



Fairfield Village Community Association

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2018-19



**Wishing you all
a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy 2019**

www.fvca.org.uk
admin@fvca.org.uk

3 LITTLE PIGTAILS

By Garlic Theatre



FAIRFIELD VILLAGE HALL (B61 9LZ)

Saturday 15 December 3:30pm

£8.50 (Standard) / £5.00 (Under 16)

BOOK NOW: Fairfield Post Office, 81 Stourbridge Road, Bromsgrove B61 9LY - 01527 577 286

Join us for a Festive Fairfield Christmas.

liveandlocal.org.uk



**LIVE
& LOCAL**

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Fantastic Rollout To Date

Over 50% of dwellings in the **Fairfield Ward** (see below) have now received their **FREE** property marking kits (SmartWater), which is fantastic. We are on our way to be declared a SmartWater community, with signage being erected warning criminals that they are not wanted.

If you have not yet received your FREE property marking kit, they can be collected at any FVCA meeting or Coffee & Natter event, or you can arrange a home delivery by emailing admin@fvca.org.uk tel. 01527 833583.



Kits cannot be put through the letterbox and will need to be signed for, so please arrange a time when you will be in.

Confusion: Postal address and Ward

There are a number of properties that have the postal address of Bournheath, Chadwich or Dodford that are in the Fairfield Ward (Belbroughton & Fairfield Parish).

How to tell which Parish & Ward you are in:

Check your Council Tax bill, this will tell you which Parish you are in. Which Polling Station do you go to, to vote? If Fairfield Village Hall, you live in the Fairfield Ward.

Fairfield ward includes properties in:

Barnes Close
Chadwich Manor Estate
Dordale Road
Harbours Hill
Madeley Road
Malthouse Lane
Middle Road
Mill Lane

Money Lane
Sandy Lane
Stoneybridge
Top Road
Third Road
Warbage Lane
Yarnold Lane

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Fairfield Remembers

On the 11th November, over 100 people young and old attended the Remembrance Service at Fairfield War Memorial.

People connected to the village and school remembered those service personnel that died during the two world wars and conflicts since. Many stayed after the short service for refreshments, cakes and biscuits in the Village Hall.

The Community Association's wreath was laid by two children from Fairfield, and the list of the fallen was read by a 17 year old resident.



Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the Parish Council (Trevor Jones), Royal British Legion (Peter Jones) & Fairfield First School (Jennifer Wakelam, teacher).

The service was led by Rosie Padmore (ALM), the Ode of Remembrance & the Kohima Epitaph was read by John Jenkinson (villager).

The collection raised over £130 that has been donated to the Royal British Legion.

Thank you to all for supporting this Remembrance event.



At the start of the month, villagers and school parents viewed the Fairfield at War display in St. Mark's; reading about those men listed on the war memorial and the thought provoking works from children at Fairfield First School.

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Operation Lollipop

Members of the public in Bromsgrove, Rubery, Alvechurch, Wythall and Hagley are now able to send digital photographs of dangerous or inconsiderate parking outside schools directly to their Safer Neighbourhood Teams via a dedicated email address -

OperationLollipop@westmercia.pnn.police.uk Officers will then investigate and make contact with the registered keeper to take appropriate action where possible.

Parking advice if you live near a school

West Mercia Police would like to let you know what the parking rules are and how we can help to keep the highway clear and ensure the area is safe for pedestrians (especially children), cyclists and drivers.

Parking rules

The road outside your house is usually defined as a 'public highway'. Therefore anyone can legitimately park there but should do so safely, considerately and legally. The introduction of the Traffic Management Act 2004 places a statutory duty on your council to tackle congestion and disruption on the road network.

Your local authority manages the highway network in a manner that allows for some "on street parking". In areas where parking becomes problematic the authority has the power to introduce restrictions to control the highway use.

Therefore, this means, the highways' sole purpose is for the free passing and free flowing of vehicles and the areas close to your home are not for your exclusive use to park.

Frequently asked questions

What can be done about people parking on single or double lines or keep clear markings?

If there are road markings, such as single or double yellow lines, both parking and waiting to pick up school children are restricted.

Responsibility for enforcing these restrictions lies with the Civil Enforcement Officer, employed by Bromsgrove District Council. West Mercia Police cannot enforce these restrictions.

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School 'keep clear' markings should always be kept clear of all traffic. Please let your Civil Enforcement Officer know if you see a vehicle regularly parking on them.

What can be done if someone blocks my driveway?

If your driveway is completely blocked by a vehicle, the offence of 'obstruction' could be considered. However, obstruction is a complicated offence to prosecute.

It is not enough that a vehicle blocks your driveway. The obstruction has to be 'actual' not 'perceived'. This means that you are actually obstructed at that moment by that vehicle because your immediate passage is blocked. It's not enough that you might want to use your driveway some time in the future.

A police officer is the only one who can deal with an obstruction. PCSOs do not have legal powers to deal with this issue. You have to be willing to make an official complaint, maybe a statement of evidence and even go to court if the person getting the ticket decides to contest it.

Dropped crossings can be enforced by the Civil Enforcement Officers.

When and who to call

When a vehicle is blocking your driveway and you are unable to get in and out of your own property, please call West Mercia Police on 101.

Your local council Civil Enforcement Officers would like to hear from you if vehicles have been left unattended on single or double yellow lines.

For more information on parking, call Bromsgrove Civil Enforcement team on 01386 565009.

You could be a 200 Club Winner

Only £1.00 a month, with jackpot prizes up to £200.00. All profits support Fairfield Village Hall. For an application form contact the Village Hall or Linda Garvin



Community Litter Pickers



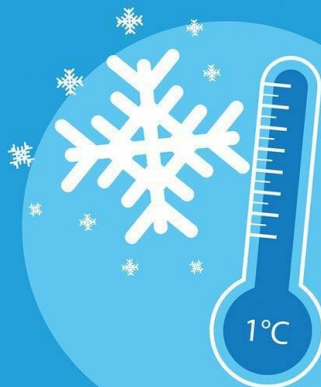
2nd Saturday of each month (Jan – Nov), meet outside Village Hall 10.30am.

Donate an hour to keep our community tidy, let's banish GROT from our village.

Wear suitable clothes & footwear. Litter picking equipment is provided.

Not everyone can cope
in the cold. Look out
for friends, family or
neighbours that may
need a hand

**STAYWELL
THISWINTER**



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Operation Snap



Captured a driving offence?

You can send your photos or footage to us

Help us keep our roads safe

www.westmercia.police.uk/operationsnap

 **West Mercia
POLICE**

 **Safer Roads
Partnership**
IN WARWICKSHIRE AND WEST MERCIA

Operation Snap

Members of the public can submit (via a secure online form - <https://www.nextbase.com/en-gb/national-dash-cam-safety-portal/>) digital footage showing potential traffic offences. This can range from driving dangerously or carelessly to overtaking on solid white lines, using a mobile phone while driving, ignoring traffic lights or dangerous driving around other road users, such as horse riders and cyclists. Your submission will be sent to West Mercia Police where the evidence will be reviewed by one of their road traffic officers, who will enforce against any offences committed. Any footage submitted through the portal can also be used by the Police to help educate other road users and to advise on case results.

Pepperwood Charcoal

Locally produced charcoal from sustainable wood source for sale.
contact the Pepperwood volunteers:

Tel: 0787 575 6698

Email jenkinhp@gmail.com

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admin@fvca.org.uk

Fairfield Walkers

Get to know other members of your community and exercise at the same time, whilst enjoying our local countryside. Walks are usually 3 to 4 miles, with occasional longer walks.



Join the Fairfield Walkers on:

Saturday 28th September, 10am, meet Fairfield Rec. (Finish at Swan)

Wear suitable clothes & foot wear, dogs on lead are welcome.










2019 Walks: 3rd Thursday of Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct, 10am and

Evening Walks – 4th Wednesday May, Jun, Jul, Aug, 7pm



Christmas shopping list

You could help us raise over £30 in free funds
with your Christmas shopping

	Cost	Retailer	Donation
Gift for him	£50		4% = £2
Gift for her	£50		4.5% = £2.25
Gifts for kids	£120		1.5% = £1.80
Christmas day groceries	£80		£20
Boxing day buffet	£20		£3
Christmas party outfit	£50		3% = £1.50
Christmas tree	£55		3.5% = £1.93
Decorations	£40		1% = 40p
Stocking fillers	£30		5% = £1.50
Total =			£34.38
20 supporters =			£687.60

Donation rates correct as of 24th October 2018.

Join today and help us make a difference through your every day shopping

www.easyfundraising.org.uk



Shop at over 3,400 shops and sites including...

 amazon.co.uk

 ebay

 johnlewis.com

 [M&S](http://m.s)

 [Argos](http://argos)

 Debenhams

 Booking.com

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We've registered with easyfundraising and we need your help!

easyfundraising is a great website where you can help Fairfield Village Community Association raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping with over 3,300 big name retailers like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S.

Every time you shop, we receive a small donation to say 'thank you' and it's completely free too! We want raise as much as possible so please sign up and help us at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fairfieldvillageca/>

Fairfield Diners – Getting to know your community

Social gathering of residents and friends of Fairfield & the surrounding area; get to know your community over a lunchtime meal.

Meals are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (Jan – Nov) at local pubs, restaurants and tea rooms, 12.30pm

Please contact Pat Steward (01527 832360) if you wish to attend or require further information.

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Opportunities to HELP YOUR Community

Womble Coordinator

Do you love Fairfield & Stoneybridge?

Does the litter along our roads and lanes upset you?

Are you a good organiser?

If you have answered yes to the above three questions, you are the person we are looking for.

We need someone to coordinate our monthly Community Litter Picks - either yourself or for someone else to take litter picking equipment to the Village Hall and to give instructions (areas that need to be tackled) to volunteers.

Litter picks take place on the second Saturday of each month, 10.30am (except December).

You will be supported by the the FVCA committee.

Interested? Email chair@fvca.org.uk or tel. 01527 833583

Village Hall Keyholder



The Village Hall are looking for a couple of people to join a rota of people who will unlock & lock up the village hall for hirers.

Each person helping two or three hires each month, on a Saturday or Sunday.

Interested?

Email secretary.fvh@outlook.com or tel. 01527 833583

Coffee & Natter

An opportunity for Residents, School Parents & Friends of our Community to meet and chat before the end the bell rings at the end of the school day.

Wednesdays 16th, 23rd and 30th January 2019 at Fairfield Village Hall, 2.45pm – 3.15pm.



Tea, coffee & biscuits will be provided FREE of charge.

Dog Mess

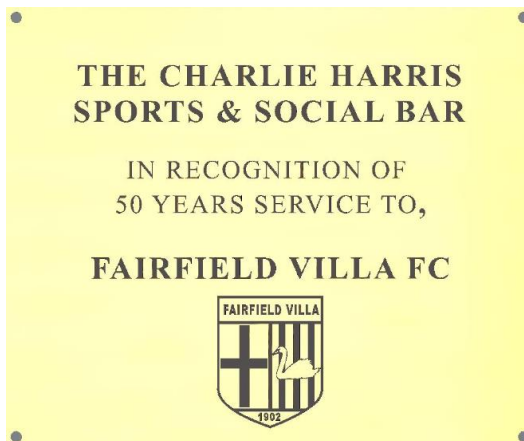
Signs are been placed around the Recreation Ground to remind dog walkers to clear up any mess.

The Recreation Ground is enjoyed by many people and it is unpleasant when someone steps in some pooh.

Recognition for Villa Stalwart



In September, Mr. Fairfield Villa, Charlie Harris was recognized and thanked for 50 years' service to the Club. In his honour the club bar has been renamed The Charlie Harris Sports & Social Bar.





The Open the Book team from St. Mark's Church shared Daniel and the Lion story with the important message about being brave and doing the right thing in the school's assembly on 14th November.

The team, whose storytelling was watch by Rev. Canon Sue Oliver, our new vicar, visit the school every month, telling & reenacting stories from the bible. If you would like to join the team, as a storyteller, actor or assist in another way do get in touch.

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YOUR
BUSINESS
WITH US**

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STAMP OUT RURAL CRIME

To give information, call:

0800 783 0137

100% anonymous. Always



A coalition of organisations including councils and the NFU are on a mission to stamp out fly tipping.

Fly tipping blights the landscape and can poison wildlife & livestock.

Plastics such as bags and plant labels are blown in to fields, which end up in feed that is eaten by animals who choke on the contaminant. Even green garden waste can be fatal.

Please dispose of your rubbish correctly, using the District Council's Grey, Green and Brown wheelies, by visiting the Council Waste & Recycling Centre (Quantry Lane) or recycling (Freecycle.org or Compost bin).



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Tips & Tricks – For the Table or for Show

The West Midlands District Association of the National Vegetable Society (NVS) are pleased to advise the next meeting be held at Fairfield Village Hall on **Thursday 29 November at 8.00pm.**

The speaker for this meeting is Ray Bassett FNVS who has been growing vegetables for more than 50 years. He has been exhibiting vegetables for more than 40 years winning awards at the highest level, especially for Beans, Peas, Shallots and Leeks amongst his achievements, although the range is quite extensive.

Ray is an NVS qualified Show Judge, a role he has been carrying out for more than 30 years.

An area of special interest will be his expertise in growing Broad Beans, French Beans, Runner Beans and Peas. He will be bringing some of his own strain of Seeds for the Raffle and for sale.

The style of the talk will be informal, and questions are invited from members and visitors.

Following the talk will be the presentation of Prizes and Awards from the Annual Show to the worthy prize winners for the excellent exhibits, especially in a difficult year.

The hall will be open at 7.00 pm and Tea/Coffee will be served before and after the talk. The talk will commence at 8.00 pm.

There will be NVS books and growing guides on sale.

New Members are welcome and there will be an opportunity to learn about other events and activities of the NVS.

An outline of next years' Programme will be available.

For visitors there is a £3 admission fee which includes Tea/Coffee and Biscuits.

Anyone interested in growing vegetables is welcome to attend.



**Don't give criminals an
easy ride by leaving
your car running**



Warwickshire
POLICE



West Mercia
POLICE

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Have Your Say – It's YOUR Community

Join other residents to help shape where you live.

Relaxed, social, meetings are held at the:

Village Hall

1st Saturday of Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov - 10am – 11am

Fairfield Villa Club House

1st Monday of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec - 7pm for 7.30pm

The Community Association works for a better and sustainable community; building and maintaining pride in where we all live. We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.

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

Register your email to receive e-circulars to your email box – send your email address to admin@fvca.org.uk

Follow Social Media:

Twitter @Fairfield_Info

Facebook facebook.com/fairfieldinformation

Visit www.fvca.org.uk



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The 3 Little Pig Tails

Saturday 15 December 2018, 3.30pm

Delightful, warm-hearted puppet show from regular rural touring company. Designed for the very young and their grown ups. 3 cute beret-wearing French pigs see off the big bad wolf with lots of help from their friends in the audience.



“After a great performance of “Jack & the Beans Talk” at our local library last summer, we returned this year to see “Little Red Riding Hood” – it was brilliant! It’s great to see how the performers interact with the children before, during and after the show! My daughter loved it! Thank you!”

Audience

“...trademark combo of adorable puppets, jokes and audience participation”

Time Out

A fresh and funny retelling of the traditional story and an ideal gentle introduction to theatre for ages 3 –7. From the company who have toured to us in the past with Shoe Kangaroo and the Big Bad Boot, Billy Goats Gruff and There’s A Monster in My Piano. Garlic are an International award winning Puppet Company touring throughout the UK and abroad reaching annual audiences of 20,000 per year.

This is a brand new version of The Three Little Pigs set in Paris where the pigs wear dungarees and berets. A grumpy old wolf is a chef who wants some pigs’ tails for his soup. Will the little piggies outwit the wolf and what kind of house will they build? A funny, warm hearted and interactive rustic tale to make you squeal with laughter, bristling with puppets, live music and lots of joining in.

The show has plenty of moments where you will be itching to join in and is funny and engaging throughout. Children and adults alike will love the skill and inventiveness of the puppeteer and the comedy of the puppets.

Tickets on sale from Fairfield Post Office. Adults £8.50, U16s £5.00

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Children's Christmas Party

Saturday 15 December 2018, 3.30pm

After The 3 Little Pig Tails, you will be "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" at the Village Christmas Party - a FREE disco with FREE cake & refreshments at the Village Hall, 4.30pm – 5.30pm

Christmas Ramble

Friday 28th September, 10am, meet Fairfield Rec. (Finish at Swan)

Wear suitable clothes & foot wear, dogs on lead are welcome.

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Outdoor Christmas Fair

Swan Inn, Fairfield - Monday 17th December 6pm - 8pm.

Raising funds for Fairfield Village Community Association.

There will be a mixture of stalls (traditional and craft), enjoy a drink from the bar, listen to the carol singers.

Interested in a stall contact the Swan or FVCA (admin@fvca.org.uk tel: 01527 833583).

Want a nice evening out - put the event in your diary.



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Ding Dong Merrily On High

Caroling Around The Christmas Tree

*Wednesday 19th December,
7pm
Village Hall*



FREE Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

Merry Christmas

Sunday 23rd

Carols & Prose 11.15am

Monday 24th

Crib Service 4.00pm

*Holy Communion
9.00pm*

Tuesday 25th

Christmas Day Family Service

Unwrap an unopened present



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Welcome 2019 at Festive Fairfield's New Year's Eve Party

Fairfield Village Hall
8.00pm – 00.30am

Disco - Party Games - Big Fat Quiz of the Year
&
Buffet

Adults
£5.00 U16
Free

Happy New Year!

Bring
Your
Own
Drink

**Christmas
Service**

**Dec 25th
10:00 am**





Bromsgrove District Council & Redditch Borough Council

Christmas & New Year Waste & Recycling Collections 2018

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Tuesday 25th December	Saturday 22nd December
Wednesday 26th December	Saturday 29th December
Thursday 27th December	NO CHANGE
Friday 28th December	NO CHANGE
Tuesday 1st January	Saturday 5th January



There are no more planned changes to
collections throughout the season

Please have your bin out by 7am

If we experience snow and icy weather and cannot get to you on collection day, please leave your bin out and we will return as soon as we can. In this case, check our website, Facebook and Twitter for regular updates.

01527 881188 letswasteless.com



Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk



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Live Shows Coming to Fairfield Village Hall in 2019

Long Shot

Sunday 10 March 2019, 6.30pm

1 athletic and engaging master-juggler versus lots of wacky contraptions firing balls at him – he's going to need help from his audience! Surprises galore in this clever family show that guarantees big smiles.

This impressive one-man show has been developed especially for rural touring and is suitable for a mixed age family audience to enjoy.

What marks this company as different from a standard 'juggling act' are their terrific bespoke contraptions which look like things created for TV's The Crystal Maze or QI. You can get a really good idea of these Heath Robinson goodies in the video trailer for the show.

In a nutshell, it's a skilfully and engagingly performed stripped-back circus show involving these handmade remote-controlled contraptions, comedy and juggling.

Tickets on sale mid-January 2019. Adults £8.50 U16s £5.00



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The Listening Project

Sunday 14 April 2019, 6.30pm

Championed by jazz-pop star Jamie Cullum, sassy double-bass playing singer-songwriter Kel Elliott is justly acclaimed for her rich and powerful voice and uplifting, genre-leaping story-songs, here based on stories and personal recollections gathered from historic and reminiscence projects.

Uplifting, wry, bluesy jazzy folky music from a literate, witty and sassy singer-songwriter - with the unusual distinction of being a double bass player - and her exciting quartet. Matching Kel Elliott's velvety vocals and trademark bass are endearing between-song banter and an impressive range of instruments, from guitar and bass clarinet, to sousaphone, saxophone, accordion, ukulele and percussion.

Following (River Avon boat-based) Kel's recent project work with Live & Local on the 'Discover: Chedham's Stories' heritage cyber story-trail - offering a unique insight into the Chedham's Yard blacksmith heritage site in Warwickshire - Kel has been focusing her songwriting on personal stories gathered from historic and reminiscence projects. Zigzagging through the very beat and pulse of human life, Kel uncovers the quirky, the fascinating, the weird and the wonderful.

A joy to listen to and true crowd-pleasers Kel Elliott & Her Three Man

Tickets on sale early March 2019. Prices TBC



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Stay ahead of the chill this Winter

Ensuring your home is energy efficient can help you stay warm in winter.

Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest are offering **FREE** home energy checks for older people who are finding it difficult to keep their homes warm in Winter.

As part of the Energy Check:

- One of Age UK's Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest's handypersons will visit your home at a time that is convenient for you
- During the **free assessment** they will check the temperature inside your home and whether there are any draughts. They will inspect your heating system and any insulation measures you have
- Depending on the outcome of the assessment the handyperson will fit appropriate energy saving equipment, such as energy saving lightbulbs, reflective panels behind the radiator, socket timers and night lights **free of charge**
- The handyperson will also offer you some practical tips on how you can save energy and keep your fuel bills down without compromising on the warmth of your house. They may also inform you of other Age UK services available in North Worcestershire



For more information and to book an appointment, please call:

Sam Jones on 01527 871840

Neighbourhood Watch News



Have you got CCTV?

Please regularly check your CCTV footage, you might spot suspicious activity that may be a preparation for an illegal activity.

Scam Alerts – Our Community Is Not Immune

If you get a telephone call from someone offering home security with an alarm that links you to the police, put the phone down, dial 1471 to get their number and report to the police, tel 101. A resident in the village has received one such call....it was a SCAM.

Another resident received a cold call from “Community Safety Group” to arrange a home visit to discuss home security improvements. Fortunately, this resident was clued up and asked the right questions and did not agree to an appointment. The call has been reported to the police.

And a third resident has received an email on several occasions claim their PC was infected with a virus and demanding money. Luckily, our resident was not fooled and has not carried out the instructions. There was no virus within the computer. Should you receive a similar email, do not respond to it, do not click any links contained within and delete it.

Please pop round to your elderly and vulnerable neighbours, speak to them about scams and ask them to remain vigilant.

Phone Scams

The police take phone scams very seriously. Criminals will often use scam phone calls as a way of defrauding people out of their money. On most occasions, people realise that the call is a scam, but we are encouraging people to continue be vigilant.



What to look out for:

Typically scammers will pretend to be from the police, and tell callers that their bank cards have been used fraudulently. Often the callers have stated that they are from the West Midlands police, but they have been known to claim that they are from West Mercia Police, MI6 or the fraud squad. They will often say that they have the offenders in custody.

Usually they will then ask the victim to contact their bank to cancel their cards. In doing so, they will 'hold the line', so the victim believes that they are calling their bank, when in fact they are still on the line to the offenders.

They will then encourage the victims to hand over their bank details, including their PIN which they will often ask them to enter into the keypad of the phone.

Following this they will say that the cards are needed and send a courier to collect them. Sometimes they will ask the victims to give a password which the courier will use to make it appear more genuine. Consequently the offenders have been able to withdraw money from victim's accounts.

On other occasions, rather than sending a courier, they have asked the victims to transfer money to a secure police account, asking them to call back to verify that they are genuine, whilst holding the line. Sometimes the scammers have told the victims to attend the bank to transfer money but told them that bank employees are involved in the scam, so not to mention it to them.

More recently callers have told victims that they are from Customs and Excise and that they have paid too much tax. In order to get this back they must pay an amount of money via a courier.

These scammers will often target those who are elderly or vulnerable. People with common surnames such as Jones or Smith tend to be targeted more often.

What to do:

We offer the following advice to protect you from these scams:

- Remember police officers, and banks will never ask for account details or PINs over the phone.
- Police officers and banks would never come to your house to collect your cards or property.
- They would also never ask you to transfer money to a secure account.
- If you receive a call like this, hang up immediately and call 101 using another phone. In an emergency or if a crime is in progress call 999.
- If you have elderly friends or relatives who may be vulnerable to this scam, please talk to them and make them aware.

Online Extortion Scam - Alert from Action Fraud

Cyber criminals send victims their own passwords in extortion scam
Cyber criminals are attempting to blackmail unsuspecting victims by claiming to have used the victims' password to install spying malware on the victims' computer. The criminals claim they've recorded videos of the victim watching adult material by activating their webcam when they visit these websites. What makes this scam so convincing is that the email usually includes a genuine password the victim has used for one of their online accounts. We believe criminals obtain the passwords from data breaches.

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What to do if you get one of these emails?

Don't reply to the email, or be pressured into paying. The police advise that you do not pay criminals. Try flagging the email as spam/junk if you receive it multiple times. Perform a password reset as soon as possible on any accounts where you've used the password mentioned in the email. Always use a strong, separate password for important accounts, such as your email. Where available, enable two-factor authentication (2FA). Always install the latest software and app updates. Install, or enable, anti-virus software on your laptops and computers and keep it updated.

If you receive one of these emails, report it to Action Fraud's phishing reporting tool. If you have received one of these emails and paid the ransom, report it to your local police force.

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

Number Plate Thefts

West Mercia Police have recently experienced a number of thefts of vehicle number plates. This type of theft is a common crime.

Criminals will often use stolen vehicle number plates (also known as VRM's - Vehicle Registration Mark plates) and then attach them to their own or even previously stolen vehicles in order to help them commit additional crimes and evade identification and capture by the police.

Please consider replacing your number plate screws with "clutch head" screws which will prevent criminals from unscrewing your number plates and stealing them. If your vehicle does not utilise screws in order to fasten the VRM plate to your vehicle you may be more likely to become the victim of this type of crime as these types of VRM's are often only secured by double sided sticky tabs and can be removed relatively easily. In these instances please consider seeking suitable technical assistance from a professional in order to find an alternative method of securing your registration plates to your vehicle.

Not Sure? Don't Open The Door!

Protect yourself from doorstep crime. Be aware of people who turn up unannounced, most genuine callers will have a pre-arranged appointment. If in doubt, keep them out!

Doorstep crime can include rogue traders offering home improvement or gardening services, or bogus callers who claim to be the council, police, health carers or energy companies.

Rogue traders may say they are in the area working on another property and they have spotted a problem with your home or garden. They may claim to have materials left over from another job, like paving or tarmac. They may try to pressurise you to buy goods or sign up for services on the spot. Unfortunately all too often they may offer to carry out work cheaply, but charge an extortionate price after the work has been completed.

Bogus callers may claim to be working for the council, water, gas or electric company. They could also say they are a nurse, doctor or even from the police. Bogus callers may say they need to come into your home, or try to get you to go outside. They may try to distract you so they can steal your money. They can be male, female or even children.

A pedlar is someone who calls at your door to sell items that they have to offer. This can often include cleaning or household goods. These goods may

be sold at an overpriced value. By law pedlars are required to carry a pedlar's certificate, which is issued by the police force in the area they operate.

If you are not sure who is at the door, do not open it. Check the identity of any caller. Confirm who they are by calling the company they work for by using the number from the telephone directory or from one of your bills. Do not call a number provided by them.

If caller does not leave your property when asked to do so, call the police.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme



Do you or does anyone you know feel vulnerable in their home?

It is an unfortunate fact that certain criminals target the elderly and vulnerable in their homes by posing as genuine callers. They seek to gain access to the house by deception to steal. Others will offer to do works to the house for problems that may not even exist for exorbitant sums and the work proves unnecessary or sub-standard.

The Nominated Neighbour Scheme seeks to protect potential victims by enrolling a willing person who is able to have callers referred to them by the potential victim so their identity can be verified.

If you think this may be helpful to you or someone you know more detail can be obtained by contacting Community Safety at Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils on **01527 534 187** or **CommunitySafety@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk**



West Mercia
POLICE



John Camplin
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia



North Worcestershire
Community Safety Partnership

www.fvca.org.uk
admin@fvca.org.uk

BEWARE OF DOORSTEP CALLERS!

Look out for Clive, does he really need a new drive?

Top tips to help you and others take a stand against doorstep scams

1. Never use cold-callers.
2. Consumers are legally entitled to a 14-day cooling off period formed at their home.
3. Check the identity of the caller.
4. Encourage people to ask a trusted person for advice on reputable traders.
5. Everyone should display a "No Cold Calling" sticker.
6. Always report suspicious activity.

Find out more about scams visit
www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

If you're not sure,
don't open the door!



www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk



CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE
A member of The National Trading Standards Institute

For advice on scams call
Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline:
03454 04 05 06
To report scams contact
Action Fraud: 0300 123 2040

**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**
Scams Team

www.fvca.org.uk
admin@fvca.org.uk

Take A Few Simple Steps To Avoid Becoming A Victim Of Burglary

- Set a timer switch to turn your lights on when it gets dark – unlit houses are a give away that no one is at home.
- Lock your doors, patios and downstairs windows - even when you are in. Make sure you double check them again before you go to bed.
- If you have a burglar alarm, make sure you set it when you got out and also when you go to bed.
- Don't leave car keys, ID cards or valuables near windows, doors or letterboxes, where burglars can reach through to steal them.
- Lock your garden gates and side entrances. Don't leave tools lying around in the garden which could be used to break in to your home.

If you have information about a burglary phone the police on 101



Warwickshire
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www.fvca.org.uk
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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

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

**TALK
TO US**
If things are getting to you

A registered charity

Talk to us any time you like,
in your own way – about
whatever's getting to you.

 **116 123** 
This number is FREE to call

 jo@samaritans.org

 samaritans.org

SAMARITANS

www.fvca.org.uk
admin@fvca.org.uk

Diary

December

- 1st **St. Mark's Craft Fair**, Village Hall, 10am
- 7th **Christmas Fair**, First School, 3.15pm – 5.30pm
- 8th **Deck the Village Tree**, meet Village Hall, 10.30am
- 15th **3 Little Pig Tails**, Village Hall, 3.30pm
- 15th **Christmas Disco**, Village Hall, 4.30pm
- 17th **Outdoor Christmas Fair & Carols**, Swan Inn, 6pm – 8pm
- 19th **Carols Around the Christmas Tree**, Village Hall, 7pm
- 22nd **Breakfast with Santa**, Swan Inn, 9am
- 23rd **Carols & Prose**, St. Mark's, 11.15am
- 24th **Crib Service**, St. Mark's, 4pm
- 24th **Christmas Holy Communion**, St. Mark's, 9pm
- 25th **Christmas Day Service**, St. Mark's, 10am
- 28th **Christmas Ramble**, meet Fairfield Rec. 10am
- 31st **New Year's Party**, Village Hall, 8pm - late

January

- 5th **FVCA Coffee Morning & Meeting**, Village Hall, 10am – 11am
- 9th **Fairfield W.I.**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 12th **Litter Pick**, meet Village Hall, 10.30am
- 17th **Coffee & Natter**, Village Hall, 2.45pm – 3.15pm
- 21st **Fairfield Dining Group**, TBC, 12.30pm
- 24th **Coffee & Natter**, Village Hall, 2.45pm – 3.15pm
- 31st **Coffee & Natter**, Village Hall, 2.45pm – 3.15pm

February

- 4th **FVCA Residents Meeting**, Fairfield Club House, 7pm for 7.30pm
- 9th **Litter Pick**, meet Village Hall, 10.30am
- 13th **Fairfield W.I.**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 18th **Fairfield Dining Group**, TBC, 12.30pm

March

- 2nd **FVCA AGM**, Village Hall, 10am
- 9th **Litter Pick**, meet Village Hall, 10.30am
- 13th **Fairfield W.I.**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 10th **Long Shot**, Village Hall, 6.30pm
- 18th **Fairfield Dining Group**, TBC, 12.30pm

Future Events

Race Night – 6th April, Fairfield Villa Club House

Kel Elliott – 14th April, Village Hall, 6.30pm

Picnic in the Park – 15th June, Rec.

Charity Coffee Morning – 5th October, Village Hall, 10am – 12noon

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