



### **Happy New Year to all our readers!**

Have you made any resolutions? A popular one is to **get fit**. Psychologists agree that being outdoors (especially in woods, for some reason) lifts the spirits. What looks like a dull, drizzly day from indoors is always better once you get out. There are various walking and cycling groups who would welcome you to join them, e.g. the forest Health Walks who meet at Callow Hill every Tuesday and Sunday at 10.30am for 11am and will help you to build fitness at a gentle pace, or the Cycle Touring Club who organise rides in the area ([www.kidderminsterctc.org.uk](http://www.kidderminsterctc.org.uk)). Keeping fit has also recently been shown to help stave off **Dementia**. Kidderminster has now been officially recognised "as working towards being dementia friendly", and are hoping to increase the number of "dementia friends" locally. If there is local interest, an awareness session can be arranged for this parish—please contact the clerk—details on reverse of this sheet.

#### **Help needed with winter bills? Then look into: Priority Services Register**

This is a service aimed at disabled, elderly, and people with special communication needs, recently including those injured and with mental health needs. The service offers meter reads, bill nominee, setting up a password, liaison with organisations such as oxygen suppliers and advanced warning of any planned energy interruptions.

#### **Warm Home Discount**

This is £140 reduction off an electricity bill between October and April if the client receives Pension Credit.

#### **ECO**

Eligible people can contact ESAS (Energy Saving Advice Service) for services such as loft installation and cavity wall insulation.

Details of the above schemes can be obtained from Citizens Advice Wyre Forest—Tel: 01562 60194

### **Claire Witnell & Blount Charities**

Some of you may be aware of this charity, which operates within the parish, and provides reasonably affordable housing (mainly flats) for the elderly or those with demonstrable need. The parish council appoint a representative trustee to serve on the Charity board, and wish to thank Wendy Wright who has undertaken this role on our behalf for many, many years. However, Wendy is now wishing to step down from this post and the parish council wish to appoint a new representative. The commitment would require attendance at four charity meetings a year (most of which last less than an hour) with provision of updates on information and copy of audited accounts being provided to the parish council as required. If anyone has a particular interest in this work, and wishes to take on this unpaid service to the community, could you please get in touch with the Clerk, details at the end of this newsletter. Our grateful thanks will go to Wendy, who we will miss for fulfilling this role so well over so many years.

### **Wassell Wood**

Wassell Wood (Woodland Trust) are organising a new management plan, where they will be replacing some stands of trees, and trying to get extra re-generation of oaks to open the canopy. There will be some felling taking place shortly, and planned felling of some areas over the next 5 years.

### **Smartwater—Thieves Beware!**



### **Erecting our Smartwater signs**

The parish is now officially a Smartwater area—as all households have been given the opportunity to have use of a **free** Smartwater kit, funding partially by the parish council. We hope that every household makes full use of the kit, giving potential burglars a hard time in making it difficult to pass on stolen goods. You will see our signs around the parish. If you still need a kit, please contact the local police, who will visit you and explain its use.

Contact details of the Bewdley and Rural policing team are: [bewdleyandrural.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bewdleyandrural.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) or telephone 101

### **Parish Council Meetings**

Don't forget, the public are welcome to come along to any Parish Council meeting and speak and/or discuss matters with councillors and usually local police in the Open Forum at the start of each meeting. These are the dates of the next meetings, all held in Trimpley Village Hall @ **7.30p.m. - 20th February, 20th March**

#### **Your Parish Councillors are:**

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

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

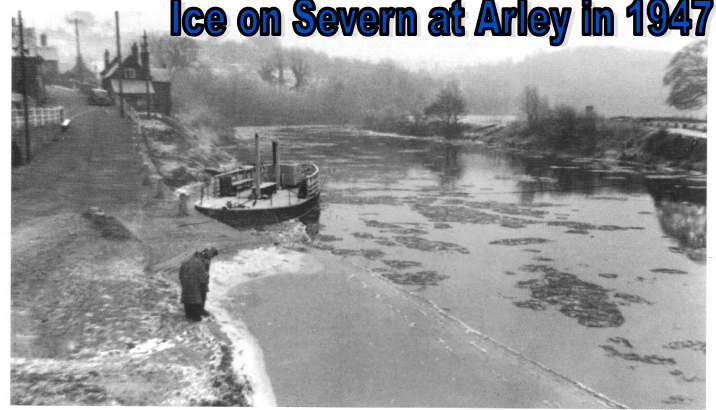




There are, no doubt, those amongst you who remember the awful winter of 1947... which started 70 years ago this month. Let's hope history does not repeat itself, as like this year, early January was unseasonably mild. However, the bitter blast started on 19th January 1947, and from 22nd January to March 17th, snow fell every day somewhere in the UK. However, compounding the bad weather, the country was very short of fuel, and very reliant on coal. Many people heated their homes and/or cooked with it, and the power stations were totally dependent on it. With transport grinding to a halt due to the heavy snowfalls—some people woke to snow covering their ground floor windows, and had to dig their way out from their own doors—many people were laid off work, with factories closing due to shortage of materials and fuel. Vegetables were frozen in the ground, and so with little food, little fuel and work, people generally had a very hard time. The final ten days of March 1947 were exceptionally wet with 36.3mm of rain. This, and the water resulting from the melting snow, caused widespread flooding along the river valleys. This was particularly severe along the Severn, with Bridgnorth, Bewdley (before the flood barriers were even thought of) and Worcester badly hit, the river at Bewdley peaking at a record 5.84m in March, causing more heartache. A flood marker can be seen at Blackstone Pumping Station showing this level.



Flooding in Load St, Bewdley in 1947



Ice on Severn at Arley in 1947

## ***Inclement weather—and power cut?***

Don't forget the new, free number to call in the event of a power cut. Dial 105. We would suggest that you save it into your mobile phone. Please keep warm, and keep torches handy (safer than candles) and do not open deep freezers unless absolutely necessary. Keep a check on elderly relatives and neighbours throughout the winter period, offering help if needed.

## ***Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley***



Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley is so grateful to have had a really successful **Coffee Morning on Saturday 12th November at our village hall**. We want to thank everyone who came out to a very misty Trimpley to support our event. It was a real joy to welcome so many people, share coffee, cakes and chatter and see folk having such a happy time. A huge thank you too, to all those who helped out on the stalls, made cakes, welcomed people and staffed the kitchen. An amazing amount of £576 was raised for the church. If you missed out on the cafetières of coffee, you are warmly invited to Holy Trinity, where we offer drinks, biscuits and company, after each service. There are 9.30 a.m. Services on the second (Holy Communion), third (All Age Worship) and fourth (Morning Prayer with hymns) Sundays of each month. For more information, please see the notice boards in Trimpley and Low Habberley or contact Jane at

[twigglet2@btinternet.com](mailto:twigglet2@btinternet.com). We understand that the church repairs to roof and stonework are now at completion, but fundraising still continues, as the cost was over £50,000. Very many thanks to all who have contributed to restore our very beautiful church. Special thanks to Hazel and Isabel—evacuees to our parish—who I have often featured in this newsletter. They have many happy memories of the village and the church, and have each sent a cheque for £50. It is 72 years since they left the parish to go back to their homes on the south coast.

**Youth Alpha (YA)** will also re-start from the first Sunday in February—and will run at **9.30 a.m each first Sunday** in successive months.

Finally, as a gesture of goodwill for 2017, could we please ask you to keep in check any dogs persistently barking, and also household floodlights giving intrusive light into neighbouring properties—both of which have been referred to us as causes for concern.

*Love thy  
Neighbour!*

