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Editor's Welcome APRIL 2025 ·····

Easter Greetings

Hello again folks of Hagley. As I write this the sun is shining and the spring air is crisp, but also hinting at the warmer days to come. April is indeed a beautiful month bringing it with it rebirth, fresh hope and vitality.

We have plenty to interest you in this latest edition of the Village News. So get reading and enjoy. Firstly we'd like to draw your attention to the Royal British Legion's article on page 5. They will be marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day next month, so do make a note in your diaries of the dates, times etc. Also they have come up with a new initiative which they hope will help to provide welfare and support for ex-service personnel and their families and to facilitate Comradeship - "Beer & Banter" - sound intriguing doesn't it? We really do hope that it proves to be an ongoing success.

Head over to pages 24 and 25 for the latest updates from Steve Colella regarding the Community Centre and local Neighbourhood watch. Both of these play a very active role in our community, so its always worth keeping in tune with what's going on.

Please take a look at page 29, just simply because Home Run Hounds have featured yet another gorgeous doggie. Drummer is their most recent addition and he sure is enough to make your heart melt!

Now here's an interesting thought....loud noise in the community can sometimes be a good thing! To hear the sound of church bells ringing out from our village churches is often very loud, but also very beautiful and so symbolic of many occasions. In his feature on page 32, Tower Captain Martin of St Leonard's, Clent explains the training, skill and absolute dedication involved in the ancient craft of bell ringing. We're sure you'll also agree that the photograph looking down on the bells in the belfry of St Leonard's is just awesome - this very heavy metal makes a wonderful noise and is a truly arresting sight!

We hope you enjoy our April issue of the lovely Village News - wishing you all a peaceful Easter break, catch again next month.

Alison Akers Editor

Cover photo courtesy of **John Farmer**

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Village Information

COMMUNITY CENTRE TIMETABLE 2025						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
ACTIVE SENIORS Happy Hearts 9.30-10.30am			LITTLE TREASURES 10.00-11.30am	PILATES WITH YASMIN 9.45am (Female Fit) 10.30am (Mummy & Me)	HAGLEY MARKET Last Saturday in the month 9.00-1.00pm	
ACTIVE SENIORS Strength & Balance 11.15-12.15pm	ACTIVE SENIORS Strength & Balance 1.20-2.20pm 2.45-3.45pm		ACTIVE SENIORS Strength & Balance 2.45-3.45pm	WEST GLEN HTM DOG TRAINING 2.00pm		
	ACTIVE SENIORS Tai Chi & Qigong 4.15-5.15pm		ACTIVE SENIORS Tai Chi & Qigong 4.15-5.15pm			
ART CLUB 2nd Monday of each month 7.30pm	MC PAWS DOG TRAINING 7.00pm	GLOWING MAMAS 7.00pm	VERVE TAEKWONDO 7.00pm	DECLAN DOUBLE Martial Arts 7.00pm		

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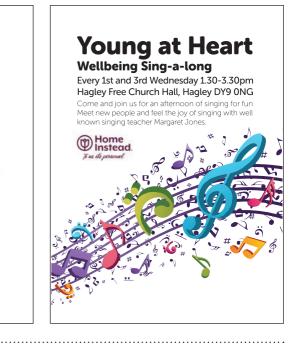


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HAGLEY HISTORICAL AND FIELD SOCIETY

On April 1st, join us for a talk by Alan Hill, a retired manufacturing systems consultant, on 'The Great Exhibition of 1851.'

Held in Hyde Park, London, from May to October 1851, this international event was organized by Prince Albert and Henry Cole (who invented the Christmas card). It aimed to showcase Britain's industrial leadership.

The exhibition's iconic building was a marvel of iron and glass, built in just 8 months using modular, prefabricated design and was made almost exclusively in Birmingham and Smethwick. Six million people attended, and

enjoyed displays like the velocipede (precursor to the bicycle), the image telegraph (early fax machine), and the world's first pu lic toilets!

Visitors are most welcome at all our events. See **hhfs.org.uk** for more details and contact information.

Rachel Paget - Secretary



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

VE DAY 80 On Thursday May 8th, it will be the 80th Anniversary of VE Day – Victory in Europe Day – and we will be marking the occasion in the usual way, with an Act of Remembrance at Hagley War Memorial at 9.45am. This will be followed by a VE Day Eucharist Service at St Saviours Church at 10.30am led by Fr. Tom Owen, after which coffee and cake will be served. All will be welcome at either or both these events.

BEER AND BANTER If you have ever served in the forces or are part of the forces family, this is for you. The Royal British Legion has three aims - to be Custodians of Remembrance. to provide welfare and support for exservice personnel and their families, and to facilitate Comradeship. In Blakedown and Hagley, we meet the first two objectives. with Remembrance Services at Hagley and Churchill War Memorials, and a very successful Poppy Appeal stall in Worcester Road. But we have not attracted sufficien numbers to run social events since CoVid. So we are trying something new. The King Arthur in Worcester Road have offered us the upstairs room at the pub on Wednesday,

May 21st from 7.00pm. If you fancy popping out for a swift half, and to meet up for a chat with others who have either served or are otherwise connected with the Armed Forces. just come along at or after 7pm, buy a drink at the bar, and come upstairs and join us. We promise there will be no cost (apart from what you spend at the bar!), and we won't ask you to join the Royal British Legion or volunteer for the Poppy Appeal. We have always made it very clear that being ex-Forces is by no means necessary for being involved with the Royal British Legion - all are welcome. We owe a debt to those who served, and we hope that this event will enable us to offer comradeship to those who wish to join us. We also promise that if it is a success, we'll look at repeating it on a regular basis. For further information, contact Jonathan Plant on (07813) 785496 or blakedownhagley. treasurer@rbl.community



Village Information

THE FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH OF ST JOHN BAPTIST

My previous article outlined how, and why, "The Friends of St John" had been formed. This article provides historical facts about the Church:-The Domesday Book suggests that there was a church here in Saxon times: In the 1100s, a small stone church was built in the Norman style: Circa 1300, a new church was built with chancel. nave and south aisle: In the 18th century the Lyttleton family made Hagley their principal seat; Following this, the chancel was rebuilt and a vault constructed underneath it; Further improvements, included new windows, seating and a gallery at the west end of the church: In 1827 the church was enlarged by the addition of the North Aisle: In 1856 the church underwent a major reconstruction when the wall between the chancel and the nave was removed; The Tower and Spire were built in 1865 and a peal of eight bells was installed in 1885. With the Church facing closure, the Midlands press reported: Stourbridge News "Heartbreak decision faces Church Members", Birmingham Post "Church faces closure threat" and "Question over St John's future" A meeting took place at Haybridge School, chaired by the Bishop of Dudley, with over 300 attending following which the County Express reported "Packed meeting vows to save Hagley Church". Today St John's still needs work to be done and "The Friends" have committed over £40K for the repair of stonework and work on the car park. Finally remember our coffee morning on the 11th June at 10.30 in St John's.

Tony Battersby - Trustee The Friends of St John





10am-12noon MON • TUE • WEDS • THUR





HCK BADMINTON CLUB

With HCK Badminton Club's competition season drawing to a close at the end of this month, plans are now in place for our Summer Club, which starts at the beginning of May and runs though to the end of August. This is open to members and visitors alike and continues on both Tuesday and Friday evenings from 8pm to 10pm, at Hagley Catholic High School Sports Hall. Please e-mail info@hckbadminton.club for details.

Plans are also in place to run further coaching sessions during the summer on a Friday evening between 7pm and 8pm. Registration for these sessions is on a first come first served basis, so please contact us by e-mailing info@hckbadminton.club. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking for a chance to get into

the game, or to improve their game, to do so in a friendly, informal environment. Own equipment is not necessary, but please let us know if you need to loan a racquet for the sessions when you sign up.

We are a sociable club, with social events taking place throughout the year, so whether you are an absolute beginner, or an experienced player, you can be assured of a warm welcome.



HAGLEY HOBBLERS

Hagley Hobblers is Hagley's own Walking Football group celebrating its third anniversary this month. We meet and play every Tuesday morning 10.30-11.30 on Hagley Playing fields. Hagley Hobblers is open to all and new members are welcome/encouraged. Walking Football is the same as football, save for 'no running' and a few other rule changes to produce a safer game. We play a game amongst ourselves each week, rather than seek games against other groups. The emphasis is on enjoyment. We also then meet post match in the Pavilion at 11.30 onwards for post match coffee, tea and biscuits. This has become an important part of the Hobblers experience with coffee etc meetings taking place every week - even on those rare occasions when there is no game due to weather/pitch conditions. And we are often joined for coffee by those unfit to play that week. New players are welcome to come along any Tuesday for 10.30 either to play or, if preferred, in the first instance to watch. No prior notice from new members is necessary as we adjust the number of players each week to accommodate all who turn up. The Hobblers acknowledge and are grateful for the continuing practical support from others especially Hagley Parish Council, Bromsgrove District Council and West Hagley Football Club.

BLAKEDOWN & HAGLEY TENNIS CLUB

In case you were wondering if we put our feet up during the winter, the answer is defini ely NO. There are still the usual friendly mix-in sessions each week on Friday and Sunday mornings 1000-1200 and Monday evenings 1800-2000. We also have regular men's, women's and mixed team matches in the Hereford and Worcester League. We are always being told how important it is to keep fit and enjoy the outdoors, both for our physical and mental wellbeing, especially during the winter months when the tendency is to hunker down and stay indoors. Playing tennis is a great way to get out there and

have some fun. Whether you are a seasoned player, haven't touched a racquet for a while or a beginner you would be most welcome. If we have whetted your appetite just head over to our website https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BlakedownTennisClub. See you on court!**Sandy Thomas**





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To access the archive visit: www.hagley.uk see Hagley Village News section where the back issues are located.

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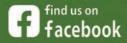




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Village Information

HAGLEY STRING ORCHESTRA

April brings us Easter, which means we come to the end of our Spring Term. The orchestra has indulged me this session by playing one of my pieces based on four incidental musings. The first of these is the remembrance of an 'Edward Elgar themed' walk I led for a walking group in the Malvern Hills twenty years ago. This has always been a favourite walking location for me. More often than not, the music of Elgar, especially his wonderful 'serenade for strings', wanders through the mind as if his ghost is still present tramping along the path not too far away. When researching the walk. I was surprised to find no less than five houses in the area where Elgar had lived, including the most significant, Craeg Lea, which could be included on the itinerary. Then of course, nearby there's also

the grave site at St. Wulstan's Catholic Church. If April brings warm weather and my knees hold out, it will be time once again to take the path up to the Worcestershire Beacon. As usual, we continue to meet on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12, midday. We are always keen to welcome new members.

For further details please contact Haydn Thomas on **01562 885252**



GIRLGUIDING IN HAGLEY

At the time of writing all units involved in Girlguiding have been celebrating World Thinking Day. It is an opportunity to reflect on being part of the largest volunteer organisation for girls and women in the world. Did you know there are over 10 million members of WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) in over 153 countries. The theme for this year is Our Story as we begin to think about next year's celebration of the 100th Thinking Day, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers celebrate Thinking Day by renewing their promise, taking part in activities to think about their guiding sisters in other countries and raising money for the WAGGGS fund by collecting Thinking Day pennies.

Units have been busy getting out and about. 2nd Hagley Guides visited Tescos to see if they can be savvy shoppers, 2nd Hagley Brownies took a night hike to identify animal sounds and 2nd Hagley Rainbows went to Lush at Merry Hill as part of their Pamper Badge. There has been much fun had with pancake making to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and 1st Hagley Brownies have been working on their dance and languages badges. If you are interested in joining our team please visit **www.girlguiding.org.uk** and follow the instructions on how to join us.



HAGLEY COUNTRY DANCERS

April again and it's all change. The clocks have changed, spring fl wers are blooming and trees are budding. No change, however, for the Hagley Country Dancers, who continue to meet on Monday afternoons from 2 to 3.30 p.m. in the Free Church Hall. We will, however, break for Easter on April 7th and restart on April 28th. The Spring term saw the introduction of guest callers, to bring even more variety to our afternoons. This has gone very well and we are hoping to continue the arrangement. We are looking forward to another enjoyable term, ending on July 21st with our garden party. There is plenty of parking via Chapel Street. There is no charge for a first visit; subsequently the cost is £3 per person. For more information, ring June Waterhouse **01562 700369**

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The Rotary Club of Hagley agreed to support Mary's Meals and enjoyed a presentation from Hanna More who explained their vocation in assisting and providing a self-sustained provision of children's school meals throughout the continent of Africa.

In March the Rotary club set up their new fundraiser with an evening of music and entertainment from AbenGarth. Funds raised will go to local charities as well as the contribution to the ambulance for the Ukraine health mission we have supported so well in the past.

For Rotarians the coming month of April is dedicated to the Environment he first Earth Day was held on 22 April, 1970, launching a wave of action to protect our environment, including the passage of landmark

environmental laws in the United States. If readers would like to have fun with a purpose, consider joining our club which holds its meeting at 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm on Monday evenings at the Blakedown and Churchill Golf Club. Alternatively try visiting our website at https://hagleyrotary.wixsite.com/website

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HAGLEY WI

April Showers bring Springtime Flowers..... and fl wers have been on the agenda at our WI meeting this month. We do love fl wers and have a lovely group of ladies who share flo al duties to make beautiful arrangements for our top table at our monthly meeting. These are always well received and enjoyed by all the members.

We also have our WI annual craft competition which has a different theme each year but always includes a flo al display category. In past years we have won a Highly Commended Certifica e which we proudly put on display in the glass display cabinet in the reception area of Hagley Community Centre. We have also been rewarded in the photography category, again displaying our certifica es in the cabinet. This years theme is titled 'A Winters Morning' so our ladies have been enjoying early morning walks in the frost and have captured some beautiful scenes on camera, so now we have the hard job of deciding which photograph to use as our entry......

We are all looking forward to our April Meeting as we continue with our Flowers theme and welcome Andrew, the ever popular florist in Stourbridge. He is both very clever with his flo al art but also very entertaining. Good Luck to all our members who partake in the raffle for his arrangements. I do love Springtime.

We meet the second Monday of each month at Hagley Community Centre 2.00pm till 4.00pm. If you want to know more about Hagley WI, please contact Judi on **Tel: 07890 117097** or email: hagleypres@wfedwi.org.uk

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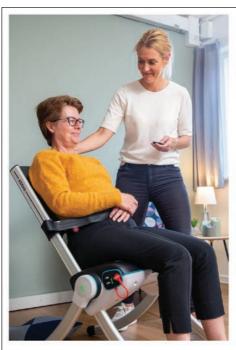


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Most people believe frailty is inevitable and irreversible as we age, but research consistently demonstrates that exercise combined with good nutrition is highly effective in decreasing the likelihood of developing frailty symptoms and reducing the risk of falls. This is why, along with traditional hourly and Live-In care services, Home Instead has created nutritious home-cook recipes and tailored exercise programmes which can be delivered in the home. Call our friendly team for more information.









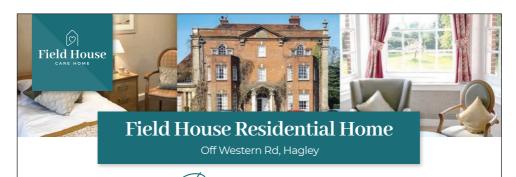
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Village Information

HAGLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

As reported recently the internal redecoration in the Community Centre has been completed and this now gives us a great platform to work on other priorities.

At the February Committee meeting it was agreed to press on with a revised Community Centre website. The current gas heating system has been repaired. However, we recognise that the system is in need to be replaced. We are now looking at an alternative long-term solution to the recent heating problems. We're also looking at the options for the external cladding and redecoration as well as works for on the roof.

The stage is getting a major overall and redecoration. This will improve future theatre performances as well as giving a greater opportunity for a wider variety of community performing art events.

The Hagley Village News is a free monthly circular distributed to households in Hagley. It is full of village information, local traders, contact details and forthcoming events.

The advertising revenue goes towards the cost of producing the Village News and any surplus goes back into the community centre coffers. If you would like to advertise your business, large or small, in the Village news contact **advertising@hagley.uk**

We are also making a big push for more frequent bookings of the community centre and committee room, and to help with this we are looking at offering more flexi le hire slots. If you would like to organise meetings, parties and celebrations, or business events contact **bookings@hagley.uk**

Steve Colella - Chairman Hagley Community Association

HAGLEY PROBUS CLUB

You wouldn't imagine you could feel seasick sitting in a comfortable seat on terra fi ma, but that was the unconscious feeling as the members and guests of Hagley Probus Group listened to the adventures of four intrepid sailors as they rowed the Atlantic Ocean from Lanzarote to Antigua in January 2024.

The talk, given by crew member Guy Minshall, described how 3 male friends and a late female replacement planned and executed the challenge. The meticulous preparation, including a daily allowance each of 5000 calories of food and means of communication were detailed. On board 2 members rowed for 2 hours with 2 hours rest in between, so sleep was at a premium. Routine maintenance comprised going overboard to clean the hull and a continuous watch for marlin which had a reputation for attacking boats. I will leave details of the toilet

faculties to your imagination! The 3200mile trip took 52 days 18 hours and raised £150,000 for the Meningitis Trust and other charities in memory of the son of one of the crew. A lively question and answer session followed the presentation.

Hagley Probus Club offers a warm welcome to professional and business gentlemen from Hagley and district. Activities include a monthly lunch meeting with speaker and occasional outings and social events. Please contact Alan Hess **07967 590219** for more details.





Hagley Community Centre

1 large hall, meeting room, stage, kitchen and toilets **Contact Nick at bookings@hagley.uk**

Please visit the HCA website **www.hagley.uk** for more information on past, current and future events

HAGLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch revolves around reporting crime and supporting the Police wherever it can. Understanding how this can be enhanced to form an added dimension I'm keen to see that it remains relevant and that it plays an active role in our community.

For these reasons I'm talking to 'Home Instead' and the 'Hagley Churches Together' about how Hagley Neighbourhood Watch can act as a conduit for residents to support neighbours. Please message me via Messenger to 'Hagley Neighbourhood Watch' if we can help or if you require more information.

I can be contacted via messenger 'Hagley Neighbourhood Watch' (HNW) with any concerns. Please remember to report an

incident call 101 should and of course 999 in an emergency.

Officer from West Mercia Police have begun to use new TruCamII speed cameras across Bromsgrove and the villages, including Hagley with instant success. The new technology will add further to areas where speed checks are being carried out.

As a further measure I have secured funding from the Bromsgrove District Ward fund for a speed warning sign to be installed along the A456 between Broom Lane and the Cross Keys Petrol station.

Steve Colella - Co-ordinator Hagley Neighbourhood Watch







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Village Information ·····

ACTIVE SENIORS

By the time you read this hopefully we will all be grateful that the weather has improved, the sun is starting to warm us up a little and we can get out and about without our big coats! Perhaps you are keen to get out and walk in our local countryside a little. But as far as exercise in concerned is walking enough? Of course its fabulous for our mental health to be out and about in nature but sadly walking alone may not be enough to keep us strong, flexi le and balanced. Our skeleton is used to carrying our bodies when we walk so it does not strengthen our muscles and bones (unless we walk with a heavy backpack or weighted vest!), often we don't walk guick enough to challenge our cardiovascular system so it may not improve our stamina, and walking on its own will not challenge our balance sufficie ly to improve

our balance, co-ordination and reactional skills. These are all things we should include in our weekly exercise target as we move into older age if we want to "age well". So a regular strength and balance class at the community centre, together with some walking and perhaps a little gardening or heavier housework would be an ideal mix each week to keep us "fit for the future". Classes run for a range of abilities and can be adapted as required. They run Monday/ Tuesday/ Thursday so plenty of options to suit your diary. Ring Angela on **07512 546480** for more details



BEE KEEPING

After a few months of rest—aside from occasional checks to ensure storms haven't damaged the beehives—beekeepers everywhere are preparing for another busy season. The bees have been active, too. Inside the colony, the temperature remains a steady 35°C year-round—the equivalent of a hot day in Spain. Eggs laid by the queen now will mature into bees ready to forage by May. One of the biggest challenges in beekeeping is finding a good apiary site. The ideal location is away from people, out of frost-prone hollows, and positioned so the morning sun warms the hive at daybreak. If you know of such a spot, why not reach out? Email **admin@hsbka.org**

VILLAGE LADIES

Hi Village Ladies. Is it too soon to start thinking about packing away the winter woollies? Maybe not as long as we don't put them too far away!

Spring is now upon us, but here's a brief look back to our first two meetings of this year. on January 14th Alan Peace gave us a warning 'Never Work with Children or Animals'.

We had to get out the WD40 (other oils are available) to lubricate our brains for the quiz on 28th. Our next meeting was on 11th when Alan Tumber's title was 'Rhyme nor Reason' and the second was on 25th when Rosemary Winnal MBE revealed what happens 'Between the Tides'.

As usual we meet on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month at 7.30 for 7.45pm start in St Saviour's Church Hall. If you would like to join us and need more details please ring Anne Poole 885556, Ann Pagett 882692 or email annpagett@tiscali.co.uk

Ann Pagett



ART CLUB

It's strange to think that for many of us the New Year is actually March into April as the March meeting was our Annual General Meeting, an occasion to look back at last year and forward to the next. We had the opportunity to reflect on how to progress as a club and the chance for members to have their say in how the club will advance. More zoom demonstrations, more sketching evenings, more 'en plein air'. all the decisions were up for debate. It was the chance for others to join the committee and help fashion the future. Our Exhibitions Manager Hazel Gilliard was on hand to offer advice on mounting and framing our work and remind us that apart from the Annual Exhibition, the club stages various other exhibitions throughout the year.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Contact us at **hagleyartclub583@gmail.com** or turn up at Hagley Community Centre 2nd Monday of every month 7.30 start. (£5 guest fee) If you love all things arty you won't regret it. Or visit our painting circle, on Tuesday afternoons, ring Sue on **07831487648** or email for details Why not join for £25 per year and a small entrance fee? We are incredible value without compromising on the calibre of visiting artists.

Sallie Gurney - Website Editor



HOME RUN HOUNDS

Happy Easter from local charity Home Run Hounds. We've been sharing one of our dogs each month so a little change this month, we thought we would tell you a bit about us. We are a volunteer led charity offering a full Grevhound homing service for both seasoned and new owners. Operating from 4 sites in Wombourne, Hagley, Shenstone near Lichfield and Lakenheath in Suffolk, we are passionate about finding the right homes for ex-racing Greyhounds. We will consider all homing opportunities for both the adopter and hounds in our care, recently a greyhound left us for a new life on a narrow boat! Additionally, we offer the opportunity to foster one of our "homeless" hounds for a weekend, a week or even longer, if you are keen to get to know the breed. Another great way of doing this is through our volunteering opportunities walking the dogs which happen daily. If you would like to

know more, please do reach out. I couldn't not show off one of our gorgeous greyhounds so here is Drummer, he just arrived in kennels and is loving exploring the Worcestershire countryside with us!

Katy Rees (Volunteer) Hello@homerunhounds.co.uk



HAGLEY COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Following our concert for Music for Sanctuary, raising funds for the homeless, we will now be working on the hymns which we will be accompanying in the service at Hagley Free Church on May 18th (10.30am). If you are interested in joining us in the orchestra, our rehearsals take place in the upper room of Hagley Free Church, 5.30-7.30pm, and we will rehearse on the day of the service at 9am. New members are welcome: please phone or text **07545 773 139**

- Cynthia Downes, Musical Director



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THE ANCIENT CRAFT OF BELLRINGING

Both towers of St John's and St Leonard's have been ringing for Sunday services, sometimes with not as many ringers as we would like, but we think it's important to ring. We are starting to include our newer ringers to give them experience and put them under a little pressure to bring them on. We think it's working!

Over the past few months Richard and Martin have hosted "taster sessions" for groups from Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Ringers from both towers assisted with explanations and demonstrations.

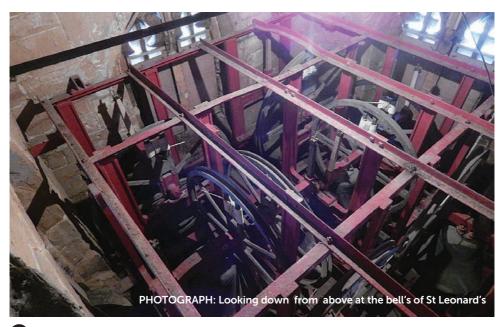
On a Saturday in October, eight ringers went to Worcester Cathedral. I'd like to say we rang the Cathedral bells, but no. We went to use their excellent training facility consisting of eight simulators. These consist of eight ropes connected to eight wheels, weighted to give the sensation of ringing tower bells. With the aid of electronics and laptops the sound of bells is heard in the room but not outside.

By the time you read this, St Leonard's will have hosted a Plain Hunt to Plain Bob Doubles Course. This is to give further advancement for ringers to develop their skills. Ringers from both towers will have been attending as well as from other towers along with helpers to guide us through the changes from one method to another. This will have put us under pressure to see if we have been doing our homework and revision! The aim of the exercise was to ring quarter peals. A quarter peal on 6 bells will be at least 1260 changes long with each ringer knowing the path their bell will take and ring it from memory. A good feeling when it's successful.

Our handbells will be out soon and we will be practising to ring for the Easter service and our researchers are busy looking for suitable music.

Martin Whittaker

Tower Captain - St Leonard's, Clent



HAGLEY VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS

As we enter a new year and a new growing season, we hope the Greek god of harvest Demeter is smiling down on us all - but also that her sister Poseidon is not! We need 2025 to be just enough dry and just enough wet - not the extremes that 2024 continually threw at us! We've actually had a busy winter at the allotment. The onions, shallots and brassicas are all currently present and correct - with nothing yet washed away or frost bitten! But I did see some cat-sized pigeons stalking the joint - I fear they were what ended the all-toobrief lives of last summer's extensive sunfl wer and pumpkin plants. There's nothing like a fresh notebook twinned with new year enthusiasm

to get the plot planning grey cells working. We seem to have endless lists of ideas, seeds and a potting schedule - let's see how quickly we fall behind with it! The sweet peas continue to do well in my greenhouse and the lasagne planted pots are done, albeit a little later than I'd have liked! These were a great success last year - as well as being deeply satisfying to see the sequential layers of spring fl wers.

Once my winter wreath is on the decline I can't wait to restyle it in a spring one. You know better days are coming when the daffodils are back on the shelves!

James and Anna

THE ARTS SOCIETY - STOURBRIDGE

10th April 2025 — Our next lecture is RENAISSANCE MARRIAGE AND MYTHOLOGY. Taking one mythological work from each of the cities of Venice, Florence and Rome, Helen Oakden, will explore the extraordinary secrets of Renaissance marriage. The works of Giorgione, Botticelli and Raphael show the differences between the cities, their attitudes towards brides, ideals of love and even bizarre anatomical beliefs, and the analysis will uncover the politics, personalities of the rich and famous. Helen is head of the History of Art Dept at St Mary's School Ascot. If you would like to join us or if you want

to come along to this lecture at Stourbridge Town Hall at 10.55am please contact Neill Robb on **07484 830487** or email **neillrobb@btinternet.com**.

*Please Note - Our AGM (commencing at 10:30am) will precede this lecture.

www.theartssocietystourbridge.org.uk.



WORDSLEY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY - WADS

"Wait Until Dark" by Frederick Knott took place from 26th-29th March 2025. This was the story of Susy Hendrix, a recently blinded housewife who unwittingly possessed a doll filled with illicit drugs. Harry Roat, a brutal and sophisticated criminal, coerced two small-time thugs into helping him con Susy into giving up the doll. A battle of wits ensued as Susy and the young girl upstairs launched a counterplot against the thieves. The drama played on the themes of darkness and light as Susy navigated through her sightless world,

and the crooks signalled each other with light through the Venetian blinds.

Box office **01384 270228** or email on **wordsleyamdram@outlook.com**. Tickets may be purchased on line via **www.wordsleyamdram.co.uk**.

Jane Goldsmith



Village Information

ST JOHN'S BELLRINGING

Clangley Bells was formed from the bands of St. Leonard's in Clent & St. John's in Hagley. Ringing is a very sociable activity which expands and promotes your physical and mental well-being as you learn the skills along the way. It serves the community and is a beautiful old english tradition, but most of all it's fun. If you would like to try it there are a few limited spaces available for anyone interested on Monday & Wednesday evenings. Please contact either of the tower captains to give it a go or to arrange a group session.

Martin Whittaker and Richard Scarth Clent & Hagley Tower Captains mjwhittaker@talktalk.net 07769 817495

hagleyringers@gmail.com 07768 273545



WYRE FOREST & DISTRICT CENTRE NATIONAL TRUST

At out next meeting on 8 April at 7.30pm we welcome back a very popular speaker Mary Bodfish who will talk about Cavalier Dogs and Roundhead Rogues - a lively evening ahead as she researches her topics well and put them over in clear and entertaining way. Do come and join us at Blakedown Parish Rooms, 18 Belbroughton Rd, Blakedown, Kidderminster DY10 3JG.

For further information please visit our website **www.wyreforestntcentre.co.uk**

Toni Allison on behalf of WFDCNT



HAGLEY U3A

Those of you who visited the Village Market in February will have noticed that we've already begun reminding present or prospective members that it is our AGM on Wednesday, 2 April: 13.30 for 13.45 in St Saviour's church hall. That's a chance to join the committee or sign up for one or more of our study groups, of which Bridge is the latest. Or maybe you'd just like to swap a book at our reading stall.

Our annual events continue through the year, with a visit to the EnviroSort Recycling Centre (WR5 2DF, https://www.severnwaste.com) as the next, scheduled for 2 pm on Friday, 4 April. Though it is free, we are

limited to 20 people, so you do need to book. Provisional future visits are a tour of the church at Whitley Court in May and to the garden at New House Farm, Cutnall Green, in June. Further ahead in the autumn there's a guided tour of the Dhammatalaka Buddhist Pagoda behind Edgbaston Reservoir in Birmingham.For booking and more information please message Andrea via the Contact page of our website at:

https://hagley.u3asite.uk/welcome



HAGLEY FREE CHURCH

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Those evocative words of Jesus from the cross, so agonisingly haunting: "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?" Jesus asking, "Where are you God?" There are times when we ask that question too. When our prayers appear to go unanswered, and we can't see any answers, it's easy to lose sight of God. Yet, God delights in

making Himself known to us. The cross shows He's self-giving love and life itself. Easter moves us from despair to praise, as Jesus' resurrection gives us hope, strength and peace. Rejoice in the miracle of Easter. Blessings in the Name of the Risen Lord! **Revd Tim**

SERVICES FOR APRIL 2025

Date		Morning 10.30am
06th April 2025	Communion	Rev. Tim Mullings
13th April 2025	Palm Sunday	Pastor David Umbers
18th April 2025	Good Friday (7pm)	Rev. Tim Mullings
20th Aprilh 2025	Easter Sunday	Rev. Tim Mullings
27th April 2025		Rev. Peter Bradley

BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER GROUP Is meeting every Friday 2:30pm in the upper rooms.

CHURCH OFFICE MONDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY: 8.30am - 12.00pm

 $\label{lem:contact} \textbf{Contact 07922\,508014} \ \text{or Email: } \textbf{hfc1905@btinternet.com} \ \text{for all enquiries and bookings}.$

Visit us at www.hagleyfreechurch.org.uk

CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Here for Christ. Here for the challenge of the gospel. Here for the community around us.

Village Information

THE PARISH OF HAGLEY

St John the Baptist with St Saviour's www.hagleycofe.co.uk admin@hagleycofe.co.uk Tel: 01562 886363

Facebook: search for hagleycofe



THURSDAY 17 APRIL: Hagley Mothers' Union 2.30pm St Saviour's Hall

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: Falls towards the end of April – when we remember the events in Jesus' life from Palm Sunday through Good Friday to Easter Day.

SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR HAGLEY AND CLENT - APRIL 2025

Date	Services 10.30am
06th April 2025	Holy Communion at St John's Worship 4 All at St Leonard's
13th April 2025 Palm Sunday	Holy Communion/Sunday Club at St Saviour's Holy Communion at St Leonard's
20th April 2025 Easter Day	Easter Holy Communion at St John's Easter Service at St Leonard's
27th April 2025	Holy Communion/Sunday Club at St Saviour's Holy Communion at St Leonard's

There is a said service of Holy Communion in St Leonard's at 10.30 am on the 1st Wednesday each month, and in St Saviour's at 10.30 am every Thursday. Please contact the Parish Offi if you wish to enquire about a baptism or wedding







TODDLER GROUPS - parents/guardians stay

MONDAY

STAY & PLAY 0-5 Romsley Scout Hut 9:30-11.00am Call Laura 07525 476339

BOUNCE & RHYME 0-2 Hagley Library 10-10.30am and 11-11.30am Email: halib@worcestershire.gov.uk

ACTIVE TOTS Hagley Library 2.15-2.45pm

WEDNESDAY

TODDLERS

Hagley Free Church 9:30-11:15am Call Zsuzsi 07852749268

BOUNCE & RHYME 0-2

Hagley Library 2.15-2.45pm Email: halib@worcestershire.gov.uk

BELBROUGHTON TODDLER GROUP

Belbroughton Church Hall 9.30-11.30am

PRE=SCHOOL PLAY

Clent Parish Hall 10.30-11.30am

TUESDAY

LITTLE BABS PLAYGROUP

St Kenelm's Church Hall, Romsley 9:30-11.00am Call Laura 07525 476339

THURSDAY

STAY & PLAY 0-5 Churchill Villlage Hall 9:30-10:30am and 10:45-11:45am Call Laura 07525 476339

LITTLE TREASURES

Hagley Community Centre 10.00-11.30am

STORYTRAIN Hagley Library 10-10.30am Email: halib@worcestershire.gov.uk

SATURDAY

LEGO CLUB 5+

Hagley Library 2.30-3.30pm

ADVERTISING AND EDITORIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

THE COPY DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BOTH EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING IS:

Before noon on 1st of preceding month

(i.e. before noon June 1st for July edition)

ADVERTISING

Adverts must be in the following format:

300dpi jpeg or pdf

1/8 Page - 46mm x 64mm (HxW) Landscape

1/4 Page - 92mm x 64mm (HxW) Portrait

½ Page - 92mm x 128mm (HxW) Landscape

Payment in full on submission of copy, a charge may be made for midterm alterations.

Email artwork for adverts to:

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PLEASE NOTE: Editorial may be reproduced on the village website

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Village Information

HAGLEY LIBRARY

We have lots of exciting children's activities at the library for your little ones. Bounce & Rhyme is for babies and children age 0-2 years on Mondays 10-10.30am and 11-11.30am. We also run a session on a Wednesday 2.15-2.45pm. Active Tots is for children age 2-4 years on Mondays 2.15-2.45pm. All sessions are Term time only and involve rhymes, songs, puppets, musical instruments and fun! Storytrain is for children age 2-5 years on Thursdays 10-10.30am. Come and listen to a fun story and make a simple craft to take home. Lego Club is for children age 5 years and above and runs every Saturday 2.15-3.30pm, come and make a Lego creation linked to a weekly theme. All our activities are FREE and run term time only, apart from

Storytrain and Lego Club which run through the school holidays too. Please book a place by emailing halib@worcestershire.gov.uk or phoning us on 01905 822722 or popping into the library. We also have a great selection of books for readers young and old, you can browse our catalogue on our website at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries and order books for collection, renew your books online and have access to many online resources, including our popular e-books and magazines. The library offers free computer use and we have a printing service too, 15p for a black and white printout, 50p for a colour. Our friendly staff and volunteers are always happy to help you we look forward to seeing you soon!

THE HAGLEY LIBRARY HEALTHY WALKING GROUP

Want to get more active and socialise at the same time? Then we're here to help! Walking is a great way to get fit and explore what's on your doorstep. Our friendly group meets in the library on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10.30am. We have two experienced Walk Leaders in the group who will take you on some lovely one hour long walks around the local area.

Our walks in 2025 are: 2nd & 16th April, 7th & 21st May, 4th & 18th June, 2nd & 16th July, 6th & 20th Aug, 3rd & 17th Sept, 1st & 15th Oct, 5th & 19th Nov, 3rd & 17th Dec

CALLING ALL PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO CRAFT

Hagley library has a 'knit and natter' group on Fridays at 10-11am. Come along with your knitting/crochet/embroidery project and chat to others while you craft. It's a great way to meet new people in a warm, welcoming environment.

GENTLE HEALTHY WALKING GROUP

We would like to set up a walking group for people who would like a shorter walk around the local area, probably 40-45 minutes. If you are interested in coming on the walk, or leading it please get in touch with us by popping into the library or emailing us at halib@worcestershire. gov.uk or telephoning the Worcestershire Hub on **01905 822722**. Let us know which day of the week you would prefer to walk on too. We look forward to hearing from you!

Hagley Village Directory

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

ACTIVE SENIORS: Angela	
BLAKEDOWN AND HAGLEY TENNIS CLUB: www.blakedov	wnhagleytennis.co.uk blakedownhagleytennis@gmail.com
HAGLEY ART CLUB: Bob Haywood-Lister	
HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: Mr B McArdle	01562 883193
HAGLEY COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA: Cynthia Downes	downlyn@gmail.com
HAGLEY C of E: Sue Priest	admin@hagleycofe.co.uk: 01562 886363
HAGLEY CRICKET CLUB:	
HAGLEY FREE CHURCH:	hfc1905@btinternet.com : 07922 508014
HAGLEY GUIDES, BROWNIES, RAINBOWS: Fiona Drewett.	waltond2024@gmail.com
HAGLEY HELPLINE:	
HAGLEY HISTORICAL & FIELD SOCIETY: Rachel Paget	
HAGLEY NETBALL CLUB:	07789 514382
HAGLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL:	07488 253537
HAGLEY RAMBLER SCOUTS: Sue Corlett	
HAGLEY STRING ORCHESTRA: Haydn Thomas	
HAGLEY WI: Judi Priest	
HAND OF FRIENDSHIP: Mrs Jean Deacy	office@hagleyprimar .worcs.sch.uk : 01562 885760
HCK BADMINTON: Paul Scrivens	
HOME RUN HOUNDS: Katy Rees	
LIFECENTRAL HAGLEY: Location Pastor	0121 5013542
MC PAWS: Mark Collins	01562 633045
PILATES WITH YASMIN: Yasmin	, , ,
PROBUS CLUB: Alan Hess	07967 590219
ROTARY CLUB: Godfrey Partridge	
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION: Helen Roberts	
ST JOHNS HAND & TOWER BELLRINGERS: Richard Scarth	
THE STOURBRIDGE ARTS SOCIETY: Neill Robb	
TUESDAY TEA CLUB: Sheila Munden	
UNIVERSITY OF THIRD AGE: Ian Charnock	
VERVE MARTIAL ARTS: John Swift	07989 980155
VILLAGE LADIES: Ann Pagett	
WEST GLEN HTM: Pat Sidaway	
WORDSLEY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY: Jane Goldsm	
WYRE FOREST NT: Toni Allison	
WEST MERCIA POLICE GENERAL CONTACT NUMBER	0200 222 2000
CRIME STOPPER LINE (CONFIDENTIAL) Freephone	
HAGLEY LIBRARY	
HAGLEY MEDICAL PRACTICE	
MAGLEY MEDICAL PRACTICE	

LOCAL COUNCILLOR/MP CONTACTS

HAGLEY PARISH COUNCIL: Hagley Pavilion, Hagley Playing Fields, Victoria Passage, Hagley DY9 0DA	01562 885253
HAGLEY (& FURLONGS) COUNTY COUNCILLOR (CLENT HILLS DIVISION): Karen May	07818 085140
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR FOR HAGLEY WEST: Steve Colella	01562 882996
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR FOR HAGLEY EAST: Ruth Lambert	msgrove.gov.uk

"When April with its sweet-smelling showers, Has pierced the drought of March to the root, And bathed every vein (of the plants) in such liquid, By the power of which the fl wer is created..." **Geoff ey Chaucer**

