lurking along our verges and in the hedges; with your assistance our village will be Grot free.

Meet outside the Village Hall at 10.30am, equipment will be provided - please wear suitable clothing.

Donate an Hour for a Grot Free Community.



Shut That Lid for a Cleaner Fairfield

When your lid does not shut on your Wheelie Bin and rubbish is piled high the wind may blow your rubbish or recycling in to the surrounding area.

Please make sure your lid is properly closed, check & litter pick the surrounding area after your bin has been emptied.

Your assistance would be appreciated, and our village will be a lot cleaner.

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Fairfield Dining Group

Social gathering of residents and friends of Fairfield & Stoneybridge on the third Monday of each month, 12.30pm; get to know your neighbours over a lunchtime meal:

18th June
16th July
20th August
17th September
15th October
19th November

Past venues include Nailers Arms (Dodford), Lord Mortons Tea Rooms (Cutnall Green), The French Hen (Clent), The Vine (Clent), Robin Hood Inn (Drayton) and The Gate (Bournheath).

For further information or to confirm attendance telephone Linda 01527 834935 or Pat 01527 832360

Keep up to date with FVCA community & Neighbourhood Watch news:

Register your email to receive e-circulars to email box – send your email address to fvcommunityassociation@outlook.com

Follow Social Media:

Twitter @Fairfield_Info

Facebook facebook.com/fairfieldinformation

Visit www.fairfieldvillage.co.uk



Fairfield Walkers



New Monthly Walking Group

Friday 8th June, 10am—12 noon

3.5 mile walk, gentle terrain. Dogs on lead are welcome

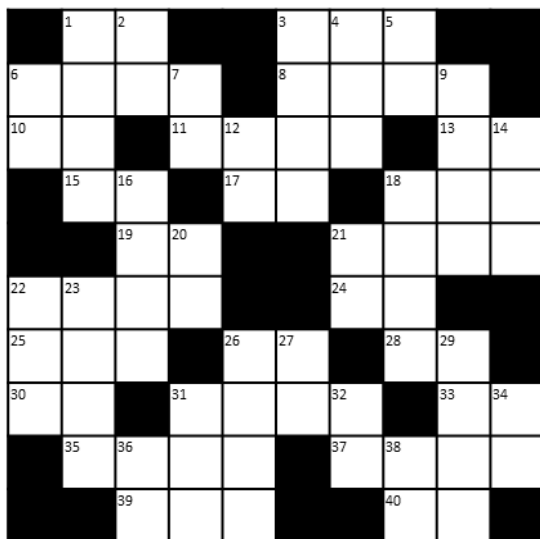
Meet Recreation Ground Car Park.

Wear suitable clothing, strong boots, bring water.

For Further Information: fvcommunityassociation@outlook.com

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Cross Number #1



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ACROSS

1. 22 - 9
3. 159 - 13
6. 465 + 750
8. 2329 + 3294
10. 25 - 10
11. 18833 - 9266
13. 20 - 7
15. 15 + 16
17. 120 - 24
18. 952 - 344
19. 99 - 40
21. 445 + 8975

22. 1496 + 930
24. 124 - 46
25. 1290 - 300
26. 98 - 44
28. 11 + 5
30. 27 + 40
31. 9284 - 2589
33. 44 - 10
35. 3292 - 768
37. 9 + 1616
39. 858 - 356
40. 1 + 10

DOWN

1. 710 + 543
2. 46 - 15
3. 297 + 1269
4. 235 + 232
5. 83 - 21
6. 15 - 4
7. 29 + 30
9. 5457 - 2355
12. 24 + 35
14. 560 - 180
16. 381 + 1139
18. 12346 + 5865
20. 27 + 69
21. 183 - 86
22. 338 - 42
23. 280 + 4692
26. 10786 - 5144
27. 27 + 22
29. 12200 - 5879
31. 687 - 67
32. 62 - 11
34. 21 + 24
36. 61 - 6
38. 17 + 44

Turnover for answers

Meet Your Local Safer Neighbourhood Police Team

Bromsgrove North and Rural

Web: www.westmercia.police.uk

Email: bnr.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk



PC Ash Durkin
07811 748593



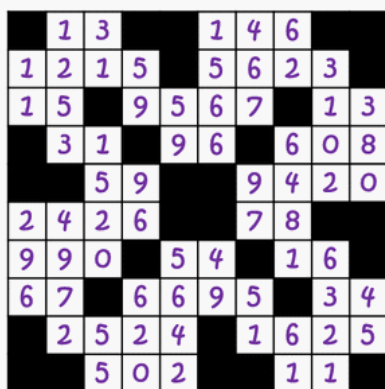
PC Barnaby Kelso
07976 936406



PCSO Simon Cadwallader
07773 044333



PCSO Joanne Evans
07773 046494



FREE EVENT: National Vegetable Society at Fairfield

Bugs and Diseases Plus Bring and Buy Plant Sale

After our cold and wet winter, the weather is now improving and it is time to get our plants on the vegetable plot and flowers in the borders growing away for another season. The West Midlands District Association (DA) of the National Vegetable Society (NVS) are pleased to advise the SPRING meeting to be held at Fairfield Village Hall on **Thursday 31st May**, the hall will be open 7.00 pm.

This is a FREE Meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

We are pleased to welcome Roger Umpleby BSc MPhil Entomologist who will be advising us on how to deal with Pests and Diseases on vegetables. Although some of these may reside in other parts of our garden or plot. It is envisaged that this will be an interesting and entertaining talk.

If anyone has a particular problem for Identification or Treatment then please bring a sample to the meeting.

If anyone brings Bugs or Creepy Crawlies please make sure they are DEAD or in a SECURELY SEALED CONTAINER.

The Talk and Presentation will commence at 8.00 pm.

After the talk there will be a Bring and Buy Plant Sale, to help fund the DA Events.

Members will be bringing some quality Vegetable Plants, Bedding Plants, Pot Plants, including herbs (especially Parsley for garnish at the August Show). There will also be some seeds and other sundry items for Sale.

Anyone who is short of plants to Bring, can still come and Buy for their garden / plot.

This will be a good opportunity to obtain some quality plants.

New Members and Visitors are welcome and there will be an opportunity to learn about other events and activities of the NVS both nationally and more specifically within the Midland Region.

Tea/Coffee and Biscuits will be served before and after the Talk.

Fairfield Village Hall is situated on the B 4091 (Stourbridge to Bromsgrove Road) about 2.25 miles from J4 on the M5. For anyone using Sat. Nav. the Post Code of the Village Hall is B61 9LZ.

If anyone requires a map, directions or other information please contact:
Roy James on Tel: 01527 831508 or email [roy_james2 @sky.com](mailto:roy_james2@sky.com) (preferred).



Neighbourhood Watch News

Security Advice – Your Wheelie Is A Criminal's Aid



Did you know that wheelie bins can be used in the following ways by burglars and criminals?

As climbing aid to help them gain access to your property? Would be burglars can your wheelie bin and climb on top of it to help them scale your garden wall or fence.

As an indicator as to whether or not you are at home? Wheelie bins left out in the street can be an indication that you have not yet returned home from work. Consider asking a trusted neighbour if they would be kind enough to collect your wheelie bins from off the side of the road after they have been emptied.

As a removal aid to help take the items away that they have stolen? Burglars and thieves can use any insecure and accessible wheelie bins as a carrying cart to take away any items they have stolen from your property.

To find out information about you. Criminal can search through your wheelie bins looking for any personal information which may be contained in discarded letters and documents. This information can then be used to aid in identity theft. Ensure you destroy all discarded personal documentation, ideally by shredding it.

To start small fires. Criminals and vandals can use wheelie bins to help set small fires which can easily spread out of control and cause damage to your property and in extreme cases endanger life.

Make sure your wheelie bins are out of sight of burglars. Store or secure it away until collection day.

What's in your shed?

People think that the contents of their shed have little value, but what if you had to replace the contents of your shed, just how much would it cost?

Because people think that the contents of their shed have little value they pay very little attention to their shed security. When asked what is in their shed many people will answer something like "Just a few old tools", "A bit of fishing tackle", "The kids toys", "nothing much just junk".

Remember the tools and equipment you keep in your shed could be used to force entry into your home, causing you even more expense and hassle.

If you were to add up the value of just what you do keep in your shed and its replacement cost, you may be in for a shock. It is sometimes the case that the value of property people keep in their shed adds up to more than the value of the property in their living room. Is the security on your shed really up to the job?

Try to place your shed within view of your house and ensure there is adequate lighting. Consider installing an alarm.

Ensure the shed is in a good state of repair. Fit a good quality closed shackle padlock to the door in order to prevent thieves cutting through the shackle of the lock.

Consider having lockable steel boxes fitted to the floor to store your tools in.

Make a note of make, model and serial number of tools, equipment and bicycles, take photographs and secure all items in a safe place whilst stored in your shed.

Lock items together in order to make it more difficult for them to be carried away by thieves.

For further information on all aspects of security Visit <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/crime-and-safety>

**Don't give thieves
'shed loads' of opportunities!**

BIKE

WORTH
£50 - £1,000

**POWER
TOOLS**

WORTH
£50 - £500

**FISHING
TACKLE**

WORTH
£50 - £400



Warwickshire
POLICE



West Mercia
POLICE



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Reducing the chances of you being a victim of crime

Euro-cylinder locks are present on the majority of UPVC doors and we are aware that some offenders have developed a method of overcoming them to then gain access into a home.

Look to upgrade your euro-cylinder locks if they have not achieved a 3 star rating under the TS 007 testing process or the Sold Secure Diamond Standard (SS312).

Euro-cylinder locks can be changed by yourself, but you will need to measure them properly to ensure they are the right size for your door. They should not be fitted so they protrude from the door unit or handle.

If you are going to ask someone to upgrade your locks for you, consider using the Master Locksmiths Association or a reputable security company. Obtain three quotes for the fitting of new locks to the standards referenced above and pick the one that best suits your circumstances.

When replacing your locks you should consider fitting Anti-Snap locks. These types of locks are designed to have two parts. These parts are built to enable the door to lock even if a burglar manages to break the front part of the barrel off. With the way these types of locks are designed they prevent access to the inner part of the locking barrel and thereby preventing burglars from accessing the locking mechanism and unlocking your door.

Due to the way these locks are designed you can also continue using your lock because the locking mechanism section will continue to work until you change the whole lock.

Who's Reading Your Post?

Residents with external post boxes are asked to check that they are secure and cannot be accessed by people unknown. Your post may contain personal and sensitive information that could be used by criminals to defraud you.

There are reports of external post boxes being targeted in the West Mercia area, with householders only becoming aware when they find out that someone unknown to them has taken out an online loan or a payment has been taken out of their bank account.

Are criminal gangs harming your community?

If you have information about criminal activity and you know who is responsible, but you feel you cannot go to the police because you are scared it would mean going to court and giving evidence or you are scared what might happen to you or your family if those responsible find out you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 and tell them what you know.

You will remain 100% anonymous. Always!

Just tell them what you know, not who you are.



Do not give thieves an easy ride!

Bicycles are one of the most targeted items by thieves...

Always lock your bike when you leave it, even if it's only for a few minutes. Look to spend about 10% of what your bike is worth on the lock. For better security use two or more locks of a different type - a D lock plus a robust chain and padlock.

All bike frames are given a unique serial number. This is normally located underneath the bike and should be written down or photographed and kept somewhere safe.

Security mark the frame. You can use a UV Pen or a property marking solution such as Smartwater. When marking your bicycle use your initials, postcode or another mark that is unique to you.

Lock your bike at recognised secure cycle parking that's well covered by good lighting and CCTV, with both the wheel and the frame secured to an immovable object.

If your bike is kept in a shed, keep the shed secure with good quality locks and ensure the windows are covered and an alarm is fitted.

Remember to Insure your bike either on your homes contents insurance or on a separate insurance policy.

West Mercia Community Ambassadors, who are they and what is their role?

Each force area in West Mercia has its own dedicated Community Ambassador who represents the Commissioner. These individuals act as the 'eyes and ears' for John Companion (West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner) and ensure community concerns and issues are fed back and dealt with accordingly.



Anyone can contact their local Ambassador to bring issues around crime, safety or policing to the Commissioner's attention.

Who are they and what do they do?

The Ambassadors are Graham Oliver for Shropshire, Daniel Guerche for Herefordshire, Sherrel Fikeis for Telford & Wrekin, Margaret Sherrey for North Worcestershire and Phil Grove for South Worcestershire.

- They engage with local communities to ensure their priorities are understood, their voices are heard and their needs are met.
- They develop new relationships with partners and communities.
- They ensure the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, has a visible presence and is accessible right across a large policing area.

- They represent the Commissioner's values, vision and work.

What meetings do they attend?

- Monthly meetings with the Superintendent for their policing area.
- Take part in patrols with their local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT).
- Local parish council meetings.
- Community events, such as festivals and fetes
- Check in with grant recipients, and identify other groups that may benefit from funding

How do I get in contact with our local Ambassador?

Margaret Sherrey - North Worcestershire

Email: margaretsherrey@hotmail.com

Phone: 07817 032 645

For further information, please visit the West Mercia Office of Police & Crime Commissioner website <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/in.../community-ambassadors/>

Security tips for rural properties

Farms and Rural properties are often in isolated locations and can be vulnerable to crime if not properly secured and protected. A secure perimeter around your property and its outbuildings can help deter would be thieves and burglars from targeting livestock, vehicles and buildings within your boundary.

Regularly check your fences and hedges in order to identify any gaps or weak spots that could help provide unauthorised access by criminals and secure these where necessary. Consider restricting access to your properties entrance with a gate or other form of barrier system, this will help prevent unwelcome guests and vehicles entering onto your land.

You may wish to consider having an infrared passive tripwire system installed. This type of system projects an infrared beam which when broken would alert you to the fact that there may be somebody on your properties grounds. Remember to install this type of system high enough off the ground so local wildlife such as foxes and badgers do not accidentally set it off.

Install good security lighting around your home, outbuildings and any isolated locations. This can also deter would be criminals as most thieves and burglars would rather remain unseen in order to help prevent them being spotted by the property owner or any possible passersby or police patrols.

Avoid leaving property in isolated locations or in fields - particularly near roadside or any where they can be easily removed without attracting any unwanted attention.

Items such as motorbikes, quad bikes, trailers and sit on lawn mowers are very desirable to thieves. Consider shackling multiple items together or chain items to a sturdy bracket which is secured to the ground or the wall of a building making them difficult to remove.

For further information on all aspects of security Visit <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/crime-and-safety>

Door to door scam alert!

If you are or know of a person who may be vulnerable to doorstep crime ask Fairfield Village Community Association about the Nominated Neighbour Scheme operated by North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership.

The Nominated Neighbour scheme is designed to let a trusted neighbour, relative or friend help an elderly or vulnerable person to deal with unexpected or unrecognised callers at their door. This will help protect them from bogus callers. (Anybody who attempts to enter a home by tricking or confusing the householder).

Many people look out for their neighbours and help older and more vulnerable people as necessary. For some, putting this on a more 'formal' footing is comforting, knowing that they can call on a trusted person if they are troubled or confused by someone calling at their door, for instance. In these situations, the Nominated Neighbour Scheme may be useful in setting up a loose agreement that a trusted neighbour is happy to help in such situations.

For your Nominated Neighbour cards contact Fairfield Village Community Association.

TV Providers Discount Fraud

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) have noticed an increase in Action Fraud reports where fraudsters are offering a discount on Television service provider subscriptions. Fraudsters are cold-calling victims, purporting to be from a Television (TV) provider offering a discount on their monthly subscription. Victims have been told the following: their subscription needs to be renewed; that part or all, of the TV equipment has expired and they are due an upgrade on the equipment/subscription. In order to falsely process the discount, the fraudster asks victims to confirm or provide their bank account details. The scammers may also request the victim's identification documents, such as scanned copies of passports.

The fraudsters are using the following telephone numbers: "08447111444", "02035190197" and "08001514141". The fraudster's voices are reported to sound feminine and have an Asian accent.

Later victims make enquiries and then discover that their TV service provider did not call them and that the fraudster has made transactions using the victim's bank account details.

This type of fraud is nationwide. Since the beginning of this year (2018), there have been 300 Action Fraud Reports relating to this fraud. From the reports received, victims aged over 66 seem to be the most targeted.

What you need to do

- Don't assume a phone call or email is authentic: Just because someone knows your basic details (such as your name and address or even your mother's maiden name), it doesn't mean they are genuine. Criminals can exploit the names of well-known companies in order to make their scams appear genuine.
- Don't be rushed or pressured into making a decision: a genuine company won't force you to make a financial decisions on the spot. Always be wary if you're pressured to purchase a product or service quickly, and don't hesitate to question uninvited approaches in case it's a scam.
- Stay in control: Have the confidence to refuse unusual requests for personal or financial information. Always contact the company yourself using a known email or phone number, such as the one written on a bank statement or bill.

Visit Take Five (takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice/) and Cyber Aware (cyberaware.gov.uk) for more information about how to protect yourself online.

Recipe Page (courtesy of Santa Maria Latin America Kitchen)

Beef Wellington

When it comes to food, nothing shouts 'luxury' more than a Beef Wellington and this version is easy to make and suitable for a variety of occasions.

Serves 6

Ingredients

1.2kg beef fillet steak
2 tbsps butter, softened
2 tbsps butter
1 onion, chopped
50g sliced fresh mushrooms
50g pork liver pate
2 tbsps butter, softened

salt and pepper to taste
1 375g packet frozen puff pastry, thawed
1 egg yolk, beaten
300ml beef stock
2 tbsps red wine



Method

1. Preheat oven to 230°C.
2. Place beef in a roasting dish, and spread with 2 tbsps softened butter. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, or until browned. Remove from dish and allow to cool completely. Reserve pan juices.
3. Melt 2 tbsps butter in a frying pan over medium heat. Saute onion and mushrooms in butter for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool.
4. Mix together pate and 2 tbsps softened butter, and season with salt and pepper. Spread pate over beef. Top with onion and mushroom mixture.
5. Roll out the puff pastry dough and place beef in the centre. Fold up, and seal all the edges. Place in a baking dish, cut a few slits in the top of the pastry and brush with egg yolk.
6. Bake for 10 minutes, then reduce heat to 220°C for 10 to 15 more minutes, or until pastry is a rich, golden brown. Set aside and keep warm.
7. Place all reserved juices in a small saucepan over high heat. Stir in beef stock and red wine; boil for 10 to 15 minutes, or until slightly reduced.
8. Strain and serve with beef.

Weekly Activities in Fairfield

Sunday:

Monday:

Pre-school, Village Hall, 9am – 3pm

Kicks Dance School, Village Hall, 3.30pm

Line Dancing, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Tuesday:

Pre-school, Village Hall, 9am – 3pm

Dancing, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday:

Pre-school, Village Hall, 9am – 12noon

Welcome Club, Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm (not Jan)

Thursday:

Pre-school, Village Hall, 9am – 3pm

Zumba, Village Hall, 7pm – 8pm

Friday:

Pre-school, Village Hall, 9am – 3pm

Street dancing, Village Hall, 3.30pm

Taekwondo, Village Hall, 6pm/7pm/8pm



Diary

June

- 4th: **Fairfield Community Association**, Rec. Club House, 7.00pm
- 8th: **Fairfield Walkers**, Recreation Ground, 10am – 12 noon
- 8th: **Squeaky Pete's Liquor & Poker Band**, Swan Inn, 8pm
- 9th: **Community Litter Pick**, meet outside Village Hall, 10.30am
- 13th: **Women's Institute**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 20th: **Wildmoor Residents' Association AGM**, Village Hall
- 22nd: **Summer Fair**, First School, 3pm – 5pm
- 27th: **Bingo**, Village Hall, 7.30pm

July

- 7th: **Fairfield Village Community Association**, Village Hall, 10.00am
- 11th: **Women's Institute**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 14th: **Community Litter Pick**, meet outside Village Hall, 10.30am
- 25th: **Bingo**, Village Hall, 7.30pm

August

- 6th: **Fairfield Community Association**, Rec. Club House, 10.00am
- 11th: **Community Litter Pick**, meet outside Village Hall, 10.30am
- 11th: **W.I. Annual Produce & Flower Show**, Village Hall
- 16th: **Afternoon Tea**, Village Hall, 3pm – 5pm
- 22nd: **Bingo**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 30th: **National Vegetable Society**, Fairfield Village Hall, 7pm for 8pm