

Your Village News - And What's on! Hamstall Ridware Parish Magazine



Lux Muralis
Financing magazine
Easter Cross
Flooding support
What's on

February - March 2026

£1.20

when purchased

<http://www2.lichfielddc.gov.uk/hamstallridware/>

<https://hamstallridwareparishcouncil.co.uk>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4451/>

<https://kbhmy.co.uk/hamstall/>

<https://www.faceok.com/groups/hamstallridware>



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Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

If you have any concerns, please speak in complete confidence to the Parish Safeguarding Officer Dr Paul Carter (01889 504 347) or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser Mr Neil Spiring 01543 306030

UNITED BENEFICE OF KINGS BROMLEY, THE RIDWARES and YOXALL

Revised Service Rota from September 2023: Church Patronal Festivals will be United Benefice services. Everyone welcome at any of our services

	Hamstall Ridware St Michael and All Angels	Yoxall St Peter	Kings Bromley All Saints	Mavesyn Ridware St Nicholas
1st Sunday in Month	9.00am Said Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	4/5pm GMT/BST Said Communion	10.30am Morning Service
2nd Sunday in Month	4/5pm GMT/BST Said Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	
3rd Sunday in Month	10.30pm Holy Communion	4/5pm GMT/BST Said Communion	9.00am Said Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
4th Sunday in Month	10.30am Morning service	9.00am Said Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	4/5pm GMT/BST Holy Communion
5th Sunday in Month	Benefice service – to be arranged			

Hamstall Ridware Parish Magazine: February - March 2026

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From the Editor

As we brace ourselves for more winter storms there is perhaps optimism that spring is at last on its way. The big event before Christmas was the amazing display put on in our church by Lux Muralis on 16 December. Those present were really wowed by the stunning effects. Lucy Leigh (AKA Jane Austen) treats us to an atmospheric write up of the event [P 10].

Easter is very early this year [5 April] and already at the end of March it will be time start decorating our Easter cross [P9]. We have a report from the newly formed flooding support group who had a very useful meeting with our MP [P12] and a large number of events especially in neighbouring villages [pages 13 to 17]. Nikki has a very busy programme at the Shoulder to help us pass the winter evenings away [page 17].

Thanks to Jude for putting on the Giant Advent Calendar with Nikki which raised over £1000 and to Row Wright who kindly helped put together this year's village Christmas card [p8]

A new group, Squirrels, for children from age 5 interested in Cubs and Scouts is starting but places may be in short supply [p20]. There is also a new advert from Rick at Ridware Tech Services [p30]. We have also just had the sad news of the death of Brenda Perkin on the 27 January [p18].

Finally, we have been looking again at supporting the production of this magazine. We are one of few villages who both give the magazine to every resident and do not require payment. We are supported by our advertisers and the parish council but this leaves us with a shortfall and we would welcome a contribution [page 27] from anyone who would like to support the magazine. A volunteer to support the editor would also be welcome.

We again have our usual articles, for which again thank you to our contributors. For Food bank donations, see page 25. If you know anyone who needs foodbank help do contact any member of the PCC. Donations of food, toiletries and especially of cash are always appreciated.

A copy of this magazine is available on www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4451/ from a few days before delivery of the printed copies. Do also contact the editor if you would like to have a copy of the magazine routinely emailed to you. To advertise in the magazine, contact the editor.

Copy date for the April - May magazine is Monday 16 March.

Paul Carter 07710 293 230 pcarter@doctors.org.uk

UNITED BENEFICE OF KINGS BROMLEY, THE RIDWARES and YOXALL

February - March 2026. Everyone welcome at any of our services

	Hamstall Ridware <small>St Michael & All Angels</small>	Yoxall <small>St Peters</small>	Kings Bromley <small>All Saints</small>	Mavesyn Ridware <small>St Nicholas</small>
January 25th Epiphany 3	10.30 am Service of the Word	9.00 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	
February 1st Epiphany 4	9.00 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	4.00 pm Holy Communion	10.30 am Morning Prayer
February 8th 2 Before Lent	4.00 pm Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	
February 15th Next before Lent	10.30 am Holy Communion	4.00 pm Holy Communion	9.00 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion
February 18th Ash Wednesday		10.30 am Holy Communion & Imposition of Ash	7.00 pm Holy Communion & Imposition of Ash	
February 22nd Lent 1	10.30 am Service of the Word	9.00 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	
March 1st Lent 2	9.00 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	4.00 pm Holy Communion	10.30 am Morning Prayer
March 8th Lent 3	4.00 pm Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	
March 15th Mothering Sunday	10.30 am Holy Communion	4.00 pm Holy Communion	10.45 am Mothering Sunday Service	10.30 am Holy Communion
March 22nd Lent 3	10.30 am Service of the Word	9.00 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	
March 29th Palm Sunday	10.30 am Benefice Palm Sunday Procession & Holy Communion at Hamstall Ridware			
April 2nd Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm Commemoration of the Lord's Supper at King's Bromley			
April 3rd Good Friday	2.00 pm Proclamation of the Cross at Mavesyn Ridware			
April 4th Easter Eve	8.30 pm Holy Saturday Easter Mysteries at Yoxall			
April 5th Easter Day	10.30 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	4.00 pm Easter Praise
April 12th Easter 2	4.00 pm Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	10.30 am Holy Communion	

There is also a 30-minute service (check website), usually a said communion, at 10.00 am Wednesdays at Yoxall

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS – HAMSTALL RIDWARE

February - March 2026. For latest info see <https://kbhmy.co.uk/hamstall/>

If you are unable to fulfil a particular duty, please arrange to 'swap' with someone else on the rota.

Sidesman/unlocking: Sunday & preceding 6 days: 10am to 6pm BST (4pm GMT)

DATE	BELLS & GREETING	SIDESMAN (& unlock week before)	COFFEE	READERS	(week before)	
					CLEANERS	FLOWERS
January 25th Epiphany 3 10.30 am	J Ferguson S Elsom	D Rudge	J Ferguson C Smart	J Ferguson D Rudge	S Elsom S Bostock	
February 1st Epiphany 4 9.00 am	C Smart -	P Carter	D Leigh L Leigh	P Carter C Smart		
February 8th Epiphany 5 4.00 pm	P Carter -	Carter wk bef C Smart Sun	-	J Burgess D Rudge	V Richards J Berriman	R Wright
February 15th Next before Lent 10.30 am	L Carter C Smart	Smart wk bef P Carter Sun	P Carter L Carter	P Carter C Smart		
February 22nd Lent 1 10.30 am	S Elsom S Bostock-	D Leigh	S Elsom S Bostock	S Elsom S Bostock	L Carter L Leigh	No Altar flowers Lent
March 1st Lent 2 9.00 am	J Burgess -	M Elsom	J Burgess G Burgess	S Elsom J Burgess		-
March 8th Lent 3 4.00 pm	L Carter -	J Ferguson	-	P Carter J Ferguson	P Carter C Smart	-
March 15th Mothering Sunday 10.30 am	C Smart D Rudge	D Leigh	D Leigh L Leigh	C Smart D Rudge		-
March 22nd Lent 5 10.30 am	J Ferguson J Burgess	D Rudge	J Ferguson C Smart	J Ferguson J Burgess	E Riley J Parker	-
March 29th Palm Sunday Benefice service 10.30 am	J Burgess P Carter	C Smart	P Carter L Carter	S Bostock C Smart		-
April 5th Easter Day 10.30 am	S Elsom J Ferguson	P Carter	S Elsom M Elsom	S Elsom J Ferguson	S Elsom S Bostock	All florists to decorate for Easter
April 12th Easter 2 4.00 pm	P Carter -	M Elsom	-	P Carter D Rudge		

Thank you to everyone for helping with church services. Cleaning only alternate weeks but on call in blank weeks for a funeral or wedding if notified: February: E Riley, J Parker; March: S Elsom, S Bostock

From our Rector, the Revd Jeremy Brading

This year Ash Wednesday occurs on the 18th February, which means that Lent begins at its earliest since 2018 (how different the world was in 2018 than now). The knock-on implication of this early date is that there are only a few weeks separating the end of Dry January with the beginning of Lent. Health wise, there is much to praise about 'Dry January', as it encourages men and women to halt or reduce their alcohol intake. Indeed, Lent too has often been utilised for abstention from alcohol.

My point in this article does not just concern alcohol. Rather, if you have been abstaining during January and plan to abstain during Lent, this year there are only a couple of days preventing your fast from lasting practically, 2.5 months ! I think that is a daunting prospect, whatever you give up and for whatever length.

To make Lent less daunting, I think it is important to be clear why you abstain in the first place. I am not sure what the point of Lent is, if after abstaining from chocolate, you then quickly reestablish full-on relations with chocolate as soon as Lent has finished - perhaps by means of gorging on a 1KG bar of Dairy Milk (other brands are available !). So why is this ? Lent is as much about taking positive things on, as it is for giving things up. During Lent, free some space in your busy life to do something new for God.

During Lent, Christians prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Christians recall how Jesus spent 40 days and 40 nights (in the bible, 40 designates days a long time) in the desert. As per later Lenten practices, Jesus also gave things up. He forfeited his 'creature comforts': human company and familial security. Yet so valuable to Jesus was this desert experience, that throughout his ministry, he would retreat regularly to the desert (and other deserted places) to pray and be alone. What differentiated His initial period in the desert, was that Jesus used this time to prepare for his future ministry. Satan is deliberate with his targeting of Jesus, tempting Jesus when he is at his weakest and most susceptible. Yet in spite of this, Jesus found that with his heavenly Father, he could withstand the infectious temptations of Satan. This confrontation with Satan in the desert enabled Jesus to establish his future ministry. Indeed, this first encounter between Satan and Jesus 'in Lent', is an opening salvo in an ongoing battle between evil and good, that forms the base layer to Jesus whole ministry.

This Lent, prepare for your future by creating some space in your busy life. What should you do with this space ? You may know of Br Roger Schutz, the founder of the Taizé Community, who just over 20 years ago was murdered at Evening Prayer. As you consider Lent, this is not necessarily a call to for you to embrace Roger's sacrificial act (!!); but rather in the spirit of Br Roger, to take his simple approaches to your life: 1) Seek the Lord Jesus and make him present in your life. 2) Trim back what you do each day in a concerted effort to free yourself of unnecessary burdens. Make your life simpler, so that you may hear God speaking to you.

PS Get a different perspective on your life in Christ, by attending the Lent Home Groups at Yoxall church at 7pm on Wednesday 25th February & 4, 11, 18 & 25th March.

Revd Jeremy Brading

Parish Priest of Kings Bromley, the Ridwares & Yoxall

Dates for your diary

Macmillan Cheese & Wine night at Shoulder

RHS: "How to do Family History"

Take A Break Café, H R Village Hall 10.30 - 12noon (1st Tues)

Mothers Union, St Peter's Church Yoxall, 2.00pm

World Nutella Day at Shoulder

Booksale at Shoulder, 6pm onwards

All about the Musical, KB Village Hall 7.30pm

Cheddar Day at the Shoulder

Phil Collins Tribute, Hill Ridware Village Hall 8pm

Valentines Day (Special meals at Shoulder)

Pancake Day at Shoulder from 5pm

Chinese New Year at Shoulder

Piano Man Rugeley Rose Theatre &.30pm

Bingo Night at Shoulder 7.30pm

First Lent Home Group Yoxall Church 7pm

Community Café in Church 10.30am – 12.30pm

St David's Day menu at Shoulder 12 – 4pm

RHS: "Mary Blagg Cheadle's Pioneering Astronomer"

Pie Week at Shoulder

Monday 2 to

Welsh Tea Hill Ridware Village Hall 3- 5 pm

World Book Day at Shoulder

International Women's day at Shoulder

Jazz Club KB Village Hall 7.45 pm

Big Breakfast KB Village Hall 9.00 – 11.30am

Mothering Sunday

Copy date for the April – May magazine

St Patrick's Day at Shoulder 5pm onwards

Red Nose Day at Shoulder

Quiz night at Shoulder 7.30pm

Community Café in Church 10.30am – 12.30pm

Creative Arts:Ralph Vaughan Williams at KB Village Hall 7.30pm

Easter Cross erected for decoration

Race Night at Shoulder 7.30 pm

Florists decorate Church 9am – 12noon

Easter Sunday Service at St Michael all Angels 10.30

St Georges day Tea Hill Ridware Village Hall 3-5pm

Bold – selected one off events

***RHS:** Ridware History Society, for details, see page 26

Abbots Bromley and Yoxall GP surgery training closures

The remaining dates this year when the Surgeries are closed pm for staff training are Tues 3 & Thursday 26 February; Thursday 19 March; Tuesday 14 April & Thurs 1 May.

Mobile Library dates (0300 111 8000 option 2) The mobile libraries are in normal service. Our nearest are Yoxall where Mobile 2 Route 4 stops at the Golden Cup from 9.30 to 10.30 and at Ferrers Road from 10.35 to 11.05 on alternate Thursdays. The next dates are 29 January; 12, 26 February; 12, 26 March.

A different mobile library, Mobile 1 Route 10 visits Kings Bromley and Hill Ridware where it stops at Richard Crosse from 10.00 to 11.00 and Henry Chadwick from 1.20 to 2.30 alternate Fridays. The next dates are 6, 20 February; 6, 20 March.

Friday	30	January
Monday	2	February
Tuesday	3	February
Wednesday	4	February
Thursday	5	February
Sunday	8	February
Wednesday	11	February
Friday	13	February
Saturday	13	February
Saturday	14	February
Tuesday	17	February
Friday	20	February
Friday	20	February
Sunday	22	February
Wednesday	25	February
Thursday	26	February
Sunday	1	March
Monday	2	March
Saturday	2	March
Thursday	5	March
Thursday	5	March
Sunday	8	March
Wednesday	11	March
Saturday	14	March
Sunday	15	March
Monday	16	March
Tuesday	17	March
Friday	20	March
Sunday	22	March
Thursday	26	March
Wednesday	26	March
Saturday	28	March
Sunday	29	March
Saturday	4	April
Sunday	5	April
Thursday	23	April

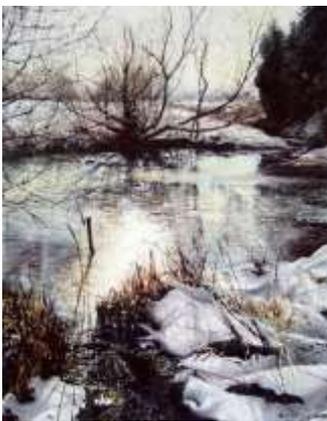
The Hamstall Ridware Giant Advent Calendar



I am thrilled to be able to let you know that this year's Giant Advent Calendar has raised a massive £1070, every penny of which goes to helping support our beautiful church. Huge thanks go to the local trades and businesses who supported us, including the Shimla Palace Restaurant in Rugeley, Lydia's Hair & Beauty Rooms in Yoxall, Peter Coates butchers in Alrewas and of course The Shoulder of Mutton Inn. Many other local individuals also donated prizes, and I am really grateful for these too. Nikki and her team have again been utterly fabulous, hosting the boxes and doing all the daily

draws as well as donating some wonderful prizes. Thank you all!

Jude Burgess



Village Christmas Card

Our thanks to everyone who contributed a greeting, and to Deb Walker for the use of her Picture, and most of all to Rowena Wright who took over the production of the card this year. We took a total of £703 which after printing costs leaves £573.40 that will be divided equally between the Church and St Giles.

Many thanks to everyone again.

Ed.

Financing the Parish Magazine

Readers will have noted that the last two issues of our magazine have had a cover price of "£1.20 when purchased".

In many neighbouring parishes, only those who pay for the magazine receive it; and a charge of around £1.00 per issue is typical. We do receive help towards magazine costs from the parish council and from our advertisers, but this still leaves us with a shortfall.

As a church, we strongly feel in Hamstall, that for our small community, the magazine should go to every household and we have consistently done this without requiring payment. However, help towards costs would be appreciated and we are asking readers to consider a contribution towards the magazine: we suggest £5 a year, which a few people already kindly give us.

To give support this way, the easiest is to set up a standing order or regular payments to Hamstall Ridware PCC, sort code 54-41-02; account number 0370 5099 (use reference "mag"); or if you prefer occasional one-off payments, using the QR code on the front cover. If you prefer cash, an envelope clearly marked, "contribution for magazine" can be posted anytime through the PCC secretary's (Glenis Turner's) letterbox, at Laburnum cottage, next to the church.

Editor

Flowers and Floral Cross at Church

The Easter Cross this year will be erected on Saturday 28 March

As last year, the plan is for anyone who wants to, to help decorate it with flowers leading up to Easter Sunday 5th April. Everyone is welcome to come along and using the plastic flower vials, insert some flowers in the greenery on the cross. Let's make a truly stunning display for Easter again.

Easter Sunday

Many thanks too to our local Group of flower arrangers who continue to produce beautiful displays for our church. During Lent there are no flowers on the altar but on Saturday 4th April we will be decorating the Church for our Easter Service. Please bring along flowers or displays. I will be there from 9 to 12.

Thank you, Liz Carter 0775 106 8181



Community café: St Michael and All Angels Church 4th Thursdays

Next dates: 26 February, 26 March, 23 April, 28 May, 10.30am-12.30.

The community café continues to thrive with new faces every month.

We plan to continue through the winter months and have used donations to purchase some heaters.

Do consider bringing along someone who might not be able to get there on their own. We look forward to welcoming you to the café where you can enjoy a hot drink and homemade cakes/ biscuits/ scones along with wonderful company. **See you soon.**

Jo Berriman



Pensioner's Christmas Lunch - Shoulder of Mutton - Wednesday 7th January 2026.

The 'Timothy Deleene' post Christmas lunch took place on Wednesday 7th January at The Shoulder of Mutton in Hamstall Ridware.

It was well attended by 32 people. Thank you to Nikki and her staff for a warm welcome and a splendid lunch.

And please do consider joining us early 2027, if you become over 66 this year, look out for the notice at the end of this year.

David Booth

Community Cafe Celebration of Jane Austen's 250th Birthday -Lux Muralis

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a winter's evening, when enlivened by good company, warm refreshment, and a touch of theatrical splendour, is vastly improved in every respect. Such was the happy conclusion reached by all who gathered at the Community Café in the Church of St Michael and All Angels, to celebrate the 250th birthday of the much-loved novelist Jane Austen.



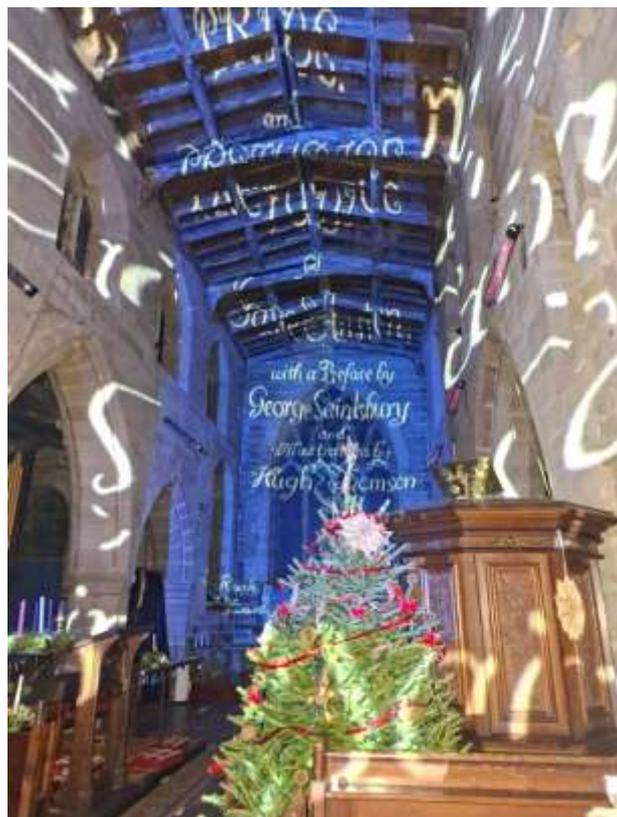
The Community Café was, on this notable December night, quite delighted - indeed, more than delighted - to host an assembly of neighbours, friends, and curious visitors, who braved the season's chill to partake in an event of uncommon charm. Though the air outside was sharp and uninviting, within there prevailed a warmth of a far more valuable kind: that of welcome, good humour, and shared anticipation.



Guests were received with hot drinks, generous slices of delicious cake, and the indispensable mince pie, which together provided both comfort and cheer at the outset of the proceedings. These modest pleasures were rendered all the more delightful by the appearance of the café



team themselves, who had entered fully into the spirit of the evening by donning Regency-style attire. Bonnets, capes,



waistcoats and coats lent an air of elegance and playful authenticity, and one might easily have imagined oneself transported to a country assembly of the early nineteenth century - albeit with superior heating arrangements for the beverages at least.

As daylight faded and the evening drew on, attention was directed to the body of the church, where the true spectacle of the night was about to unfold. A stunning sound and light installation, so graciously provided by Luxmuralis, transformed the ancient interior into a scene of extraordinary beauty. Colour flowed across stone and arch alike, illuminating the church in hues both subtle and bold, accompanied by a specially composed and evocative soundscape. The familiar architecture - so often admired in quiet daylight - was revealed anew, animated by light and shadow in a manner that was both reverent and entrancing.

Those present could not fail to be captivated. The effect was immersive and transporting, inviting reflection, wonder, and no small degree of awe. The venerable walls of the church, witnesses to centuries of prayer and gathering, appeared to rejoice in their moment of radiant celebration. The general sentiment, expressed with admirable unanimity, was that the experience amounted to nothing less than pure, breathtaking magic.



Nor was the enchantment confined to the interior alone. In the churchyard, chestnuts were roasted upon a brazier, their comforting warmth and familiar aroma adding another layer of pleasure to the evening. The exterior of the church, too, was bathed in light, extending the spectacle beyond its doors and drawing together those who lingered outside to admire the scene and exchange conversation beneath the glowing stonework.

The event served as a most agreeable demonstration of the Community Café's continuing mission: to bring people together and to use our beautiful church as a place of welcome, creativity, and shared celebration. By marking Jane Austen's significant anniversary in such an imaginative and generous fashion, the evening paid fitting tribute to her enduring literary legacy, while also creating fresh memories for our own community - memories which, it is sincerely hoped, will be fondly recalled for many years to come.

Indeed, there is every reason to hope that this celebration may become an annual custom, a much-anticipated way to commence the Christmas season and to gather once more for an event both joyful and memorable.

We remain deeply and sincerely grateful to Luxmuralis for their extraordinary artistry, to the dedicated café team and volunteers whose enthusiasm and industry ensured the evening's success, and to all who attended and contributed to the convivial spirit of the occasion. Without such collective effort and goodwill, no celebration - however well intentioned - could ever hope to prosper.

Lucy Leigh

Working Together to Protect Our Parish from Flooding

At the recommendation of the Environment Agency, a handful of residents, keen to further strengthen the village's flood defences, has formed a volunteer **Flood Support Group (FSG)** for Hamstall Ridware and Nethertown.

There is a nationwide network of more than 300 similar groups, all united by a shared purpose: to give communities a strong, coordinated voice on flooding issues. These groups play a vital role in reducing flood risk, building local resilience, and lobbying for improved flood protection. Crucially, they work closely with and are fully supported by the Environment Agency and other relevant authorities.

Flooding is, without doubt, the single greatest challenge facing our otherwise beautiful parish. The FSG, in liaison with the Parish Council, has taken a proactive approach, working to ensure that every possible measure is explored and put in place to safeguard our homes, infrastructure and environment.

As part of this work, the group recently approached our local MP, **Dave Robertson**, who has been fully supportive of the FSG's aims and has offered his assistance with future lobbying efforts. This includes helping to facilitate discussions with South Staffordshire Water regarding the management of **Blithfield Reservoir**, particularly during a 6-8 week period in January and February when the reservoir is typically at full capacity and our community downstream experiences the greatest impact from overspill.

Since the severe flooding caused by **Storm Dennis** in February 2020 - and the repeated incidents in the years since - a significant amount of practical work has already been undertaken thanks to government and Environment Agency grants of over £75,000. This includes the installation of silt traps on Blithbury Road in March 2022, as well as the rebuilding and strengthening of the ancient embankment on the river's right bank. We are deeply grateful to all those who have supported and helped with this work.



In addition, damaged drainage systems have been identified and replaced where necessary. You may have spotted the Staffordshire Drain Services' truck in action recently, carrying out the annual drain cleaning organised by the Parish Council. All these measures represent real progress and demonstrate what has been achieved to date.

The FSG is keen to grow. Parishioners are warmly invited - and actively encouraged - to get involved. Whether you can offer time, skills, local knowledge, or simply an interest in protecting our parish, your contribution would be very welcome. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact myself (Lucy Leigh) or the magazine editor.

The FSG will of course keep the Parish Council informed of its findings, progress and outcomes, and regular updates will be shared through the parish magazine and via the community Facebook page.

Lucy Leigh (lucy.leigh@ci-bcp.com or 07702 812801)

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**LIVE
& LOCAL**

You are invited to our

Welsh Tea



Menu: Bara Brith, Welsh cake, cheese scone & cup of tea or coffee.
All for £5-00

Date: Thursday 5th March
Time: 3-5pm
Venue: The Village Hall, Uttoxeter Road, Hill Ridware

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN
THE RIDWARES

For further details contact: 01543 492136

All Welcome!



Take A Break Cafe



Tuesday
3rd February,
3rd March &
7th April

1030 - 12 noon
The Village Hall,
Hill Ridware

All Welcome!

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The Ridwares WI



INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM AT THEIR



St George's Day Tea

THURSDAY 23RD APRIL
3-5 PM
THE VILLAGE HALL, HILL RIDWARE
£5.00

All Welcome!

Kings Bromley Village News

Creative Arts Partnership – Wednesday 11th February, Village Hall 7:30
All About the Musical. Contact John 01543 473096.

Jazz Club – Wednesday 11th March, Village Hall 7:45. Contact John 01543 473096.

THE BIG BREAKFAST – Saturday 14th March, Village Hall 9 until 11:30

Come and enjoy a relaxed breakfast with family, friends and neighbours.

Full Breakfast: 2 rashers of back bacon, 2 sausages, egg, black pudding, hash brown and baked beans £10.

Small Breakfast: 2 rashers of back bacon, egg, baked beans £6.

All with orange juice, unlimited brown or white toast, butter, marmalade, jam, decaffeinated tea or coffee.

Book early – limited availability. Contact Judith Berry 07547 422833

Creative Arts Partnership – Wednesday 26th March, Village Hall 7:30

Ralph Vaughn Williams. Contact John 01543 473096.

SPRING QUIZ WITH FISH & CHIP SUPPER - Saturday 25 April, Village Hall

7pm. Teams of 4, £10 per person including supper. The ever-popular general knowledge quiz. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Book early – limited availability. Contact Judith Berry 07547 422833

Kings Bromley Creative Arts Partnership.

We exist to provide anyone in our area, the opportunity to explore any creative aspect they want to. We don't think up and provide the content – we support and help anyone bring their idea to a wider public. We do help with a venue, perhaps some funding and lots of experience and expertise to make it easier.



Our first winter season is underway. We had a great launch in October when Kevin Borg talked about his own creative writing and how he published his first book. It was well received by an enthusiastic audience. It set us up well for this February when Bill Castle, the travelling story teller, will entertain us and help us improve our own story telling capacity. He will have had a session with KS2 children at the Richard Cross School in the afternoon.

On Wednesday February 11 Lydia Rae Stephenson, a local professional musician and entertainer, will share her experiences of MUSICALS by talking about, and performing from, well known shows.

On Thursday 26th March John Francis, leader of the international Ralph Vaughan Williams Society, supported by vocalists from the Birmingham Conservatoire, will be talking about, and illustrating the work of one of Britains greatest composers and revealing RVWs ancestral links with our part of Britain.

All of this for a fiver each event (tickets through Eventbrite or on the door) at 7.30pm and light refreshments are included – *bargain!*

All though we wear the Kings Bromley label those from further afield are always welcome and we hope to see you there.

Kings Bromley Jazz Club.

We are all about bringing good quality live music to the doorstep of those in the village and the surrounding area. We offer four sessions a year.

We were proud to support the village's Drop In Café with background music from our recent events during the Advent spell. We hold our AGM in February and we kick off our 2026 season with a concert on Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 19.45 featuring The Karely Minami Quintet – from The University of Birmingham Music Faculty.

KBJC is proud to introduce new fresh faces to the jazz and wider music scene and particularly to our enthusiastic audiences. Tickets on Eventbrite.

A poster for the Kings Bromley Jazz Club's 'Happy New Year' 2026 programme. The poster has a red border and a yellow background. At the top right is the club's logo. The main title is 'Happy New Year' in large red letters. Below it is the text 'Our programme for 2026'. There are four numbered items, each with a colored square (1: blue, 2: pink, 3: yellow, 4: green) and text describing the event. At the bottom, it says 'Bookings open four weeks before performances.' and 'Looking forward to welcoming you to our club.' The bottom left has the 'Supported by' logo for 'HILL'. The bottom right has contact information: 'More information John 01543 473096 Jonathan 07980 450 705'.

A Celebration of Simon and Garfunkel – Abbots Bromley Village Hall

Back by popular demand!
Tim Chu and Ian Bailey are returning to Abbots Bromley Village Hall at 7:30pm on **Saturday the 25th of April** with their wonderful Celebration of the music of Simon and Garfunkel.

This is their take on the music: they are definitely **not** a tribute band, but their sound is remarkably authentic. It will be a fantastic evening.

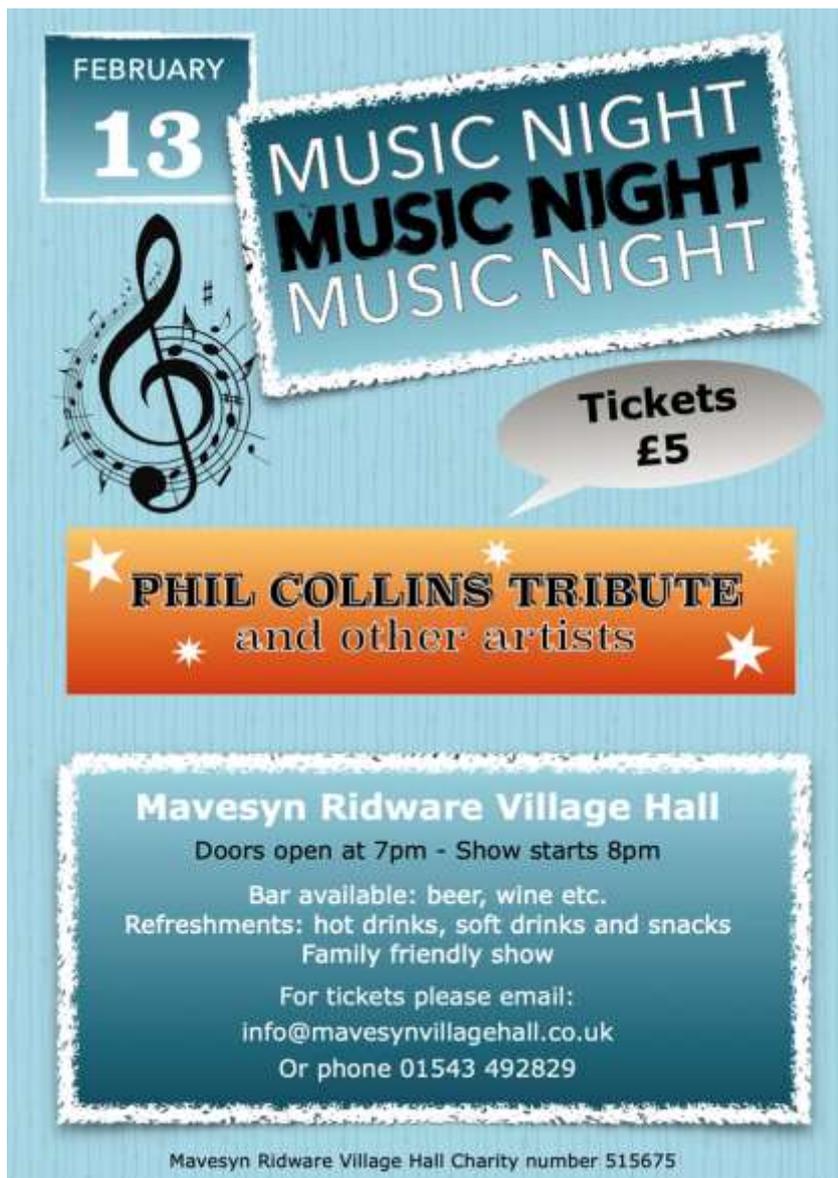
Tickets £15 www.ticketsource.co.uk/timtone-productions or call 0333 666 33099 or at the Pie Shack 07794 422 996 or 07790 912255



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FEBRUARY
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Tickets
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Doors open at 7pm - Show starts 8pm
Bar available: beer, wine etc.
Refreshments: hot drinks, soft drinks and snacks
Family friendly show
For tickets please email:
info@mavesynvillagehall.co.uk
Or phone 01543 492829

Mavesyn Ridware Village Hall Charity number 515675



News from

**Opening hours: Mon-Thur 12-2.30; 5-11
 Fri 12-2.30; 4-11; Sat-Sun 12noon-11pm
 Food served: Mon-Sat 12-2; 5-8.30, Sun
 12-4 Please book for food on 01889 504488**



There's lots of dates for your diaries this coming spring! Enjoy a social lunch or evening at the pub with friends and family while we wait on you. Thanks to all who have supported the pub over the festive period and also the brilliant donations to charity lately, Race night was a hoot! So we're doing it again!

January

Friday 30th – Cheese & Wine night - £5 per cheese plate, wines priced accordingly, **Proceeds to Macmillan**

February

Sunday 1st – National Yorkshire Pudding Day – Double Yorkies for everyone on your Sunday Roast Dinner

Thursday 5th – World Nutella Day – Try our Homemmade Nutella Rocher Cheesecake

Sunday 8th – 6pm onwards – Book Sale in the Bar, bring along some and buy some more for charity

Friday 13th – Cheddar Day, celebrating a British Classic in different ways, Lunch & Evening Meals

Saturday 14th – Book for Valentines Evening, 2x Surf 'n' Turf Meals for £29, add a bottle of wine for £10

Tuesday 17th – Shrove Tuesday Pancakes! Lots of Toppings Available, Savoury & Sweet from 5pm

Friday 20th – Chinese themed Menu for Chinese New Year –Year of the Horse

Sunday 22nd – 7.30pm Bingo Night in the Bar, Books for sale from 7pm

March

Sunday 1st – St. David's Day, Book for a Traditional Welsh Roast Dinner 12-4pm

Monday 2nd – Saturday 7th – Pie Week! Lots of Choice £9.95 all week!

Thursday 5th – World Book Day – Bring the kids in their costumes for tea, from 5pm, Book a table on 01889 504488

Sunday 8th – International Women's Day – Ladies VIP Evening in the restaurant, Bubbles & Light Buffet with Mystery Guest! Glam up and enjoy - Tickets £20 (limited) – 01889 504488

Sunday 15th – Mothering Sunday 12-4pm, Roast Lunch for a special person who Mothers you. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL!**

Tuesday 17th – St. Patrick's Day 5pm onwards, Irish Stew & Soda Bread available to Munch on with a Guinness!

Friday 20th – Red Nose Day, bring in your worst ever jokes & pop some money in the pot for a great cause

Sunday 22nd – Quiz night 7.30pm, test your general knowledge against the other teams! £2 per person. Max team 6

Sunday 29th – Race Night 7.30pm – Come have a flutter & cheer on your favourite horse, proceeds to Macmillan

April

Sunday 6th – Easter Sunday, Traditional Roast Lunches 12-4pm, Book on 01889 504488

Don't forget –

Wed – Sat Lunch – Open from 12-2pm for lunchtime meals

Every **Wednesday** is Steak Night, 2 Sirloins for £29 and a bottle of house wine £10!

Every **Thursday** is Pie night – all pie meals are £9.95!

You can also book breakfast (8-9.45am) any day of the week, the night before on

01889 504488

Nikki and Team!

Brenda Perkin (née Goring)

We were sorry to learn that on Tuesday 27th of January Brenda passed away at Stafford County Hospital after a short illness. Brenda was 89 years old and one of the village's oldest original residents .

Details of funeral arrangements will be made available separately once known and the next magazine will include memories of Brenda and a description of her life.

Trip to Stratford upon Avon Christmas Market

Such a wonderful start to the festive season as some WI members set out to visit the Stratford Christmas market.

Not only did members use the opportunity to buy special gifts and taste delicious food, but it also allowed us to explore historic Stratford. A great day was had by all.

Lastly, a big thanks to Middleton's coaches for our safe travel and superb hospitality, and to Carrie, our fantastic trips/events organiser.



Our monthly Take a Break café in January

Once again, despite the inclement weather with the first snow of the season, this was a well-attended event. Friends and neighbours enjoyed a good old chat whilst enjoying our lovely bacon baps and toasted teacakes.



Dates for your diary: -

All events take place in Hill Ridware Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

- Tuesday 17th February: monthly meeting with our Speaker Mary Morris, talking about Fall Prevention.
- Tuesday 3rd March: Take a Break Café
- Thursday 5th March our popular Welsh Tea.
- Tuesday 17th March: monthly meeting with our speaker Louise Gilcrest Image consultant.

For further information about our WI and the kinds of fun things we get up to see our Facebook page here:



[The Ridwares WI](#)

CONTACT our Press Officer Kath Parson kath.parson@gmail.com for further information on any item in this report.

Foresters Scouts/Cubs/Beavers (see pp 24 and 25 for details)

Well January started with a cold spell and some snow but we were warmed by the enthusiasm of our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts as they returned after the Christmas break.

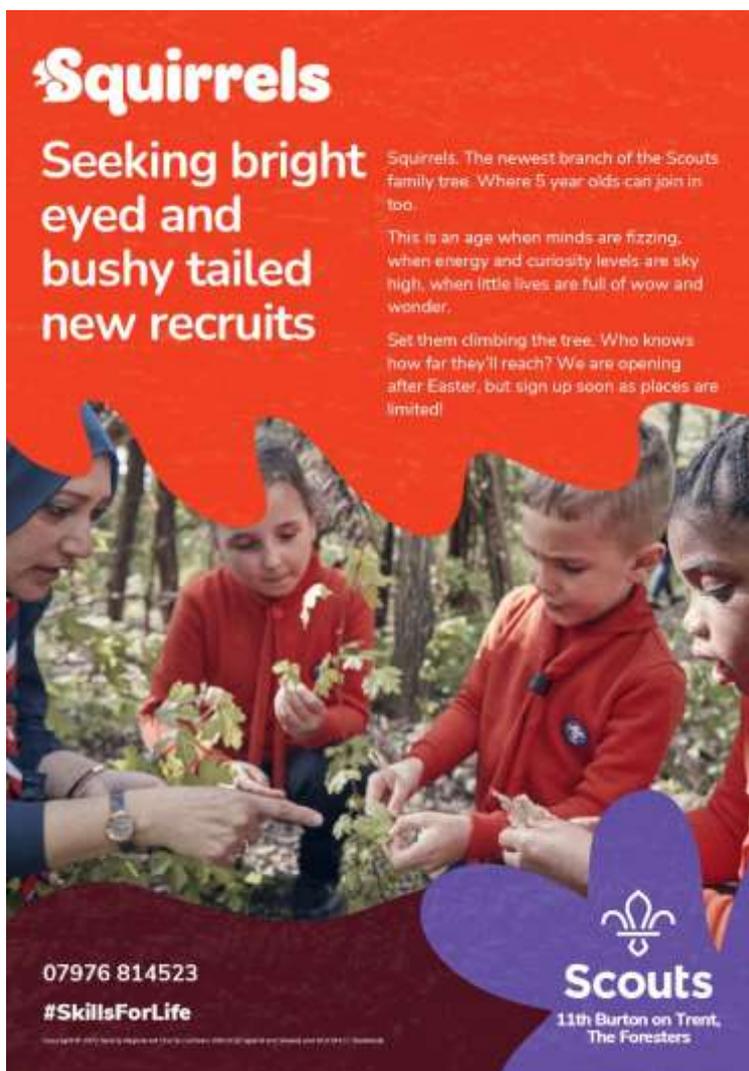
We always spend the first week of each term welcoming new recruits either fresh into our Group or moving up between the sections. We hope they all settle in well and enjoy their time with us – they have lots to look forward to.

As I write this I haven't anything to report on the weekly meetings as we have only had one so far! So I will focus first on our new section – **Squirrels**. We open after Easter in Yoxall School, so we are all very excited. To start with we are only taking 5 year olds and a limited number whilst we get used to this younger age group. Meetings will be Wednesdays 5pm – 5.45pm. If you know anyone who would like to join then please ask them to get in touch with me, I am sure we will fill up very quickly if the experience of other Squirrels around the country is anything to go by!

Following that in March (14th in Barton village hall) it is our infamous snail race – great fun for all the family £8 per person over 10, £5.50 for ages 6 – 10 and no charge for under 6, which again includes supper.

We hope that you will be able to support us and in so doing also have a great time! If you would like further info or tickets, then drop me an email.

Angela Burns, aburns@webbht.co.uk 07976 814523.



Squirrels

Seeking bright eyed and bushy tailed new recruits

Squirrels. The newest branch of the Scouts family tree. Where 5 year olds can join in too.

This is an age when minds are fizzing, when energy and curiosity levels are sky high, when little lives are full of wow and wonder.

Set them climbing the tree. Who knows how far they'll reach? We are opening after Easter, but sign up soon as places are limited!

07976 814523
#SkillsForLife

Scouts
11th Burton on Trent,
The Foresters



11th BURTON SCOUT GROUP FORESTERS

Scouts
11th Burton on Trent,
The Foresters

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In 1876 Mary Sumner, the wife of a clergyman near Winchester, became a grandmother for the first time. It brought home to her how much support families needed in what was becoming, a rapidly changing world. She started

a series of meetings for young women, which was very radical at that time in that they were led by a woman (unheard of in those days) and were also for women from all classes of society.

Thus was Mothers' Union born.

Mary was asked to speak on her ideas at a Diocesan Conference, some of the women there were the wives of serving Army Officers and impressed by this they took these ideas to various postings throughout the world and so the international Mothers' Union was born.

MU has always been concerned with issues that trouble society, although these have changed over the years – hygiene and healthcare have largely been replaced by coping with social media, people trafficking, online /digital targeting of young people and giving vulnerable families the skills to take them out of poverty. The original concept of caring for families, and in particular children and young people, has never altered.

As a Christian organisation MU has always had prayer at its base. Working in our communities to bring about transformation to people's lives is at the heart of the work.

MU now has 4 million members in 84 countries throughout the world. Over the years projects have evolved to keep up with the current problems in society and these vary according to the various areas of the world. One of the biggest and most successful international projects has been the Literacy & Financial Education project which has seen many thousands of women, living in countries where females are not taught, become literate and numerate – often setting up income generating projects to enable them to feed and educate their families, with the support of training from MU. This continues as an ongoing outreach.

Worldwide every Diocese and each branch have their own particular ways of working. In Lichfield Diocese we have contacts in the nine prisons in our area, give financial support to struggling families, work with the Farming Community Network, campaign against domestic/female abuse and provide holidays for families in need of a break but unable to finance them; in addition to supporting national campaigns.

The Yoxall Branch supports this work also the Premature Baby Unit at Queen's Hospital, Pathway Project in Lichfield and working with the Farming Community Network.

As we prepare to celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union later in the year we do hope you will join us in commemorating past achievements and looking to the future.

We all know that young people these days are vulnerable to social media contacts and we have to face up to how damaging these can be. So maybe 2026 can be the year to find out more and get involved. Watch this space.

Our next meeting will be in church on 4th February when we will be holding our AGM.

We shall also be taking part in the Worldwide Wave of Prayer from 9th - 11th February. Every Branch in the UK is linked to branches in several countries throughout the world and dates are allocated to ensure a constant 'Wave of prayer' all over the world. In the Lichfield Diocese we are linked to the Diocese of Ankole in Uganda, Lainya in South Sudan, Lagos West/Abuja in Nigeria and Karnataka in India. We shall be remembering these links and the issues that they have to contend with in their daily lives.

Our meetings are open to everyone. Do feel that you can drop in on 4th February at 2 p.m. in Yoxall Church: you will receive a warm welcome.

From Minutes of HRPC meeting Monday 10th November 2025

THOSE PRESENT: Cllr Neil Roobottom (acting chair); Cllr Michael McNelis; Cllr Tina Buchanan; Cllr Simon Moore; Cllr Ella Riley.;

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Mycock Clerk

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: 4+ members of the public

APOLOGIES:; Cllr Graham Roobottom; Cllr Janet Higgins; Cllr Keith Vernon

The start of the meeting was opened to the public, areas covered were: -

Modelling quote for the river still ongoing- funding will need to be found, as very expensive

Works completed in Nethertown, pipe works were signed off and recommendations were made, Mr Paul Carter made a concerned plea for further works to be carried out. Although the prior works were funded by HS2 funding and not the council, there are no funds available from the council.

The council need further work proposals and grant funding may be an option.

Request for the oak tree on the triangle by the church to be trimmed.

The main meeting then started

Lanterns: The church has requested to borrow the PC lanterns for an event. Agreed

Matters Arising from the last Minutes: Resident, Mr Paul Carter expressed through a letter to the council, asking if the council will fund further works in Nethertown.

Agreed that the council needs further information and costs

Correspondence/ emails: Copy of a Letter from a group of residents who have written to the MP regarding flooding and a request for a water release plan from the reservoir. This will be kept on file and thank the group for keeping the council in the loop.

Employment Committee: New employment committee now is made up of Cllr's TB, NR, MM

Drain Cleaning: The annual drain cleaning will be done in January 2026, as some of the gully's in the village have already been done, it was agreed to get maximum benefit that we would leave it in October.

Grant Applications: Earlier in the year the council agreed to reduce the grant funding pot due to funds. We had received two applications from:

St Michaels & All Angels Church requesting £700 towards the upkeep of the grounds and car park area.

Hamstall Ridware Parish Magazine £500 towards publication costs.

The council felt that both were worthy applications, but the parish magazine is delivered to all households in the village and as the funding is based on the community benefit, this was the preferred option. Hopefully next year's funding may be in a better position and encourage applicants to try again next year.

A vote was taken 4 voted for and 1 person abstained from voting

Finance: Balance at the bank:

- Current Account 28th October £7,440.13
- Reserve account 30th September £1,527.24

Planning Applications: No objection to 25/01223/COU

Change of use from Agricultural to equestrian use- Land at Hamstall Hall

Roof at Green Farm Cottage:

Update from Cllr Janet Higgins to say that its on going and being passed to building control for them to look into the health and safety aspect. Further updates may follow.

Co-option: The council agreed to place an advert for a new council member in the next parish magazine.

Potholes: The situation with potholes in the village is on going and although some have been filled in several of them still have not been addressed, even though they have been reported.

The council encourages everyone to still report as many as possible.

Dog Fouling Soigns: New signs have been done by Cllr Ella Riley and placed around the village and on the field gates, hopefully notice will be taken.

Thanks to Ella for sorting this

Christmas Tree: The Parish Council are pleased to say that we have been very lucky in receiving a donated Christmas Tree by a kind local resident. Thank you

Next Meeting Dates

12th January 2026 Shoulder of Mutton 7.30pm

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chair Mrs Tina Buchanan	07769 728131	tina.buchanan@hamstallridwareparishcouncil.co.uk
Mr Graham Roobottom	01889 504030	graham.roobottom@hamstallridwareparishcouncil.co.uk
Mr Neil Roobottom	07973 403722	neil.roobottom@hamstallridwareparishcouncil.co.uk
Mr Simon Moore	07590 033237	simon.moore@hamstallridwareparishcouncil.co.uk
Mr Michael McNelis	07887 743953	michael.mcnelis@hamstallridwareparishcouncil.co.uk
Mrs Ella Riley	07904 947836	ella.riley@hamstallridwareparishcouncil.co.uk
Parish Clerk: Becky Mycock	01889 504233	clerk@hamstallridwareparishcouncil.co.uk
Ms Janet Higgins		janet.higgins@staffordshire.gov.uk
Keith Vernon (Lichfield DC Colton & Ridwares)	07711 758 852	keith.vernon@lichfielddc.gov.uk

100 Years Ago... by Chris Poole

February 1926:

Northern Ireland & Tottenham Hotspur footballer Danny Blanchflower was born in Belfast... Canadian actor Leslie Nielson (Naked Gun) was born in Regina Saskatchewan... and British actor Kenneth Williams {Carry On Films) was born in Kings Cross, London.

March 1926:

American comedian Jerry Lewis was born in Newark, New Jersey ... Eamon de Valera ends leadership of Sinn Fein...Lita Roza, British pop singer (How much is that Doggie in the window) was born in Liverpool... Sydney Chaplin, actor son of Charlie was born in California... First lip reading tournament was held in America... Billy Walkinson was first Australian jockey to win the Grand National...and U.S. actor Peter Graves (Mission Impossible) was born in Minneapolis Minnesota.

Contacts and Information

Hamstall Village Websites:	see front cover
WI Karen Wakefield	01543 492 136
Shoulder of Mutton	01889 504 488
Hill Ridware Village Hall: Bookings: info@mavesynvillagehall.co.uk or Yvonne Higgins	01543 492 829
Yoxall Brownies (7-10 years) Amelia Hill 07950 550 185 or Sue Pryde	07818 040 962
Yoxall Guides (10-15 years) Gill McKiernan	07836 629 904
Foresters Scout group: Beavers (6-8 years), Cubs (8-10 years), Scouts (10-15 years) at St Peter's School, Yoxall Angela Burns (aburns@webbht.co.uk)	07976 814 523
Yoxall Health Centre (prescription repeats, yoxall.healthcentre@nhs.net)	01543 472 202
Yoxall Area Patient Partnership: yoxallareapatientpartnership@outlook.com	
Henry Chadwick Primary School, Headteacher, Mrs Vicki Barnes	01543 490 354
Ridware Rascals Play Group	See entry in Regular Meetings and Events
Ridware Arts info@gallery-ridware.co.uk	01889 504 102
Royal British Legion, Yoxall & District Branch Michael Elliott	07969 518 215
Lichfield District Council	01543 308 000
On-demand transport , www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/linkupbus Call Mon-Fri, 9–5.	0808 134 6632
Staffordshire Highways department	01785 277 452
Staffordshire County Council, new number for all services Under 20s bus discount card: www.yourstaffordshirecard.info	0300 111 8000
Staffordshire Social Services: care services	0300 111 8010
South Staffs Water	0800 389 1011
Sewerage – Severn Trent Water	0800 783 4444
Flood line (opt 1 code for Rugeley Trent 208013, Nethertown 308172) https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/9081 (Blithe) /2104 (Trent at K B)	03459 88 1188
Environment Agency (Lichfield 24hr) floods, sewerage etc	0800 807 060
Gas escapes	0800 111 999
Electricity faults	0330 123 5008
Scams etc – call Action Fraud	0300 123 2040
Community Police: To report an incident or contact your local officer please ring 101 (ext as collar no) or leave a voice message or	0300 123 44 55
(06442) Maggie Griffiths margaret.griffiths@staffordshire.police.uk	
(8993) Elaine Ford elaine.ford@staffordshire.police.uk	
(8973) Tracy Horton tracy.horton@staffordshire.police.uk	
(16633) Lisa Anderson lisa.anderson@staffordshire.police.uk	
	https://www.facebook.com/staffordshirepolice
	www.staffordshire.police.uk @StaffsPolice
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Lichfield	03444 111 444
Samaritans	116 123
Staffordshire Safeguarding First Response Team:	0800 1313 126
Emergency Duty Service – Out of Hours:	0345 604 2886
NSPCC Helpline:	0808 800 5000
Child line:	0800 1111
Samuel Johnson Community Hospital, Lichfield	01543 412 900
Burton Hospital	01283 566 333

Recycling dump opening times (enquiries: 0300 111 8000)

Lichfield	BST	GMT
Wed-Fri	9.00-18.00	9.00-17.00
Sat, Sun, Spring & Summer Bank Hols	9.00-17.00	9.00-17.00
Mon, Tues, Christmas day, Boxing Day, New Year Day:	Closed	
Rugeley	BST	GMT
Mon, Tues, Fri	9.00-18.00	9.00-17.00
Sat, Sun, Bank Hols	9.00-17.00	9.00-17.00
Wed, Thu, Christmas day, Boxing Day, New Year Day:	Closed	

Regular Meetings and Events

Further contributions to this page welcome: please contact the editor



The Flower Club The flower club meets approx. every four weeks. Meetings are at 7.30 p.m. in Hill Ridware village hall, cost £5 per session: bring along your own flowers. Full tuition given - beginners and more advanced flower arrangers welcome. 2026 sessions: 24 Feb; 24 Mar; 28 Apr; 26 May; 28 Jul; 22 Sep; 27 Oct; 24 Nov. Contact: Karen Wakefield 01543 492136

Ridware Rascals Playgroup for age 0-5 yrs

Fridays during term time 9.15 a.m. – 11.00 Hill Ridware Village Hall £3.00 per family per session – first week free; Drink & snacks for the children; tea & coffee for the adults
Everyone welcome - mums/dads/grandparents/carers
Just come along and join in! Contact: Carol Wilson 01543 492052



Foresters Scouts/cubs/beavers All sections open to boys and girls. Contact: see page 20.

Beavers (6-7 years) Tuesday and Wednesday in St Peters School, Yoxall 6pm – 7pm

Cubs (8 – 10 years) Monday in Kings Bromley Village Hall 6.15pm – 7.45pm

St Peters School, Yoxall: Monday 6.15pm – 7.45pm and Thursday 6pm – 7.30pm

Scouts (11 – 14 years) Yoxall: 7.15pm – 8.45pm Tuesday and 7.45pm – 9.15pm Thursday in St Peters School, and Tuesday 7.15pm – 8.45pm in the Village Hall

Prayer Shawl meetings Yoxall Church: 10.30am – 12.00 2nd Tuesday of each month

Mothers' Union meets 1st Wednesday of month at 1.45pm in Yoxall Church for a short service. For more details contact: Liz Binsley 01543 472 761 or Julia Collinson 01543 473 866

Hamstall Community Café 4th Thursday of month in church 10.30 – 12.30

WI Take a Break Café

1st Tuesday of month: Hill Ridware Village Hall 10.30 – 12.00 noon - ALL WELCOME!

The Ridwares WI Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month at 19.30 Mavesyn Ridware Village Hall. ALL women/girls welcome! For further details contact: Karen on 01543 492136

Post Office at Hill Ridware Village Hall - every Thursday 9-11am
at Kings Bromley Village Hall - every Tuesday 1–2pm

Churchyard working parties - All welcome. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 5pm. in summer months only. For further info, contact Michael Elsom 07949 126640

Food Bank Most needed remain toiletries, loo roll, instant mashed potato, tinned (sandwich) meat, tinned tomatoes, juice (long life) and squash, biscuits, children's treats, tinned fruit, pasta, rice, rice pudding and UHT milk or cash. Remember some people who need food bank help do not have access to cooking facilities. Please put any offerings in the Food Bank box at the back of Church or contact Liz Carter 0775 106 8181. For financial gifts to the Food Bank, see: <https://rugeley.foodbank.org.uk>

Lichfield Repair and Share Café Volunteer repairers will try to get your broken items repaired. Electricals, household, phones/computers, garden tools, keepsakes, clothing, etc. Learn new skills at our workshop sessions too. lichfieldshare@gmail.com or @lichrepaircafe on Instagram & Twitter & 

Third Sat of each month, 2-5pm Curborough Community Centre, Lichfield WS13 7NY

First Sat of each month, 10-1pm St Joseph's RC Church, Cannock Rd, Burntwood WS7 0BB

Royal British Legion, Yoxall & District Branch meets on 1st Wednesday of the month at 8pm in St Swithin's Room, St Peter's Church, Yoxall and afterwards in The Golden Cup. See too, Contacts, p20

Lichfield Community Lottery: Support Hamstall Heritage Group

- Tickets from only £1 per week
- HHG get 50p from every ticket
- Cash prizes up to £25,000 weekly

<https://www.lichfieldcommunitylottery.co.uk/support/the-hamstall-heritage-group>

Church flowers: donations or volunteers

New flowers are needed in church each 2 weeks except in Lent and Advent. If you would like to help, please contact Liz Carter 0775 106 8181 lizcarter3010@gmail.com who will be happy to guide you through what is needed, help or even arrange donated flowers for you.



Winter Programme 2025/2026

Monday 2 February: Vanessa Morgan - 'How to do Family History'

Vanessa worked as a genealogist for many years. Working for people as far afield as Australia and Canada, but also doing a bit of heir hunting. Also, a writer, she has written seven books for The History Press, local history and how-to family history books as well as true nineteenth century murder cases. Her talk will give some handy pointers for beginners researching family history and for those more advanced researchers. She will try to answer queries you may have. If anyone already has a specific question in mind, let me know and I will pass it on in advance of her talk.

Monday 2 March: Sally Roberts – Mary Adela Blagg – Cheadle's Pioneering Astronomer.

Sally, a member of the Cheadle Discovery Group became interested in one of the earliest female astronomers when she learned that she was living in Mary Blagg's house.

Mary was one of the first women to be admitted as a fellow of the royal astronomical society. A crater on the moon is named after her. A minor moon was named after her only a couple of years ago. She collated a lot of mapping, references, drawings etc to create one 'map' of the moon which was used for many years. She developed an improved formula for calculating the distance between a star and its planets (this was used until the 1960's) She lived her whole life in Cheadle, an unassuming woman who did not court celebrity but was nevertheless respected by her (male) colleagues and, surprisingly for the time, given due credit.

Meet in Hill Ridware Village Hall WS15 3RJ. 7.30pm for 7.45pm start, Tea/Coffee available. Non-members are welcome. £3 per visit. For information on how to join please contact: Membership Secretary: Helen Sharp 01543 490 874 or Chair: Roy Fallows: 07980 375 239. More information: www.ridwarehistorysociety.com

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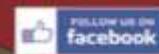
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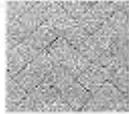
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