

# *Stock & Bradley* **Chronicle**

*March 2021.*

*Worcestershire*



## Parish Council News

### Annual Village Litter Pick

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March

The Parish Council are organising the Annual Village Litter Pick on the Morning of **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March**, so please make a note in your diary and come and support this worthwhile community activity. Teams will meet at **10.00** at the **Village Hall, Bradley Green** or at the **Phone Box, Stock Green**, we will supply all equipment required, if we get enough support it will only take an hour or so out of your day.

As usual pickers, tabards and gloves will be provided, **but please return them**

Obviously, you don't need to wait until the 6<sup>th</sup> March, as you can see below Peter Hart undertakes his weekly "collection" on this "delivery" bike with these excellent results:



### **Be part of the Great British Clean Up**

**This is the country's biggest mass-action environmental campaign.  
We're counting on you to help make the Great British Clean Up even  
bigger and better in 2021**

Next Meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 via Zoom

# Editorial

March 2021

Is there just a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel? It seems a very long time ago since we were able to meet up with family and friends, we will all have different hair styles of the longer variety by the time the hairdressers reopen. I have forgotten what it is like to go out for a meal or just to go out for a drive in to a different part of the country. We will all cope with these restrictions and perhaps when things return to some normality we will appreciate these freedoms rather than taking them for granted!

Fortunately nature is not restricted by Covid, Spring is on its way, despite the intensely cold spell of weather. Crocus are in flower, daffodils won't be far behind. I saw my first daffodils in flower this year in Middle Rd the first week of February! The Daphne is just breaking bud, the perfume from it is wonderful. Snowdrops, cyclamen and hamamelis are beginning to go over but have given a wonderful display but other plants will quickly take over. Gardening has been for some a new discovery and for seasoned gardeners it has been a lifeline helping to maintain sanity.

Why is it when we have the Big Garden Birdwatch Day all the birds go for a day out from our gardens? We would normally have blackbirds, robins, blue tits, great tits and long tailed tits, hedge sparrows, pigeons and jackdaws, not this year. Instead we had a heron, a red wing and a green woodpecker and a smattering of birds from the above list but not many. If this was the norm then who is eating all the food which needs replenishing on a daily basis?

Lent began on February 17<sup>th</sup> and continues until April 3<sup>rd</sup> when we celebrate Easter and all that Easter enshrines with promise of new life, and new beginnings.

Many articles in the Chronicle are contributed by members of the public. They remain the responsibility of the writers and neither the production team nor the publishers can be held responsible for the views and assertions contained therein.

**Cover - Narcissus Paperwhite Ziva - photo DW**

**EDITOR - MRS JAN BATES, 01386792414 White Cottage, Stock Green, Redditch B96 6SZ**  
**TREASURER - MRS MARY WARING, 01386792134 Staddle Stones, Stock Green, Redditch B96 6TB**  
**PRODUCTION - DAVID WARING**

**PRINTED AND BOUND BY Parish Magazine Printing**  
**PUBLISHED IN ASSOCIATION WITH STOCK AND BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**COPY DATE - 14th      Email : [sbchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:sbchronicle@gmail.com)**

# Church Services at Bradley Green

SERVICES USING ZOOM

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10.30am for 11am

TUESDAY HOLY COMMUNION 8 for 8.15pm

Fortnightly Contemplative Prayer (First and Third Thursdays) 8 for 8.15pm

**Meeting ID: 686 311 6347 Password: 777**



Dear Friends,

One of the oddest things I see on the internet news sites is an invitation to let the editors know what I think about the Covi-19 vaccines. I have no idea what that could possibly mean as I'm not medically trained.

I am grateful that there are scientists and medical staff who understand how these things work. I'm grown up enough to know that nothing is, or can be, 100% perfect. But I trust science enough to accept that the vaccines offer the human race the best way out of this and other pandemics in particular and many diseases in general.

Yet the need for "balance" in news means that, no matter what the subject, someone with the opposite point of view must be given their share of coverage. I'm told this is democracy. Well, yes, I get that. Up to a point.

The trouble is viruses are not respectors of democracy. Vaccines work whether you believe in them or not. These are not matters of opinion. They are simply, rough and ready, everyday facts.

Now, there are nuances of opinion within scientist communities, and sometimes large disagreements. But the overwhelming evidence is that vaccines are effective and safe. It's demonstrable time and time again in research. Yet we still have to give space to the doubters, the flat earthers, the evolution deniers and the conspiracy theorists as though their points of view are equally valid. But they are not. The earth is not flat. God did not create the universe in 7 successive 24 hour days. (The Bible doesn't say so, in any case!) Conspiracy theorists are sad people with a dis-eased view of the world. Yet we have to report them as though their views are a valid alternative to reality. But they are not.

In the Church we have the same sort of people who take conservative views on everything, seeing science and rational thinking as enemies. They were the ones who wanted to keep slavery, deny women the vote and any place in ministry, insisting that men have authority over women,, refused to accept the evolutionary hypothesis, wouldn't allow contraception, remarriage of divorced people and refuses point-blank to understand same sex relationships.

Jesus met equivalent people 2000 years ago. He called them "whitewashed tombs" and refused to give them any credence. Now there's a thought for Lent!

Best wishes, Wyn



VILLAGE HALL bookings contact  
Rachel Cresswell on 07854 483684

# Village Hall

## Village Hall Committee

Chairman Mel Bates,

Vice chairman

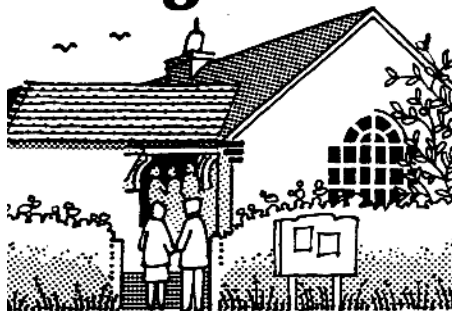
Treasurer Stella Wallis

Caretaker Rachel Cresswell

Jan Bates, Karen Devereaux

Barry Newton, Liz Farquharson

and Wendy Ralphs



## Village Hall News

In the December issue of the Chronicle Mel and Jan Bates both announced that having become octogenarians they would not be standing for re-election to the Management Committee of the Stock and Bradley Village Hall at the AGM in April. Candidates for the two vacant positions are urgently needed in order that the Hall is able to continue with a full Committee.

Please forward all nominations in writing to Stella Wallis or any member of the Committee by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Thank you

---

## 100 Club

The February 2021 monthly draw for the Stock & Bradley 100 Club was made by Mr Scott Newton on 10th February 2021. The results were as follows:

### February 2021:

**1st Prize: -      No: 192      Christine Shaw**

**2nd Prize: -      No: 131      Jan Bates**

**3rd Prize: -      No: 3      Amy Lees**

---



## FLYING THE FLAG

Stella Wallis 01386 793350



# Editor

I have decided to retire from the position of Editor of the Chronicle in May of this year therefore we are looking for someone who would be willing to volunteer for this position. No previous experience is required and it is not a difficult task as David Waring is willing to continue preparing the material for printing if required. If anyone is interested and would like to discuss what it entails please contact me on 01386 792414 Thank you. Jan

---

## Events in March 2021

Presuming that they are allowed to, the following list of events that may be of interest :-

March 1<sup>st</sup> St David's Day

March 11<sup>th</sup> Penny Loaf Day (I have put this in just for interest) Newark Notts.

For three nights Hercules Clay dreamed that he saw his house on fire. So convinced was he of impending doom that he moved his family out. They had no sooner left the property, when a bomb fired by Parliamentary forces during the English Civil War, destroyed the house. As thanks for his lucky escape, Hercules left £100. in trust, to provide penny loaves for the poor of the town.

March 14<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday

March 16<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Cheltenham Races. This will be a closed event.

Batsford Arboretum (if open) daffodil walk

Croome Park (if open) Easter Trail

4<sup>th</sup> April The Boat Race which will be a closed event.

---

*Chronicle Appeal* . . . Please post TODAY Thank you!

It's that time of year again when the Chronicle seeks your help to continue..

Your support, however large or small, is very much appreciated.

Donations to 'Stock and Bradley Chronicle' should be sent to the Treasurer Mrs Mary Waring 'Staddle Stones', Stock Green, Redditch B966TB

Many thanks to the following who have donated to this year's Chronicle Appeal:

Mrs C Good, Mr & Mrs M Ralphs, Mr & Mrs R Pask and Mr & Mrs J Wallis



## **“Airband Update”, Questions and Answers”**

from Phil Coathup

### Network

1. What is the status of the Stock & Bradley core network roll out?

The network is built and 90% of the customers have been connected. The few remaining should be installed in the next few weeks depending upon the reason for the delay.

2. When will the remaining households be connected?

See above

3. Could we see a network diagram?

It is not our policy to disclose our network diagrams

4. When will the air link from Astwood Bank be replaced?

This is due to be replaced imminently as we are extending along Cockshot Lane through Dormston and as far as the Red Hart in Kington. The EAD will need to be in place before this happens.

### Service

1. What are the core support contact times – which days and what hours?

We offer a 24/7 support service. During weekdays our team in Worcester deal exclusively with support issues. During the evenings, night time and

weekends our secondary support team take over.

2. What is the best way to report issues – phone or email?

You can telephone 01905 676121 24/7 ,email [support@airband.co.uk](mailto:support@airband.co.uk) or via our website <https://www.airband.co.uk/support/contact-support/>

3. What is the process for keeping customers informed on progress on faults – phone, email or text.

Depending upon the nature of the fault you will find details on our website at <https://www.airband.co.uk/support/contact-support/> or you will be contacted by email or by telephone by your support handler.

4. Shouldn't you get the customer to agree that a ticket can be closed.

I cannot comment on this. I will take this up with our Support Manager.

### Future Developments

1. What will happen to the price at the end of our 12 month contract?

If you took one of our discounted packages the price will revert to that advertised on our website for that package after the initial 12 month period. However, we often run discounted offers so the likelihood is you will be able to take advantage on one of these at the appropriate time.

2. Have you agreed any wholesale contracts with other service providers?

Not currently on the Stock Green network but we are in talks with several suppliers who wish to resell our services and use our network.

## The Secret Life of the Badger



The European badger has been around for some 3-400,000 years and spends most of his life underground. There are over 300,000 badgers around Britain apart from the most northerly parts of Scotland, none in the Isle of Man or in the Scilly Isles. They are mainly grey in colouring with a white head with distinctive black stripes down either side of the face. They are elusive, shy and nocturnal. As most of their lives are spent underground only recent research with the use of hidden cameras has been able to discover some of their activities. They live in family groups in well organised tunnels known as setts. The complex setts have numerous entrances and tunnels and cover a wide area on different levels, they even have a separate tunnel for a latrine outside. There are areas for sleeping and others for a nursery. The setts are passed from one generation to another and may have been in existence for centuries.

They live in a family unit of up to 12 known as a clan and although they live together it is not always

harmonious as the young males enjoy a skirmish. Mating is a battle to end all battles, the female being chased by the male down a tunnel fighting all the way it is a wonder mating ever manages to take place. They are extremely tidy, before going out to forage at night they make their beds scraping the leaves and grass in to a heap in the centre of their tunnel and putting outside the old material. They spend a greater part of the day grooming themselves and each other.

The female has the ability to choose when she wants to give birth, usually in the spring when the weather is warmer, by storing the fertilised egg inside herself until November or December.

The young are very playful and come to the surface to chase each other when they are about two months old. The family help to rear them and the younger females learn their parenting skills from baby sitting the youngsters.

They have poor eyesight but a tremendous sense of smell which helps them find food which consists of earthworms, fruit and berries, insects and cereals. They can eat





200 earthworms in a night. They will even attack a hedgehog if food is scarce because their claws are long and extremely powerful and can tear past the spines of a hedgehog.

They can live to 14 or so years although they have no road sense whatsoever so are frequently seen at the side of the road. There are approximately 50,000 badgers killed on the roads each year. The 'sport' of badger baiting was banned many years ago but sadly it still goes on today.

Farmers are not welcoming to badgers on their land as it is suspected that they are the cause of TB in cattle. There have been a number of attempts to cull them but it was not proven that it had any satisfactory result so now the plan is to vaccinate the badgers to control the TB.

Stories such as Tommy Brock in a Beatrix Potter's story of Mr Tod, and Badger in Kenneth Grahame's Wind in the Willows have endeared the badger to children and adults alike although many will never have had the pleasure of seeing one for themselves.

Country Correspondent

Winter's White Cloak.

The birds sit on the branches, wrapped in feathers warm

The morning is so peaceful, not the slightest sign of storm

The badger curled up in his sett, he waits for stronger sun

You can't dig worms in iron hard ground,

Winter's life's no fun

---

## Worcestershire Libraries



Lift the lockdown boredom and join a library Connect Bubble!

Be part of a safe, online library community, led by library staff where you can connect with others over a shared interest or activity.

A round up of forthcoming Connect Bubbles from Worcestershire Libraries can be found [Worcestershire Libraries Eventbrite page](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/worcestershire-libraries-18603259594)  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/worcestershire-libraries-18603259594>

For further information about library services go to  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/Libraries](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/Libraries)

## Hedgerows

Although bricks have been made since the earliest times, after the departure of the Romans their first recorded use in this country was not until the 12th century. It was not until the mid 19th century that the ability to produce bricks cheaply and in large quantities meant brick housing became the norm. Until that time for most buildings the materials naturally to hand were used.

This house, for example sits on local stone blocks; its framework is wood and until relatively recently the exterior wooden frame would have been filled with wattle and daub - cow dung and straw and when dry given a whitewash finish. The bricks give away when money allowed their use.

I start in this way because boundaries between estates and fields similarly reflect materials naturally available and changes in wealth and purpose. In very many parts of this country dry stone walling is the norm while the older houses are built of the local stone.

I think we in this part of the world tend to imagine hedgerows are the norm. This is not the case. Although hedgerows have been with us since the Bronze Age their popularity and purpose has shifted over time together with social and political 'needs' historically also boundaries have

been marked by ditches - not the great defensive ditches of the Anglo-Saxons but more modest affairs. Our wood for example shows clear evidence of the Worcestershire double ditch that once bounded it. Interestingly the ridge and furrow found within it dates to an earlier period than the fields around it.

The open field method of land use which was the norm in lowland England until enclosure came did not encourage hedges except as significant boundaries. The village of Feckenham has in its village hall a national treasure - a tithe map of the late 16th century - it is from that period that ridge and furrow dates and just as there are examples of this on our farm, locally it is comparatively modern.

Enclosure came late to the Midlands and since the western side encourages stock and dairy farming, large fields were unwanted and hence our part of the world is instantly recognisable by its multitude of hedges. Victorian hedges stand out because the diversity of plants making them up is very limited - common hedgerow plants here are blackthorn, hawthorn, field maple, roses, hazel and guelder rose together inevitably with brambles.

The hedges enabled farmers to work with small fields, to hold stock in and define both field boundaries but farm boundaries

as well. In certain parts of the Midlands such as Leicestershire hedges performed the addition role as 'sporting' challenges to horsemen and women. Where this was the case keeping hedges trim and not too high was a prime requirement. In general of course hedges required constant management.

Before the arrival of the flail hedge cutter, the only option was to lay the hedge. Although different parts of the country have their own techniques which devotees of the ancient craft protect lovingly the basic approach is to allow the hedge to grow to somewhere between eight and ten feet tall and then cut the tall stalks almost completely through and then, having already stuck hazel sticks upright into the ground every four feet or so weave the cut stems between the stakes until you have a hedge around three feet high. If you are lucky the hedge layer will leave any tree intact.

Given the 12 miles of hedges we have the drawbacks to this approach are obvious.

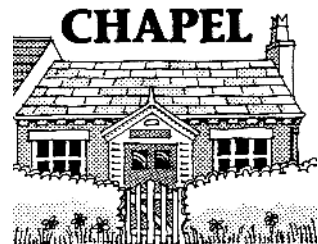
An approach we have never tried - largely because of ignorance on my part is coppicing which you might indulge in either as a commercial enterprise or because a hedge is exhausted. Under this approach everything but the odd tree is cut right down to the ground while temporary fencing is employed. Sweet chestnut was the wood of choice by rich farmers for fencing but these days we make do with treated and compressed which in theory has a life of fifteen years - unlikely in our wet clay.

Finally for anyone interested at the Avoncroft Museum historic brick making techniques are often on display.

Adrian Parsons

---

## **STOCK GREEN BAPTIST CHAPEL NO SERVICES FOR THE TIME BEING**



## DOG THEFT

As a result of Covid many people have bought dogs and cats as companions with the result being that prices for these have rocketed. This has caused a spate particularly of dog theft. It has been reported in this area of white vans with RSPCA on it. They have stopped people whilst walking their dogs, noting where they walk regularly and observing where they live. If you should see such vehicles if possible get the registration number and report the incident to the police.

Do not put photos of your animals on social media and keep your pets under supervision. To lose your pet this way is heart breaking and it is happening on a daily basis.

### *Beauty by Elizabeth*

Skin Therapist  
V.L.C.T.

find us on



face  
mapping  
expert analysis targeted results

**dermalogica**

*Fake Bake*



Leading Nail Care

*Flexible appointment  
times available*

Telephone: 01527 822698  
Mobile: 07890 978059

Beauty therapy, bio sculpture, massage, facials, gel nails, waxing, eyelash tinting, manicure, pedicure and many more!

Cider Mill House  
Cider Mill Lane, Bradley Green Redditch,  
Worcestershire B96 6TH

NATIONAL AWARD WINNING COMMUNITY SHOP

The Village  
**Shop**

Droitwich Road, Feckenham

feckenhamshop.co.uk 01527 894475

- Coffee Shop
- Local Produce
- Deli



Weekdays 8am - 6pm  
Saturday 9am - 2pm  
Sunday 10am - 1pm



**The CHRONICLE** is on line, search **Stock and Bradley Parish Council** and look for **Publications** and is sent by email to contributors - if you would like to receive the emailed version please send your details to **sbchronicle@gmail.com**

STEVE WOODWARD LTD,  
LOCAL & ESTABLISHED

**FENCING, GROUNDWORKS &  
FORESTRY CONTRACTOR**

TEL: 01527 821980  
MOBILE: 07973 735233

**LOGS - SEASONED - GOOD QUALITY -  
GOOD BURNING FIRE WOOD.**

-----Fencing -----

**Groundworks – Foundations**

Equestrian – Agricultural – Domestic  
Free estimates – over 25y experience

Based locally in Bradley Green

WD & NM Willison Ltd

Mob: 07825034320 Tel : 01527 821589

Email : [wwdandnmltd@gmail.com](mailto:wwdandnmltd@gmail.com)

*An Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors*



**THOMAS BROTHERS**

*A family owned Funeral Directors, we provide a friendly,  
dignified service paying special attention to detail.*

01527 547777  
Birchfield House,  
491 Evesham Road, Redditch.  
B97 5JF

01527 831700  
66 Birmingham Road,  
Bromsgrove.  
B61 0DD

01564 822001  
100 Alcester Road,  
Wythall.  
B47 5HA

0121 445 3422  
12A Red Lion Street,  
Alvechurch.  
B48 7LF



[www.thomasbrothers.co.uk](http://www.thomasbrothers.co.uk)

*A family concern*





# Rush Farm



Given the weather we have been experiencing this week, one wonders! Indeed, I think this has been the coldest winter for many years. Even with this heating on continuously in the farmhouse, temperatures in many parts of the house were below 13 degrees centigrade this week. Historically, we judged how cold it was inside by how many layers of clothing were needed. At worst it used to be six, but this year I think that might well have been inadequate especially given our age!

Aside from the daily winter routine, an ongoing concern was the state of the cow which withstood major surgery last Friday. Happily, so far so good, if rather to the vet's surprise!

The main event however was scanning the ewes. In total there were 116. The vast majority were carrying twins, with only eight carrying triplets. Sadly 5 were 'empties' – my enquiries about this brought forth answers I can't possibly share!

With a scanning ratio of 1.77 we have done slightly better than last year. So, we can expect the birth of 205 lambs. In reality, if we end up with 180 live lambs, we will be content.

This is not our inadequacy, merely the fact that even with the small number

of sheep we have, natural problems in either the ewes or lambs happen despite our best efforts and here I include foxes and crows.

Those of you who have visited the farm will know that there is a dry scrape in one of the smaller fields by the brook. This we dug out several years ago in the expectation it would help attract birds like the curlew. Sadly, though the sheep in particular enjoyed it, it never held water.

The attached drone photograph provided an explanation. The scrape here full of water, clearly shows the original line of the brook. At some time, perhaps as an aide to the flow of water away from the corn mill which once existed at the junction of the Bow brook with the Brandon brook, the line of the now larger brook was straightened as clearly marked by the line of trees. As to when this happened, I know not, but assume it was in the Victorian period.

A fascinating article in the 8th of February Atlantic magazine titled "Humanity is Flushing Away One of Life's Essential Elements" by Julia Rosen should, I suggest, be read by all concerned about the fertility of our land. The article forces our attention to the reality that phosphorus is a mineral becoming in ever shorter supply.

I am not going to attempt to provide a precis, but three points stood out for me.

By the 18th century farmers in England were finding that the productivity of their soils was falling and realised that

the problem lay in the decline of phosphor in the soil. As any gardener well knows bone meal is a very useful source especially since it releases phosphor slowly. A source these days is bone from abattoirs which is then ground into a fine powder. Historically human bones very often from battlefields were also utilised.

Then in the 1840's, in the fields of Cambridgeshire, phosphor rich, laid down 100 million years before, were found. These ground-down provided the country with what was known as the Second Agricultural Revolution.

On the supply of these running out, fortunately vast deposits of a substitute were found in Chile, in the form of sea bird droppings which had built up over the centuries. The guana trade took sailing boats routinely round Cape Horn but, dangerous though it might have been, it was financially rewarding.

The other natural source of phosphor is urine. Historically human urine was commonly used in a number of industries as well as a fertiliser spread on the land. Over time human waste became less and less acceptable in this country.

In the first place for practical and aesthetical reasons, but later because the human waste contained dangerous contents.

On a mixed farm, the natural source of urine comes from overwintered animal litter. The straw, used as litter, absorbs the liquid, while the solid matter mixes with the straw to ensure that when the compost is spread the urine impregnated straw releases phosphor, together with the solid matter adds humus to the soil.

All this adds to the centrality of the cow to good farming without dependence on artificial fertilisers.

Basically, mixed farming is what we should all be aiming for, and our decision to give up growing cereal was one we made with real regret, knowing perfectly well that urine promotes growth.

We all know this especially if you are a dog owner – though too concentrated can have the opposite effect!

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/02/phosphorus-pollution-fertilizer/617937/>

Do find a way to read the article!





48 High Street  
Feckenham  
B96 6HS  
01527 892188

A traditional freehouse village pub  
with Food. Owned and run by the  
Clarke family

### Proper Pub Food at Proper Prices

*Special dishes - every day*

**We use locally sourced high quality meat**

Full Menu available daily

Lunch & Evenings (*not Sunday evening*)

### Real Ales & Ciders

*4 real ales on hand pumps every day.*

*Traditional ciders - fine wines*

**We're in the 2016 GOOD BEER GUIDE!**

*Large Beer Garden*

### THE ROSE ROOM

can be booked for your functions and celebrations  
and we have marquees available for larger events.

### Full Programme of Special Events

Beer Festivals, Themed Menus and

Live Music - call us for details

[www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk](http://www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk)

## RYAN L. BENNETT PAINTER AND DECORATOR

**ESTIMATES FREE**

1188 EVESHAM ROAD,  
ASTWOOD BANK, REDDITCH,  
WORCESTERSHIRE. B96 6DT

**☎ 01527 893162**

## Tapcast Ltd Computer Services

- Computer Hardware
- Software
- Upgrades
- Security
- Office 365
- Support
- Network
- Virus/Malware

01386 792196

[jane.neal@tapcast.co.uk](mailto:jane.neal@tapcast.co.uk)



Westall Court, Holberron Green, Worcs. B96 6JY

Local, family run business, fully insured, with over 30 years experience.

**Tiled / Slate / Flat Roofs  
Chimney / Lead Works**



**Re-roofs / Roof Repairs  
Rainwater Systems**



**Roof Conversions  
Roof Light Installations**



**Tel: 01386 792638**

**Mob: 07733 108980**

[www.timbrellroofingservices.co.uk](http://www.timbrellroofingservices.co.uk)

email: [info@timbrellroofingservices.co.uk](mailto:info@timbrellroofingservices.co.uk)