

VILLAGER

March 2025

30th March



cut off date for next edition

Articles 7th March Adverts 28th February

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the committee, nor can the committee be held responsible for the accuracy of any advertisement or article. The editor reserves the right to edit or précis articles submitted. E&OE.

**All Articles & Advertising to
dbvillager@btinternet.com**

Drakes Broughton, Wadborough with Pirton Parish Council – Update

The Council meets on the first Thursday of every month, members of the public are welcome to attend to bring things to the attention of the Parish Council. In order to ensure any items for discussion are researched and included in the agenda please get in touch with the clerk about attending one week prior to the meeting.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th MARCH at Drakes Broughton Village Hall, please advise the Clerk if you wish to make representations.

The key points from the February meeting and ongoing issues the Parish Council is currently working on include:

HELP YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

- **MEMBER VACANCIES x1 DRAKES BROUGHTON WARD, x1 WADBOROUGH WARD & 1x PIRTON WARD.** Please contact the Clerk or talk to one of the Members if you want to know what's involved or maybe come along to observe a meeting. We can only deliver our services with a full and active membership!
- **ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS** – Please be reminded that these are Community resident meetings, anyone can attend and raise anything within the community you would like the Parish Council to consider, services, installations or to just find out what is already being delivered! Dates for this year's meetings are: Drakes Broughton and Wadborough Parish Friday 9th May at Drakes Broughton Village Hall and Pirton Parish - Tuesday 29th April, 7pm at St Peters Church, Pirton.
- **DRAKES BROUGHTON PLAYING FIELD** – The new pedestrian gate should be installed by the time of reading and the embankment slide barriers have been installed and over the winter the zip line received a full service and new brakes!
- **SPEEDING!** The Community Speed Watch is in danger of being disbanded due to lack of volunteers, if you are concerned regarding speeding in Drakes Broughton and can spare an hour please get in touch ASAP!
- WCC have asked that any INTERNAL property flooding be submitted to engineering@wychavon.gov.uk
- Information recorded at the Civic Centre recorded 1100mm of rainfall for 2024,

- which is 50% higher than average for our hydrometric area!
- SEVERN TRENT WATER – The members remind you to please report any and every sewerage event directly to STW.
- SWDPR – Has now progressed to the next stage. The public examination is scheduled to start on 4th March 2025.
- STREETLIGHTS - The Parish Council owns and maintains many of the Streetlights in Drakes Broughton. Please report any unlit or flickering streetlights to the Clerk. Thanks in advance! We recently upgraded col 10 in Keeper Close.
- NEW LITTER BIN – further to a resident request the Parish Council will be installing a new litter bin at the green on Lewis Close, please note all litter bins can and should be used for dog waste as well as litter.

Should you have any further queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Nikki Nicholson (Parish Clerk & RFO)

01905936560, dbwppc@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE THE WEB ADDRESS:

<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/>

- Most highways issues such as potholes & damaged signs and much more can be reported directly to Worcestershire County Council via their HUB www.worcestershire.gov.uk
- For bins, litter and street cleansing contact Wychavon District Council, their telephone number is: 01386 565000 or you can report via their website www.wychavon.gov.uk NB: Not picking up after your dog is a crime and is punishable with a hefty fine! Please report dog fouling to www.wychavon.gov.uk/dog-fouling-removal.
- Public Footpaths are maintained by WCC via the Countryside Centre and issues should be reported to the WCC Hub www.worcestershire.gov.uk
- WCC Roadworks updates are available at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/roadworks

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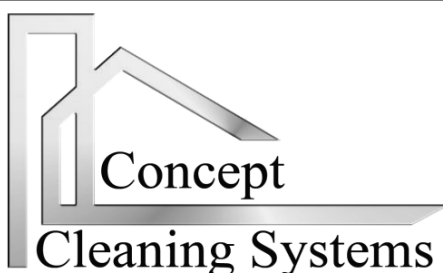
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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2025

A new Neighbourhood Plan is being drawn up for Drakes Broughton, Wadborough and Pirton. Neighbourhood Planning enables us all to join together as a community to guide the future development, regeneration and conservation of our neighbourhood, ensuring that it looks and feels just how we want it to.

We will be holding a series of public consultation events over the next few months, allowing you the chance to see our first draft of the new plan and sharing feedback on all aspects.

Updates on our progress, including the Neighbourhood Planning events, will be shared via The Villager Magazine, village Whatsapp groups, the Drakes Broughton Facebook page, the Drakes Broughton Village Hall website and on posters found throughout the villages, including noticeboards, pubs, churches and the local amenities in Drakes Broughton.

Found out more at www.dbvillagehall.com



Drakes Broughton
Wadborough & Pirton
Neighbourhood Plan

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2025-30

Dear Resident

I'm pleased to confirm that consultation on the draft Community Risk Management Plan 2025-30 has now opened. Consultation will remain open for 12 weeks and closes on 7th April 2025.

We would really value your views and invite you to visit our website where you will find the draft CRMP itself, plus all supporting documents, along with a link to the consultation questionnaire.

www.hwfire.org.uk

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Kind regards,
Anna

Anna Davidson (*she/her*)
Assistant Chief Officer: Director of Prevention

COMMUNITY BUSES UPDATE

The community buses will be funded until June 2025. The launch of the Wychavon Demand Responsive Transport Service (DRT) has been delayed.

Just a reminder the Tuesday Service run by Worcester Wheels leaves Peopleton at 9.45 and calls at Drakes Broughton, Stoulton before arriving at Worcester Crown-gate. It leaves for the return journey at 13.30. To book a seat on this bus you must ring 01905 450654 (Worcester Wheels)

On Friday the bus starts at Upton Snodsbury calls at Peopleton, and Drakes Broughton to arrive in Pershore at 10.30 and departs at 12.30 call Pershore Volunteer Centre for the exact pick up times and to book a seat

Pershore Volunteer Centre 01386 554299

The Government have increased the minimum bus fare to £3 it had been £2 for sometime.

X50

This service is now running every 30 minutes and the first bus to Worcester from Drakes Broughton is 6.31 and the last bus back leaves Worcester at 20.05. Hopefully this will carry on more full details can be found on the WCC website.

Cllr Tina Pell



Kind Hearts & Helping Hands Home Care

I am offering my services as a Private Home Care provider. My services are tailor made to the client's needs whether the support is of personal care, administration of medication, shopping, or rehabilitation following hospital discharge etc.

I have an advanced diploma in Health and Social Care level 3, DBS Certificate, Public Liability Insurance and 30 years experience. Competitive Rates. References available.

Call Kathy on 07557 945658

Library Service at Home

Do you live in Drakes Broughton and love to read but are unable to access the library?

Volunteers can deliver a selection of books to your home monthly (large print or books on CD are available)

This is a free service.

For more information please call 01905 822722 and ask to be put through to Pershore Library.

County Mobile Library

3rd Tuesday in the month

13.30 to 13.45	Drakes Broughton	Greenfields Close
13.50 to 14.05	Stoulton	Hawbridge
14.15 to 14.30	Pirton	Pirton Grange

4th Tuesday in the month

14.35 to 14.50	Wadborough	Mason's Arms
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Enquiries about this service should be made by contacting:-

TEL: 01905 822722 or emailing

mobilelibraries@worcestershire.gov.uk

St Barnabas CE First & Middle School

Spring Half Term Roundup!

We have had such a wonderful, busy start to 2025 with lots of activities taking place in school.

- One of our parents spent a considerable amount of time tidying up and re-painting our peace garden for the children to enjoy. It looks absolutely incredible and we are very grateful to that parent for providing their time to us.
- Year 7 had a fantastic day of poetry with Spoz during his workshop ahead of the poetry slam, which will take place in April 2025. Good luck to the winning team ahead of the competition.
- Years 3 and 5 represented school at the South Worcestershire Panathlon, receiving medals and certificates for their participation in the event.
- We have also organised a number of trips to Sacred Places in the local area so that the children are able to experience and learn from different cultures. Year 7 visited the Buddhist Temple in Malvern whilst Year 2 visited Worcester Mosque and Worcester Cathedral.
- Year 5 have also been involved with the Bike Bay competition whereby they are designing bicycle stand, which celebrates the area they live in. The winning stand will find a permanent home either in Worcester City centre or their school.
- Year 3 had their sleepover in the school hall to help prepare them for residential in the future. Needless to say they enjoyed having a big sleepover and an even bigger breakfast the following morning!
- A trip to Harvington Hall was also organised for the Year 5 children as part of their History lessons to explore Tudor houses.

CHATTERBOX

Ladies Club

**Thursday 6th March
at 2pm**

**In Drakes Broughton
Village Hall**

**David Chatterley
Talking about Teddy Bears.
Bring your Teddy with you.**

**Janet Brown
07494 780277**

New members welcome.

SHORT MAT BOWLS

In the Village Hall, Drakes Broughton

**Wednesday afternoons
1.45 till 4.00pm**

Meet friends, have gentle exercise
and fun in the village hall

**Annual subscription is £30:00
Bowling sessions will be free**

Please bring flat and clean shoes
to wear on the carpets. Bowls can
be provided if required

CONTACT

**Reg Moule
01905 840868**

The Drakes Broughton Folk Band

The Drakes Broughton Folk
Band is now back and meets
each Monday evening in

**St Barnabas Church
from 6:30 till 8pm**

**Any queries, please ring
Moira on 07775 681415**

Volunteers Needed

Do you have time to spare?



By volunteering at Number 8 you can broaden
your experience, meet some really lovely
people, and play your part in helping the arts
in Pershore to thrive!

Volunteers play a vital role across all
departments so whatever your interests we
can find a role for you.

For further info contact Box Office
or Ann our Volunteer Co-ordinator on
01386 555028 / volunteering@number8.org

Drakes Broughton 2025/26 100 Plus Club – we need your support

The current 100 Plus Club will finish after the April draw. The current 100 Plus Club will have raised around £900.00 towards Hall funds and paid out over £600.00 in prize money. Thank you to all our existing members.

The new 100 Plus Club will commence with effect from May 2025. It costs just £12.00 to join. Applications and payment for the new 100 Plus Club need to be received by the end of March 2025. Information and an application for the 2025/26 100 Plus Club may be found in this edition of Villager. Existing members will receive an application via email or post. Applications will also be available at the Hall, in Simply Fresh, Drakes Broughton and on our website. Please promote to family and friends.

If, in the meantime, if you would like further information regarding the 100 Plus Club, please get in touch with Martin Boniface at dbvhtreasurer@outlook.com

Improvements at the Village Hall

Thanks to the growing use of and fund raising at the Hall including securing grants, we are carrying out some improvements to the Hall and its facilities and equipment. These include:

- *Purchasing a 75” Smart TV for the Main Hall. The existing 49” TV has been relocated to the Lewis Room, making the Lewis Room an ideal venue for presentations or other meetings.
- *Purchasing a new CCTV system covering all the outside areas and the installation of a monitor in the kitchen. We can access the CCTV system video feed remotely.
- Purchasing 12 folding tables and two storage trolleys.
- Replacing the broken concrete bollards in the car with two concrete filled steel bollards. These have Hi-Viz. paint which we hope will make them more visible.
- Making Village Hall car spaces more visible including new signage which will make it clear which spaces are reserved for Village Hall users and which are spaces for the public. By way of a reminder, all the spaces up to those level with where the side patio and children’s play area meet, are for village hall users.

*The purchase of the CCTV and TV was part funded by the UK Government through the Rural England Prosperity Fund in partnership with Wychavon District Council.

Social and Community Events at the Hall

Healthy Worcestershire – free weekly sessions

The popularity of the Healthy Worcestershire sessions has been increasing since they started at the beginning of September. The sessions, which are free of charge, take place at the Hall every Wednesday between 10am and midday. The sessions are open to anyone over the age of 18 who is looking to improve their health, get advice on physical activity, healthy living, mental health and more! There is also an opportunity to socialise and have a cuppa.

What’s on?

Regular classes and clubs at the Hall

For a list of upcoming clubs and classes, please see our Facebook page, website or the notice board at the Village Hall, scan the QR code at the foot of this article or go to <https://www.dbvillagehall.com/clubs-classes>

Dates for your diary – 2025

Community Café and Tuck shop – every Friday 2pm to 4pm.

Healthy Worcestershire sessions – open to all every Wednesday morning 10am to 12pm

Community Singing – Mondays - 2pm to 3pm. 3 February, 10 March, 7 April

Wychavon Health & Wellbeing event – at the Community Café Friday 28 February

Family Quiz Night – Friday 21 February 2025 – 7.30pm. £5.00 entry per team of four

Table Top Sale – Saturday 8 March – 2pm to 4pm. £10.00 to book a table and early booking advised. Contact Tina on 07519 870421 or email tinapell1@sky.com

Village Hall Barn Dance with the Drakes Broughton Folk Band – Saturday 29 March 2025 at 7.00pm – £5.00 entrance on the door. Bring your own drinks and snacks.

Village Hall Karaoke Evening – date to be advised

Dates for future events at the Hall will appear in future editions of Villager and are on the Village Hall website www.dbvillagehall.com and social media.

2024/25 100 Plus Club lottery February Draw Results

The winning numbers are:

February 2025
First prize of £25 ticket number 98
Second prize £10 ticket number 72



Booking the Village Hall

More information about various events, groups and classes may be found on our website at <https://www.dbvillagehall.com/whats-on> our social media pages and the Village Hall Notice Board.

If you want to book the hall you can check availability and book online using Hall Master. Simply go to <https://www.dbvillagehall.com/contact> and follow the “Online Booking” link. When booking the Hall, please allow time for accessing and leaving the building before and/or after the booking.

Community Café and Tuck Shop.

The Community Café and Tuck Shop is open every Friday afternoon between 2p.m. and 4p.m. serving a variety of tea and coffee, cakes and of course sweets, ice pops and drinks for children. A range of second-hand school uniforms are also available. If you have

moved into the Village recently, this is a great way to meet new people and check out the facilities are at the Hall.

We need your help to make full use of the Hall.

If you can spare a few hours from time to time, why not get involved in the **Village Hall Community** and help with the running of the Hall. Ways to become involved include:

- Becoming a trustee
- Helping at the Community Café
- Helping at a playgroup
- Joining the Management Group which runs the Hall on a day-to-day basis
- Help with advertising, publicity, website and social media
- Safety and security
- Building maintenance

Fund raising

You can support the Hall in several ways including by donating money by cash, cheque, or BACS. To do this please contact the Treasurer, Martin Boniface at: dbvhtreasurer@outlook.com

You can support the Village Hall when shopping with your favourite online retailers via www.easyfundraising.org.uk

You can also support the Hall by using the **Clothing Bank** bins and donating good quality clothing, paired shoes, bags and belts using the two donation bins in the Hall car park.

Please place any items in bags and do not block the bin chutes.

Anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the Village Hall.

If you witness any anti-social behaviour, vandalism or other damage being caused at or around the Hall, please report it to the Police online via <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/> or dial the Police non-emergency line using 101. If is something more serious, dial 999.

Scan this QR Code for details of regular clubs and classes at Drakes Broughton Village Hall



Scan me!

Martin A Boniface..

On behalf of the DBVH Management Group.

email: dbvhtreasurer@outlook.com Mobile 07702 207300

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**DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL
2025/26 “100 PLUS CLUB”
RULES AND APPLICATION FORM**

By entering this 100 Plus Club prize draw you will be supporting efforts to improve the facilities at the Village Hall. These funds will help to supply equipment and fund ongoing improvements to the facilities at the Hall.

If you wish to support our efforts and join the Club, please detach, complete and return the Application Form together with your payment, to the Promoter of the 100 Plus Club:

Martin Boniface, 39 Williamson Way, Drakes Broughton,
Persore, WR10 2FR. Phone: 07702 207300
Or via email to dbvhtreasurer@outlook.com

Completed applications and payment must be received by no later than 30 March each year to be included in the “100 Plus Club” which commences on 1 May each year.

On behalf of Drakes Broughton Village Hall, we would like to thank you for your support and wish you good luck.

DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

100 Plus CLUB RULES

1. The object of the 100 Plus Club is to raise funds for the ongoing management and development of Drakes Broughton Village Hall, its facilities and equipment.
2. The Club will be run under the supervision of the Drakes Broughton Village Hall Management Group who will administer the Club.
3. The Club is open to anyone aged 16 or over on 1st May in the year of joining
4. Members must complete an application form and submit with 12 months payment by 30 March each year to be included in the Club commencing 1 May.
5. Entry will be by subscription of £1 per month (£12 per annum), per number/ticket, paid in advance in full by 30 March each year, by cash, cheque or BACS payment on the basis of a minimum period of 12 months.
6. There is no limit of the number of tickets a person or household may purchase.
7. Membership will run for 12 months from 1 May 2025; you are not able to join part way through the year.
8. The draw will take place monthly on the first Friday of each month commencing in May of each year. Winners will be contacted personally. Winning numbers will be posted on the Village Hall website, social media and the Villager magazine.
9. The regular monthly prizes based on no more than 125 tickets being sold: Regular monthly draw prizes excluding December are: 1st Prize £25, 2nd Prize £10. Where more than 125 tickets are sold, a third prize of £7.50 will be payable. December/Christmas Draw: 1st Prize £100, 2nd Prize £50, 3rd Prize £25.
10. A register will be kept recording the contact details of each member, the number(s) allocated to them and the subscription received from them.
11. If a winner cannot be contacted the winnings will be placed into The Drakes Broughton Village Hall funds after a period of six months and may not be reclaimed.
12. The 100 Plus Club has been registered with Wychavon District Council as a Small Society Lottery.

DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL
2025/26 "100 Plus CLUB"

Quantity of numbers/tickets required at £12 each for the year

☐

Minimum period of 12 months commencing 1 May each year.
Please tick the box below to confirm your application.

☐

I wish to join the 100 Plus Club for 2025/26

Total Payment: tickets at £12 each = £..... (payable in advance)

Payment methods: (please tick which method you wish to use and enclose cash or cheque with the application as appropriate). Please note payment by BACS is preferred.

☐

Cash

☐

Cheque made payable to Drakes Broughton Village Hall

☐

BACS: Account details:

Lloyds Bank Plc, High Street, Evesham,

Sort Code: 30-93-11

Account No: 07507288

Reference: 100 Plus [your name]

If paying by BACS, please tick this box ☐ to confirm you have made the payment.

Signature

Date

DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL
"100 Plus CLUB" 2025/26 APPLICATION

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

POST CODE

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

N.B. Please notify us of any changes to your details by using

Email: dbvhtreasurer@outlook.com

Under the Data Protection legislation, we need your consent to hold your personal details so that we can communicate with you about the 100 Plus Club. We will only keep the details for as long as we need them for the purpose of running the 100 Plus Club and will not pass them on to anyone else unless you ask us to do so. If you would like a copy of our full Privacy Policy please go to www.dbvillagehall.com or email – dbvhtreasurer@outlook.com

Please confirm your preferred method of contact below by ticking the relevant box(es) below and provide consent as described above by signing this form overleaf and returning together with payment.

Email: ☐ Telephone ☐ Post ☐

☐ Please tick this box if you wish to be kept informed of what is happening at the Hall.

PDF Villager

If you wish to receive a PDF version of the Villager, please email us on:

dbvillager@btinternet.com

Please note that email addresses will be saved as a mailing list and also stored on a separate encrypted file.

Alternatively, you can download a copy from the Drakes Broughton Village Hall website at: www.dbvillagehall.com

Collection Points for Printed Copies

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Shops in Shrubbery Road, St Barnabas Church, The Plough & Harrow, The Old Oak and the Village Hall

Pirton & Wadborough

Community Libraries. St Peters Church and The Masons Arms

Stoulton

Feli's Bar & Restaurant and the Village Hall

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Should you wish to promote your business in the Villager, we currently have three sizes available.

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Triple: £120 Double: £96 Single: £56

For further information please contact the editor at:

dbvillager@btinternet.com

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Stoulton Village Hall Events

www.stoultonvillagehall.com

Email: stoultonevents@gmail.com

COFFEE MORNING



SATURDAY March 1st
10.30pm till noon

Coffee or & Tea & Delicious



Homemade Cakes!

Only £3.00

All welcome

(100 club draw)



COMMUNITY LUNCH

JOIN US for the **FIRST**
Community Lunch
Of 2025!

2nd Thursday in the month

Monthly get together over
Home-made Soup & Sandwich
12.00 to 2pm

(last orders 1.15- doors open 11.45)

Only £5.00 pp

(Profits support the fabric of our ancient Church)

Next date, Thursday 13th March

A warm welcome and bowl of soup guaranteed!



Casserole Supper

Saturday 22nd March
@ 7pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £12.50 pp

choice of casserole & dessert.

Bar open & table quiz

Tickets from:

Diane 07740 597753

Or Tina 07968 093912

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07776 163869

01905 840768

Our 2024 Tree of Remembrance Appeal is done and dusted and the total sum received amounted to £6,000. Donations of £2,000 will be made to St Richard's Hospice, Acorns Children's Hospice and the Midlands Air Ambulance. Thank you once again to everyone who supported our Appeal.

A comment made to one of these charities (and shared with us) brought the whole event into focus. This person said, *"Thank you for all you do and for the love and care you show to each and every one who crosses your doors. Whether it be patient or family – you are there and that means so much. You are true angels on earth."*

International Women's Day falls on 8 March and encourages us all to celebrate women's achievements; raise awareness about discrimination; take action to accelerate gender parity and fundraise for women-focused charities. The United Nations will celebrate International Women's Day under the theme, *"For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."* This calls for action to unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls, as catalysts for lasting change.

The Inner Wheel Club of Pershore will celebrate International Women's Day 2025 with talks by local "Inspirational Women". The event at Peopleton Village Hall on Friday, 7 March from 1.30 to 4.00pm, will spotlight contributions made by;

- Mrs Beatrice Grant - His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire
- Anne-Marie and Becca Holman of "Sound About" - a local music charity especially for the visually impaired
- Professor Sandra Nicholson - founding Dean of the Three Counties Medical School
- Susan Birth - local artist who painted one of the Worcester Waddle penguins
- Freddie Barker - Worcestershire Young Poet Laureate 2024 – 2025 and
- Rebecca Redfern MBE - Paralympian swimmer who won gold in Paris.

Tickets costing £5 are available from jancrouch46@aol.com. Any profits will go to Parkinson's UK and local charities.

Back by popular demand, our local Rock Choir will perform once again at

Pershore Abbey on Saturday, 29 March. Rock Choirs are **the UK's original and award-winning, local, contemporary choirs for those that love to sing**. The choir, led by Jacob Ashworth, include members from South Worcestershire and Herefordshire regions. The concert will include a rich variety of rock and contemporary popular songs.

Tickets at £15, plus booking fee, are available at www.pershorerotary.club/concert.

Doors open at 6.30pm with the concert starting at 7.00pm. Wine will be on sale during the interval. All proceeds from the event to be donated to Parkinson's UK.

If you would like to work with us, we would love to hear from you. Follow us on Facebook, check out our website www.pershorerotary.club or email us at secretary@persshorerotary.club.

Richard Lees



The poster features a large, faint background image of a Christmas tree. At the top, two Rotary International logos flank the text "Rotary Club of Pershore". Below this, the text "Tree of Remembrance 2024 Appeal" and "The Villager" are centered. A large block of text in the middle reads: "Thank you for your support. Altogether we raised £6,000 with each charity receiving £2,000." At the bottom, there are three logos: "proudly supporting St Richard's Hospice" (with a registered charity number 105981), a helicopter icon for "Midlands Air Ambulance Charity" (with "In support of" above it), and "acorns children's hospice" (with "In aid of" above it and "Registered charity no. 700859" below it).

Rotary Club of Pershore

Tree of Remembrance 2024 Appeal

The Villager

Thank you for your support. Altogether we raised
£6,000 with each charity receiving £2,000.

proudly supporting
St Richard's Hospice
Registered Charity No. 105981

In support of
Midlands Air Ambulance Charity

In aid of
acorns
children's hospice
Registered charity no. 700859

Stoulton Parish Council Update

Playground

The Clerk explained that she has been liaising with Sovereign the playground equipment supplier and Wychavon regarding the Roral Fund grant agreement and payment dates. The Grant has now been paid in full and the playground works are completed, we await the security fencing to be removed so that the equipment installation can be checked.

Village Hall Committee

This year we held our Christmas dinner as a Sunday lunch event in January which proved successful and was well attended.

The December Coffee morning raised £500 for Alzheimer Research in addition to money raised through the stall that the charity had set up for the event.

Regular bookings have recommenced in the New Year starting with the January coffee morning which was well attended despite being so close to the New Year (January 4th) and the very cold weather.

There is no Thursday lunch in January.

A problem with the floor was identified in the latter part of 2024 and this has been inspected and patched. However, it would appear that the problem is due to dry rot in the floor supports. This is likely to require major work to replace the beams and floor and the committee is considering the best approach.

We will need to explore grant opportunities. It is several years since we have requested grants for the VH and so we hope that requests will be viewed favourably.

We also had an issue with the locking mechanism on the front door during a family party which could not be unlocked either on the inside or outside. Thanks to Giles for his efforts in acquiring the services of a locksmith on a Sunday who was able to remove, clean and lubricate the mechanism without us having to replace.

As ever many thanks to the committee members and other volunteers whose hard work makes the Village Hall the success that it is.

County Councillor Updates

The engineers at Wychavon need to capture details of any internally flooded properties in Wychavon. This has been requested by WCC in its role as lead Local Flood authority (contact Martyn Cross at WDC)

I have attached a statement I have prepared re proposals towards Unitary proposals and hope it offers some clarification but would stress that nothing is definite at the moment. I think we can safely say though that change is coming!

Pershore Education Planning Area review- forthcoming changes.

Decisions have been reached to extend the age ranges of all the first schools in the Pershore Education Planning Area to become primary schools. The middle schools in Pershore will no longer have a point of entry into Year 5 for September 2025, and Pershore High School's intake will be expanded to accommodate all Year 7 pupils in the area from September 2027.

School	Age range in 2025	Age range in 2026	Age range from 2027
Abbey Park First & Middle	2-12	2-12	2-11 (Year 7 closed)
Crowle CE First	5-10 (Year 5 added)	5-11 (Year 6 added)	5-11
Defford-Cum-Besford CE First	5-10 (Year 5 added)	5-11 (Year 6 added)	5-11
Fladbury CE First	3-10 (Year 5 added)	3-11 (Year 6 added)	3-11
Pinvin CE Academy	2-12	2-12	2-11 (Year 7 closed)
St Barnabas CofE First and Middle	2-12	2-12	2-11 (Year 7 closed)
Upton Snodsbury CofE First	5-10 (Year 5 added)	5-11 (Year 6 added)	5-11
Pershore High	11-18	11-18	11-18 (all Year 7 places for area)

More information about these changes is available at <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/pershorereview> but if you have any questions, please email pershorereview@worcestershire.gov.uk

Devolution

1. Prior to Christmas the government announced major changes to how local government will operate in the years to come, following the publication of its White Paper. Nothing has been decided but the government's intent seems to be clear, and I would suggest these changes will happen.

I will try to outline the proposed changes and how these changes are likely to affect Worcestershire.

- The government wants to abolish District Councils and County Councils and replace them with one Unitary Council. This would mean that the six District Councils and the County Council in Worcestershire would all disappear to be replaced with one Unitary Council. Town Councils and Parish Councils will not be affected.
- The timeline for this is very short. The government want "letters of interest" by interested parties by 10th January 2025. It is my understanding that the government will make its decision early in March as to which counties will proceed in "the first tranche". If Worcestershire was in "the first tranche", it is likely that elections in May 2025 to the County Council will be cancelled and elections to the new Unitary Council may be held in May 2026.
- The above is further complicated because this is the first phase of the government's proposed changes. Once the counties have become Unitary Councils, the government

then wishes to create Strategic Authorities. It is proposed that each Unitary Council will represent approximately 500,000 people; Worcestershire has 600,000. Strategic Authorities will be made up of a number of Unitary Councils (2 or 3), headed by an elected Mayor.

- A letter of interest has now been submitted to the Government by the leading political group at County. It was felt that if Worcestershire was to have any say in shaping its own future it is imperative that we are in the first tranche. It remains to be seen if Worcestershire itself will remain united as a single unitary authority or is linked with other shires.
- The Cabinet met to discuss the government's proposals and we decided it was clear that these were not really proposals, they were changes which the government intends to implement. With the "majority" which the government has, then of course, any legislation would pass through Parliament with ease.
- We decided that if Worcestershire was to have any say in shaping its future, it is imperative that Worcestershire is in "the first tranche".

SWDP Update

The Joint Parishes Committee responded with feedback to the November Liaison meeting (separate document).

The South Worcestershire Councils have now provided their updated evidence documents to the Planning Inspectors in response to their Matters, Issues and Questions raised in early 2024.

Ian Kemp, Programme Officer for the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review, has written out to stakeholders providing an outline timetable for the Hearing Sessions that will commence from Tuesday 4th March at Worcester Guildhall.

Hearings relating to Worcestershire Parkway are likely to be held at Wychavon offices in Pershore according to the draft timetable. We have an opportunity to participate in hearing sessions and provide further comments to the Inspectors in relation to the updated documents.

The JPC are meeting on 21st January to discuss our approach with the intention of participating in Hearing Sessions and providing further comments to the Inspectors in relation to the revised documents.

An Examination Website has been established and will be regularly updated throughout the process.

This also contains a link to all of the documents submitted.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be Thursday 20th March 2025 at 7pm in Stoulton Village Hall.

St Barnabas Church News

APCM Thursday 20th March

Notice is given of our Annual Church meeting at 7pm in the church. We welcome anyone who is interested in the church in any way at all. Come along and hear what has been happening over the last 12 months and what is planned for the next year. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you.

Mothering Sunday -30th March

Join us for this family friendly service for Mothering Sunday. We look forward to welcoming lots of our new families to this wonderful celebration of Mothers. At the time of writing this, the service will be lay led but it is hoped that Revd. Emma will be able to join us.

Café Church - Sunday 2nd March

Join us from 10:30am for tea/coffee and pastries followed by an informal worship 'café style'. If you are looking to bring your children to church this may be a good place to start. Meanwhile, for those who wish for a more traditional service, there is always the Holy Communion service at the parish church of St Edmunds, Stoulton at 9.30am

Coffee morning

We continue with our monthly coffee mornings. All are welcome 1st Saturday of each month for coffee and cake. Donations of cakes are also very welcome. This is a great opportunity for you to visit our lovely building in an informal way and sit and chat with old friends and make new ones.

- **1st March**
- **5th April**

10.30am – 12pm

See you there.

Soup and Social 12pm – 2pm

Now the autumn days are drawing in, we are going back to our soup and social which will be held on 2nd Tuesday of the month from now on. The soup and social dates for the rest of the year are:

- **March 10th**
- **April 8th**

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Bible study group/Lent course

The bible study group that was meeting on a Wednesday has currently been suspended as we will be running a course through Lent called Christianity Explored. A great opportunity for anyone wishing to know more about the Christian faith or anyone wishing to refresh themselves during the season of Lent. The first session will be held at 2pm on Thursday 6th March with a break for refreshments mid afternoon. For more information please speak to Corinna or Revd. Emma

Lent Lunch

Every Friday throughout Lent – **starting 7th March** - we will be serving hot homemade soup at lunch. Proceeds will go to a nominated charity (to be decided). Please come along and enjoy this annual social event in the run up to Easter.

Art Group

Meeting every Wednesday in church from 10.30am. You don't have to be a whizz at art. We have people who knit, crochet, collage, arrange flowers, draw and paint as well as those who simply want to meet together for a bit of a chat and catch up. The art group are responsible for most of the displays in the cabin in the church grounds. Why not come along. A good chance to meet old friends and make new ones.

Choir

Do you enjoy singing? Why not join our friendly choir. We meet in church on Thursday lunch time at 12.30pm. For more information please contact Moira Gutteridge on 07775 681415

Church/School partnership

We are delighted that two of our church family are chair and vice-chair of the school governing body. Jill Mapp is chair and Heather Laight is vice-chair. Both these ladies are ex-teachers and are a great asset to the school. With Jill and Heather at the helm, our church school links are surely going to go from strength to strength.

We continue to welcome the whole school into the church for collective worship once every half term.

Barnabas Bear Club for babies and toddlers

Calling all parents, grandparents, expectant parents and anyone who cares for little ones. We are enjoying our sessions with playtime, craft, story time and singing. Come along and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and meet new friends over a cup of tea or coffee whilst your little ones play. We hold sessions on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 10am in the church. *There is no charge for these sessions.*

- **March 10th**
- **March 24th**

Please contact Corinna if you would like more information (07904 166594)

Church open

We will continue to keep the church open every **Sunday** after worship until Sundown. This provides you with an opportunity to visit the building if you are interested to see the inside. There is also a chance to sit quietly and pray and light a candle for a loved one.

If you are able we would appreciate it if you can sign our visitors book as it keeps a record of who has been in the building. The new carpet has been admired by many and we now have the new chairs in situ. Why not pop in and take a look.

Social Media:

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for news and events. We also have a new Instagram page (drakesbroughtonchurch) and a tik-tok account (Barney Bears) If you have any ideas or want to join in with the planning of our events, please do let us know either by Facebook message or by contacting Corinna.

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

March 2025

St Barnabas (Drakes Broughton)

2 nd	Holy Communion together <u>St Edmunds Stoulton</u>	Revd Emma	9.30am
	Café Church Advent St Barnabas, DB (see note)	Lay Led	from 10.30am
9 th	Holy Communion	Revd. Emma	9.30am
16 th	Morning Worship	Lay Led	9.30am
23 rd	Holy Communion	Revd. Emma	9.30am
30 th	Mothering Sunday All Age Worship	Lay Led	9.30am

St. Edmunds (Stoulton)

2nd	Joint Holy Communion	9.30am
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St. Peters (Pirton)

2nd	Holy Communion.	3.30pm
16th	Evening Prayer.	3.30pm

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

VILLAGER CHAIRPERSON

Sue Williams 01905 840404

VICAR

Revd Emma Goldby 01905 840752

D B VILLAGE HALL

Tina Pell 01905 840108

STOULTON VILLAGE HALL

Fiona Morris 01905 840768

www.stoultonvillagehall.com

ST BARNABAS CE FIRST & MIDDLE SCHOOL

Elizabeth Whetham MBE, Executive Headteacher 01905 840366

PERSHORE HIGH SCHOOL

Phil Hanson Headteacher 01386 552471

PERSHORE MEDICAL PRACTICE

All Services 01386 553346

ABBOTSWOOD MEDICAL CENTRE

Appointments 01386 552424

Mon - Fri 9am—12Noon

Prescriptions 01386 561143

WORCESTERSHIRE ROYAL HOSPITAL 01905 763333

PERSHORE HOSPITAL 01386 502070

PERSHORE PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPT 01386 555551

DB Post Office (Karen) 01905 840741

DRAKES BROUGHTON RANGERS FC

Ian Wilcox 07794 481102

PARISH COUNCIL CLERKS

Nikki Nicholson dbwppc@gmail.com 01905 936560

Lisa Cope stoultonparishcouncil@gmail.com 01386 860616

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Stoulton, Drakes Broughton, Wadborough & Pirton

Linda Robinson 07720 076040

County Email: LRobinson2@worcestershire.gov.uk

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