



### Parish Lengthsman Scheme

For many years, the Parish have taken on minor highway maintenance with the Lengthsman scheme under contract from the County Council. The grant amount given for this to the parish is minimal, but extra top-up money for this service to the tune of an extra 63% was given as a direct discretionary grant for many, many years from our representative County Councillor Gordon Yarranton, who was very aware of the valuable service given by our parish lengthsman in keeping drains and grips clear and working, to take damaging water off the roads, along with other minor works. The Lengthsman are available to be called out at short notice, even over periods such as Christmas Bank Holidays to deal with highway problems of ice, flooding etc. Such a high level of service will no longer be possible in a budget reduced by 63%. These minor but very essential maintenance tasks are vital for keeping our lanes and parish in a reasonable state. Although requested by the Parish Council, there has been no undertaking from our new County Councillor that this extra discretionary grant worth 63% (£1300) of our lengthsman budget will continue. Your Parish Council are therefore now faced with these alternatives:-

- A) We can either reduce the maintenance to the minimal amount allowed covered by the County Council grant—and therefore the state of our local lanes will deteriorate from what we have enjoyed in the past; or
- B) We can add to the Lengthsman's budget directly from the Parish-raised Precept amount, which will be directly reflected in the Parish rate that you pay in your Council Tax.

A further step may perhaps be possible in the discontinuation of the lengthsman service entirely in our parish, but this would mean, we fear, that any necessary work and even minor works will have to be requested directly from the County Council, with no certainty of when, or if, the work will be done. We feel that this should be a last resort, as it would mean a further reduction in the maintenance of our lanes from that recently experienced.. Your Parish Councillors (see below right for contacts) would be interested to know your views on this and the option you feel should be taken, in light of the situation in which we now find ourselves.



### Defibrillator Provision



Our thanks once again to one of our District Councillors Gordon Yarranton for his generous grant from his community leadership funding to help towards defibrillator provision in our parish. In our scattered rural area, discussion is still underway on where such provision will be sited, but we feel certain that such a facility may be of direct benefit to our parishioners (but, hopefully perhaps, never used).



### Spring Bulbs and Elm Trees

Your Parish Council is once again planting spring flowering bulbs around parish lanes. They are also purchasing a further small quantity of elm trees which are claimed to be Dutch Elm resistant, to replace those magnificent trees previously lost in the parish to this disease.

### Birmingham Velo Event

This Parish newsletter advised everyone in the April edition that this event was going to take place, and yet it still caught out many people, despite efforts to publicise it. The main problem locally was the closure of the A442, causing traffic mayhem in Shatterford, and the closure of the Habberley Lane. In effect these two closures cut off much of the parish from access to Bewdley or Kidderminster from 7.30a.m. to 2.30p.m. on Sunday 24th September.



Traffic Chaos in Shatterford on the A442



However commendable the charitable monies raised may be, this has to be set against the costs involved, and the considerable disruption and inconvenience caused to many thousands of people, concerns which have been voiced by this parish council to the County Council and organisers. We await further developments on this matter.

### Parish Council Meetings

Don't forget, the public are welcome to come along to any Parish Council meeting and speak and/or discuss matters with councillors and usually local police in the Open Forum at the start of each meeting. These are the dates of the next meetings, all held in Trimpley Village Hall @ 7.30p.m. - 20th November, 18th December, 16th January — check the website or noticeboards for agenda.

#### Your Parish Councillors are:

Mr. J. Gammond (Chair) : Tel 01299 400750  
Mr. C. Grainger : 01299 403231  
Mr. B. Phillips : Tel 01299 861419  
Mr. R. Jennings : Tel 01562 751956  
Mrs. C. Gammond : 01299 402929  
Mr. G. Yarranton : 01299 403835  
Mrs. L. Green : Tel 01562 747180

Please feel free to contact them (or the Clerk (see overleaf)) on any matters of concern re life in the Parish, or come along to the **Public Open Forum**

## Can you get to Dr. appointments?

Around 20% of missed appointments are due to lack of available transport. A new Patient Transport Initiative is being launched for most practices in Wyre Forest to provide transport for registered patients to get to appointments where no other transport means are available. Wyre Forest Dial a Ride is the lead body in the initiative providing a booking line between 09:00am and 4:00pm weekdays and coordinating journeys between the partner schemes. Administration is by volunteers, and they have wheelchair-transport adapted vehicles. A fare charge and some restrictions apply. For more details telephone 0300 330 1246 or visit [www.journeystohealth.org.uk](http://www.journeystohealth.org.uk) (*Journeys to Health is a pilot project funded by the Department for Transport's Total Transport initiative, supported by the County Council and health service providers.*)



## Autumn Fires & Safety



Once again at this time of year, we make no apologies for reminding people about :

- **Garden Fires and Hallowe'en/Bonfires**
  - Be considerate to neighbours when siting and timing outdoor fires
  - Check bonfires for hedgehogs before lighting
  - Take particular care if lighting candles for Hallowe'en
  - Remember to follow the Firework Code if having bonfire parties
- **Cosy Indoor Hearths**—there is nothing better—
  - Get your chimney swept regularly—chimney fires can be costly :
    - ..... Once a year if using oil or gas
    - ..... At least once a year if using smokeless fuel
    - ..... Every 3 months for wood and coal (when in use)
- **Check Boilers and have them serviced**
  - Always have appliances installed and serviced by a qualified engineer
  - Fit a carbon monoxide detector and never block air bricks, vents or flues.
- **FREE Home Safety checks**

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS) offers FREE Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC). During the visit, they will check your smoke alarms and install new ones as needed, and will ensure that you are doing all that you can to avoid the risk of a fire in your home. To arrange a home check, call Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service on 0800 032 1155 or visit <http://www.hwfire.org.uk/safety-andadvice/home-safety/request-visit/> to arrange a free HFSC.
- **Bad Winter Weather and Storms**
  - Check your trees and shrubs—particularly on roadside or pavement boundaries— for branches likely to fall in storms.
  - Clear up hedge and garden trimmings so as not to block drains and cause flooding
  - Be neighbourly—and in particular help and check on the vulnerable and elderly in inclement winter conditions.
  - Dial 105 to report electric power cuts—keep a battery powered radio to hand, along with torches, and check batteries are working. Charge and keep charged mobile phones and ensure they are to hand.
  - Keep warm, and only go out in bad snow and ice if really necessary.

**Let's keep safe and enjoy warmth and comfort this winter.**


## Trees to the rear of Houses at Low Habberley

The Parish Clerk made investigations in respect of ownership of the trees behind the former Community Housing in Low Habberley, after reports were received concerning their safety. With assistance from District Councillor Becky Vale, Alvan Kingston, the District Arboricultural Officer has become involved, as many of the large trees are subject to tree preservation orders. Alvan will contact the owners to ask them to have the trees assessed in respect of their condition and safety.

## Holy Trinity Church



@HolyTrinityChurchTrimpley

Whether you have a strong faith, no faith or are somewhere inbetween, everyone is warmly invited to Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley, where you will find drinks, biscuits and company, after each 9.30a.m Service. In addition to occasional Evening Services in a variety of different traditions, there are Services on the second (Holy Communion), third (All Age Worship) and fourth (Morning Prayer with hymns) Sundays of each month as well as Youth Alpha on the first Sunday. There are fundraising activities as well as special Seasonal Services throughout the year. At Christmas there will be **"Carols by Candlelight"** at 5pm on Sunday 17th December, the **"Crib Service"** at 10a.m on 24th December and **Holy Communion at 9.30a.m on Christmas Day.** Contact Jane at [twigglet2@btinternet.com](mailto:twigglet2@btinternet.com) or follow on Facebook  (see above)

## What's on in the Parish?

**WI Meetings**—meet in Trimpley Village Hall at 7.30p.m.

October 18th— "The Glory of Colour"

Nov. 15th—AGM and "Make your own Christmas Wreath"

Dec. 13th—"Craft Evening" + Christmas Supper


**Police** - Next Mobile PACT Surgery will take place on Tuesday 31st October 5p.m.—6.30p.m. on Load Street Car Park, Bewdley. Please go along if you have any issues or problems you think the PACT may be able to help with.

**Church**— The **Church Fete** is due to take place next summer, but there is much to be done behind the scenes before this can happen. The Fete is held only once every two years, but it takes a lot of organisation and any offer of help would be most appreciated. If you feel you may be able to help, please contact James Gammond on 01299 400750.

(Also, please see article bottom left of this page re Church events.)

## Village Hall Events

**2nd December**—Christmas Party—Tickets £8 

**13th January**—Curling night—Limited availability—£7.50   
To book, please contact Wendy Wright on 01299 861376

## Highways Items

We have recently lobbied the County Council to act in respect of the slippery surface on Crundalls Lane, and we have an agreement that this will be scheduled to be resurfaced sometime in 2019. Meantime, could all users please take care and particularly horseriders, We have also asked for investigations into the excessive water and potholing occurrence in Hoarstone Lane near the rock cutting, and hopefully the County Council will be able to resolve this shortly.

## Wild Service Tree

Just out of interest, the small photo in the title area overleaf is of the Wild Service Tree, whose leaves turn golden yellow at this time of year, and whose fruits used to be used to flavour beer! See if you can spot these trees in our local woods.

## Audit

The external audit of the Parish Council affairs and accounts by Grant Thornton has now been completed, and details can be found on the parish webpages <http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/> or see notices on the noticeboards.

## Low Habberley Plans

Mr. James Walley recently attended a parish council meeting, as new owner of the former golf club, to explain his plans for the development of a trail for children on this site. The trail will incorporate slides and swings using the natural topography so that these follow contours of the land. It is hoped that careful planning will therefore help to ensure the development is less intrusive in the landscape. It will be a natural trail for children to follow around the site, and Mr. Walley explained that he will be actively promoting the nature and wildlife of the area, by the planting of many trees, and actively promoting recycling. The Parish Council is hoping to work closely with Mr. Walley in connection with this development. He currently also has a similar Trail—namely the Crocky Trail in Cheshire—[www.crockytrail.co.uk](http://www.crockytrail.co.uk)