

# Yarkhill News



## A Message from Jeff Hughes, Chairman of Yarkhill Parish Council.

I would like to thank all those residents who have helped the parish council in the last year be it through attending our meetings or simply making us aware of matters that need attending to. It has been a particularly busy year after so much had to go on hold in 2021 due to Covid, but I hope that we have been able to deal with everything that has arisen both promptly and efficiently or at least find an answer to your questions even if not always the right one!

On behalf of all of us on the PC, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

### Scaffold tower for hire

The organisers of the Field to Fork Festival have purchased a scaffold tower from part of the income raised at last year's event which can be hired by anyone living in the village for £15 a week. Terms & Conditions apply. The details of the tower are as follows: Platform size: 1.45Mx 0.5M, Max platform height: 2.73M, Max working height: 5M (approx.) Max. load: 150kg Material: Aluminium. It weights approximately 37kg and is fitted with a pair of wheels to allow the tower to be moved around.

If you would like to hire this equipment please contact Martin Ennis on T: 01432 890486 M: 07831 424667 E: martinennis325@gmail.com

### CONTACTS

**PARISH COUNCIL CLERK:** Sallyanne Lees 07801 108789 email: yarkhill@live.co.uk

**VILLAGE HALL:** Wendy Nash 07985353025

**CHURCH WARDEN:** Ashley Fortey (Ashley4009@talktalk.net)

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR:** David Thomas 01531 670437

## **Chairman's Update**

Our final PC meeting of 2022 was held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November and the following matters were discussed and agreed:

### **Planning & Enforcement**

The application for the Anaerobic Digester at Whitwick Manor on the A417 (planning ref: 222728) has now attracted 153 comments of which over 95% are in objection to the proposal. Herefordshire Council is unlikely to make a decision until 2023 and it is expected that this will go to a full Planning Committee meeting. We will continue to keep you updated.

A new application (ref: 223128) has been submitted by LTF properties for 4 x 4 bedroom dwellings on land adjacent to Monksbury Court barns. There was much concern expressed about the impact of this development especially in relation to flooding while a number of comments were made on the unattractive nature of the houses and their poor fit with the existing barns development. In addition, the application itself was considered lacking in critical information while containing a number of faults. The state of the access track and its junction with the A417 continues to be a source of unease which it was felt must be addressed before any additional construction is allowed. The PC agreed unanimously not to support the application as currently submitted.

A previously declined application for 3 detached houses on land on the A4103 immediately opposite the closed Newtown Inn following the lapse of planning permission has been resubmitted without change under reference 223212. The PC objected to the original application and upheld this decision at the meeting on the basis that the development would be outside the designated Newtown settlement boundary and constitute linear development into open countryside to the east which is contrary to Yarkhill's NDP.

### **Herefordshire Local Plan**

Herefordshire Council has been holding a series of workshops for parish councils to discuss options for future housing development in the County before the first draft plan is issued early next year. While there are a number of options on the table, it is clear that Parish Councils feel strongly that development should only be permitted where the necessary infrastructure is available to support it rather than in more isolated rural locations often without mains gas, sewage or services. On this basis, housing would be focused on existing larger settlements rather than disbursed across the entire county as is the case currently. While final decisions have yet to be made before any formal public consultation is undertaken, this appears to be the most supported option at the present time.

### **Litter Pick**

Following the cancellation of the October litter pick, the unanimous view was that we should no longer attempt to organise larger village litter picks well in advance of the chosen date. People can often not make it at the last minute and the weather is always an unknown quantity so from next year, we are planning to concentrate on local picks as residents tell us they are more than willing to tidy up the areas closer to their own properties. These would be of a more ad hoc nature and can be arranged easily and at shorter notice so we will be looking for a few individuals to take responsibility for each area such as Yarkhill by the church, Newtown Cross and Monkhide.

### **Precept**

After discussion and asking for the views of the audience, it was agreed that we will hold next year's increase at the same level as 2022 being 1.9%. While Herefordshire Council is looking for parish councils to fund more services themselves, we are highly conscious of the financial pressures that households are currently under and felt it inappropriate to seek a larger rise. At the same time, we will continue to seek grant funding wherever possible to support essential activities such as culvert maintenance.

**Comments from Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester: Herefordshire Councillor - Three Crosses Ward,** – (Ashperton, Aylton, Canon Frome, Castle Frome, Eggleton, Felton, Little Marcle, Moreton Jeffries, Much Cowarne, Munsley, Ocle Pychard, Pixley, Putley, **Stoke Lacy**, Stretton Grandison, Ullingswick, Weston Beggard, Yarkhill).

As your local councillor representing you on Herefordshire Council I have been busy attending council meetings and helping residents with various matters. I also chair a Herefordshire Council Scrutiny committee, which scrutinizes various aspects of the Council and how it operates. At my last Scrutiny meeting I chaired a meeting that scrutinized the Council's planning service. The planning system can significantly affect local communities, and therefore it is essential that we get a good service. As with all meetings this meeting can be watched on Herefordshire Council's YouTube channel. I also regularly attend the Council's cabinet meeting where I provide challenge to the Independent/Green coalition that runs Herefordshire Council. They currently have to address a shortfall in the council budget that is forecast to be around £11 million for this year. Next year there is a forecast gap of £22 million. No doubt there will be proposals to raise the council tax. For the last three years, in opposition, I have consistently been against raising the council tax to the maximum increase allowed. Last year, I proposed a nil increase in the Council Tax. I argued that there were sufficient funds at the time and given the cost of living increases this was the right thing to do. Sadly not enough councillors agreed with my proposal. This next year the Council will have to make huge savings. There is still much to determine, but I will endeavour to challenge council tax rises if they cannot be justified, and also challenge any cuts to necessary services. I am currently dealing with quite a few planning issues in the ward. Highway matters are also another issue that constantly needs to be addressed. I continue to ask the Council to do all it can to improve highway safety. I am also in regular attendance at the 9 parish councils in the Three Crosses Ward. This ward has more parish councils than any other ward in Herefordshire. I relish the opportunity to work with them all as it really helps me to keep in touch with the communities that I serve. As always I am very pleased when people contact me for help or advice on all things council related. But, I am also keen to help out with any issues that may arise in the communities that I represent. Therefore, please get in contact if you think I can be of assistance. Meanwhile, best wishes to all. Jonathan Lester, Three Crosses Ward, Herefordshire Councillor. [jlester@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jlester@herefordshire.gov.uk). Mb **07792 88 20 57**.

### **Comments from the Parish Clerk**

As in previous years the Parish Council laid a wreath at the Church War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Unbelievably dog owners are still failing to clear up after their pets and walkers and riders are continuing to leave gates open. As all else seems to have failed I have now been given several names of repeated offenders and have been asked to pass these on to the relevant authorities. Cameras are now positioned in the worst affected areas and evidence will be passed on. I can only ask nicely so many times.

It would be great if parishioners could suggest not only fund raising ideas, but also ways in which Parish Funds can be utilised for the benefit of the whole Parish.

Sallyanne

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Dates for the Diary:

**15th December 2022**, 10.30 to 12 noon - Village Hall Coffee morning. Come and join us for a hot drink and a slice of cake, and a good natter.

**Sunday 7th May 2023**, 3-5pm - Village King's Coronation Celebration

**Saturday 29th July 2023** - Yarkhill Produce Show and Fete

### Message from the Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Committee works hard to keep the Hall running and in a decent state of repair for local residents to enjoy. We are a small team and always in need of new members. If you can spare an hour every couple of months and are keen to keep the vital services of the Village Hall running then please consider becoming a committee member. Please contact Wendy Nash (07985 353025) or Katie Bott (07939 261640).

The Committee would like to offer their grateful thanks and appreciation to David Madgen for his commitment and dedication to the Village Hall as Treasurer for the last 20+ years. David, and his wife Veronica, have been unending in their support of the Hall and through his dedication to keeping the finances in order, David has been instrumental in ensuring that the Village Hall remains accessible to all residents for many years to come.

Due to ill health David has now retired his position and we are looking for a new Treasurer to take on the managing of the Hall finances. Without a Treasurer we cannot continue to function. If you have an aptitude for bookkeeping and want to be involved in a small charity providing important services to the community then please get in touch with Wendy or Katie. We would like to send our very best wishes for the future to David and Veronica and remain eternally grateful for their service to Yarkhill.

Many thanks      Katie      07939 261640



## Chill your boots... Put your feet up if your bin is due to be collected on Monday 26 December.

Our hardworking crews are also taking it easy on Boxing Day. To catch up with collections, they'll be round on New Year's Eve instead (Saturday 31 December).

Please put your bins out no later than 6.30am over the festive period, as our crews may arrive earlier than usual.

**Season's greetings**



Recycling  
better together

Boxing Day (Monday)  
collections move to New  
Year's Eve this year. All other  
collections remain the same.



# Coming Soon

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from

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1 litre



500 ml

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Yarkhill

# Christmas Services



**SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

4.00pm

**CHRISTINGLE**

With refreshments

**THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER**

6.30pm

**CAROL SERVICE**

With refreshments



**SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

11.00am

**HOLY COMMUNION**



Dear residents

**Herefordshire Council would like to hear from you about how we can improve health and wellbeing in Herefordshire.**

We are working with health services and other organisations to develop a strategy and actions to improve health and wellbeing in the county over the next 10 years, and we are asking residents for their views about the things that they think are most important.

From information already available we have identified a number of issues that are most affecting the health and wellbeing of residents in our county and from these we have suggested some potential priorities for action, or for additional action where there is already work being done.

But we really want to know what your views are and about the things that you think we should be doing.

Feedback from this consultation will be available to view early in 2023 and it will help decide the priorities and content of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy which is due to be published in the Spring of 2023.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and we would greatly appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes to complete our survey which you will find by following the link below.

For more information and to share your views and ideas, see: [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/hwbs](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/hwbs)



Don't risk a drink or drug drive conviction

Motorists across the region are being reminded of the dangers of driving under the influence of drink or drugs as part of a national police enforcement operation.

With the football World Cup due to start this weekend and with the run up to Christmas, opportunities are present where people may be socialising more with friends and family and might be tempted to drink more than usual. This police operation serves as reminder of the dangers of driving under the influence of drink and drugs and the consequences that this can lead to.

Find out more;

[Don't risk a drink or drug drive conviction | West Mercia Police](#)

**Enforcement is taking place 24/7.**

Don't risk drinking if you are driving. #OpLimit





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NOVEMBER 2022

# OUR NEWS



FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

**Household budgets for many people are severely under strain due to the increasing cost of living. We are seeing the cost of everyday essentials rise faster than average incomes - leaving people with tough decisions about how to cover their bills. These are extremely challenging times for many people.**

We think the financial strain may also impact people's social connections, at a time when many people are already feeling more isolated and lonely, as we do fewer things than we did before that connect us with others.

The financial strain could also make us more fearful of becoming a victim of a crime as the emotional and financial impact of this will be felt greater than before by many of us.

We want to help ease some of these impacts as much as possible. So we have pulled together guidance on

- [Steps to take to avoid becoming a victim of crime](#)
- [Where to go for financial support, money-saving tips, help with energy and food costs](#)
- [Support to help reduce loneliness and isolation](#)

Our advice is not intended to be exhaustive, but we hope it offers you and your community some support at this difficult time.

**If you are a Coordinator and would like to offer your support to others through this challenging time, we have collated six ideas on actions that you can take [here](#).**

## Think 'WIDEN' to reduce your chances of being burgled this Winter



Taking simple measures, such as locking your windows, leaving indoor lights on a timer, double or deadlocking your doors, and having exterior lights on sensors, can significantly reduce your chances of being burgled.

A combination of WIDEN actions is the most effective and recommended by police throughout the country. Additionally, at Neighbourhood Watch we believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is also key to preventing burglary.

Click on each area to find out more:

- [WINDOWS](#): Lock your windows
- [INTERIOR](#): Put your interior lights on a timer
- [DOORS](#): Double or deadlock your doors
- [EXTERIOR](#): Put your exterior lights on a sensor
- [NEIGHBOURS](#): Keep an eye out for neighbours

**DID YOU KNOW.. 77% of people think about their safety when out in public and four times more likely to be concerned at night?**

So is enough currently being done to make sure people are safe when in public spaces? Designing better spaces can improve both physical and psychological safety. We're supporting Marshalls to launch their seven essential design pillars that should be used when creating safer spaces. Find out more [here](#).

**Do you feel safe in public spaces?**

Marshalls

Landscape Institute

Follow us... [ourwatch.org.uk](https://ourwatch.org.uk)



## Do you know an older person who may need support?

**Spiralling household costs have driven millions to cut back on their essential spending with day-to-day expenses like food, fuel, and heating increasingly difficult for those on lower incomes to afford.**

Driven by skyrocketing prices inflation hit 10.1% in September - with Bank of England forecasts suggesting it could soar to 13% by year's end. The typical annual energy bill has now doubled compared with last year, plunging millions into fuel poverty.

As winter approaches spiralling prices combined with plummeting temperatures present substantial risk to the health and wellbeing of many of the most vulnerable older people.

**Those reliant on the State Pension and benefits to make ends meet are particularly exposed. 29% (2.8m) of older households in England will be in fuel poverty this autumn and winter, compared to just 10% only a year ago. That is an additional 1.8 million older households spending a tenth or more of their post-tax income on energy.**

Last year many older people reported rationing their heating in the depths of winter in a bid to balance their budget, but with prices now twice what they were last year the reality is many more will be forced to switch off their heating system entirely.

Colder temperatures, plus insufficient food and heating, as well as reduced contact with friends and family, mean this winter could be really bleak for many of our most vulnerable older neighbours.

**Checking in on them is more important than ever. It's easy to start a conversation - from a 'hello, how are you?' when passing by, to popping by for a cup of tea and a chat.**

A functioning neighbourhood community can give a much-needed lift to an isolated older person struggling to get by. This may also lead to the opportunity to direct them to local voluntary organisations or council services which could provide them with much needed support.

Although some help has been announced in recent months by the Government, it by no means addresses the inflation lower income households are faced with at the checkout, petrol pump and when they receive their energy bill.

This winter could be the worst in living memory for many of our older neighbours, so it has never been more important for older people to be aware of available financial support.

Age UK provide [up to date guidance](#) on the latest energy support schemes as well as their [Save Energy, Pay Less](#) information guide and their [Help with Heating Costs](#) factsheet. These cover everything from temperature controls to how to access household insulation grants and could be a real lifeline for your older neighbours.

**Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director at Age UK, said:** *"With the cost of day-to-day essentials soaring pensioners on low and modest incomes are confronting the fact that basic goods and services are increasingly beyond their means.*

*They are looking ahead to the winter with great fear as a result. Extending a helping hand and offering to chat with our older neighbours can be a real boost in these times of hardship.*

*Never has it been more important to look out for the most vulnerable in our communities and help support those in greatest need".*

As part of its cost-of-living campaign, 'It Doesn't Add Up', Age UK is urging any older person living on a low income or struggling with their bills to contact Age UK's free Advice Line on 0800 678 1602 without delay to check they're receiving all the financial support available to them.

Alternatively, people can visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/money](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/money) or contact their local Age UK for further information and advice.



Registered charity number 1128267

## Combatting the never ending cycle of stress



As with many companies Avast, our Cyberhood Watch partner, are very aware that our online behaviour can impact on our mental health. Avast are keen to support people to make good mental health decisions whilst being secure online. The following advice has been put together by Avast in partnership with [yppah](#).

The last two years have put our physical and mental wellbeing to the test. If the separation from our loved ones for almost two years wasn't enough, there is the added stress of the energy cost crisis or observing the distressing battle being fought in Ukraine. Not to mention that in a crisis, it's easy to get overwhelmed with information. So how do you take back control during these turbulent and uncertain times?

Today's 24/7 news and social media can drain your energy and keep you in chronic stress mode without you even realizing it. Often, what makes us feel out of sorts is our constant attempt to control things that are beyond our reach. The overload is exhausting and stressful and the emotional turmoil can be overwhelming. It is important to switch off and unplug after getting the information we need. So how do we combat this never ending cycle?

**Take the time to slow down and be present in the moment**, instead of thinking and worrying about what happened in the past or might happen in the future. Take a walk, read a book or write a journal, to separate your mind from the immense flood of negative information.

**Make time for you in the morning and in the evening**. How you spend those few minutes at the beginning or at the end of the day can set the tone for the entire day or night. By practicing simple rituals such as waking up and going to bed at the same time every day whilst avoiding electronics at least one hour before bed you can positively impact your resilience, mental and physical wellbeing.

**Spending 15 minutes on a short walk, reading a book or meditating early in the morning and before bed** can positively affect our stress & anxiety levels. And whilst you might not be able to rid your personal stress entirely due to circumstances, you can bring it down to a level that both your mind and body can handle.

**Maintain a positive attitude**. Creating a habit of gratitude by reflecting on all the positive things in your life can bring about many positive changes both mentally and physically, after all our mission is to help you take back control of your wellbeing; that all starts with your thoughts and intentions.

**Complimenting people as a random act of kindness** can have such a profound effect, both for you and the person to whom you give the compliment, this can cause a ripple effect that allows the positive energy back to you; try it out and challenge yourself to give out one complement to someone once a day for a week and start to see the change that you can create!

**The fundamentals of wellness stem from exercise and nutrition**. The relationship between our diet and our mental health is complex. However, research shows a strong link between what we eat and how we feel.

Research on mental health has demonstrated stress can be a major player when it comes to impacting our memory and ability to focus, our physical wellbeing as well as our ability to detect and avoid risks such as those we frequently take online whether that's through fake profiles, financial scams or clicking on bad emails with dodgy links. To help make your digital life a safer place consider downloading [Avast One](#). You'll get access to your personal online guardian, helping to safeguard your privacy, speed up your devices, connect securely and avoid scams!

**In life, you always have choices. What happens next is up to you. Taking back control of your health and wellbeing through self discipline, engaging in simple daily habits and practicing gratitude is a great place to start!**

### In partnership with Avast we have launched our annual Cybercrime Survey.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your responses will be anonymised and help to form an up to date picture of the impact of cybercrime on communities across England and Wales, and how this has changed over time.

[Click here to complete the CYBERCRIME 2022 SURVEY](#)

The survey will close on Sunday 20th Nov 2022.

## Create places for connection as part of the Great Winter Get Together

Each January the [Great Winter Get Together](#) brings together communities to alleviate loneliness, inspired by the late Jo Cox MP and her advocacy on this issue.

Starting on so-called 'Blue Monday' - 16 January 2023 - the Jo Cox Foundation is encouraging people to create and advertise local places for events where those who may be feeling lonely can go to form meaningful connections with others.



Loneliness is a hidden epidemic across the UK. 5% of adults feel chronically (always or often) lonely and 45% of people sometimes feel lonely. Despite common assumptions, young people are actually the worst affected, with 15% of 10 - 25 year olds being chronically lonely.

The cost of living crisis may exacerbate this by making it difficult for many of us to go along to our usual social activities. With people being unable to afford the costs of social activities, whether that be membership fees, transport costs or simply the price of a drink, there is a real danger that many become more isolated.

That's why this year, more than ever, the Great Winter Get Together will be vital. The Jo Cox Foundation want to both raise the issues of loneliness and ensure that there is a place for connection available in every community in the UK. This could be anything; an existing, regular event or one which is being specifically held for the Great Winter Get Together; a walk, a zoom call or a coffee morning... anywhere people can connect!

They'll be advertising the events on their website and directing people to them throughout the campaign. They would love your community to be involved!

You can register your event, access our resources and find out more at [greatgettogether.org/winter](https://greatgettogether.org/winter).



#TurnOn2SV

### Email and social media hacking is **the most common** form of cyber-dependent crime

Email and social media account passwords should be **strong and different from all your other passwords**. Enabling 2-step verification (2SV) will keep criminals out of your account, even if your password is stolen.

Working in partnership to protect the UK public and businesses from fraud and cyber crime:

## Three new Trustees join to support us in achieving our 2025 Strategy

**We are mid-way through our 2020-2025 Strategy which aims to re-invigorate Neighbourhood Watch to be more relevant and diverse, by being active in all communities and clearly demonstrating the positive impact of Neighbourhood Watch across England and Wales.**

We have made great strides in the past two years and are heading in the right direction to achieve our strategy by 2025. We are more regularly seen as the authoritative voice on community-based crime prevention. Our volunteers are becoming more instrumental in connecting neighbours with other other and local partners for mutual support; and we are increasingly recognised for our role in increasing community cohesion and reducing loneliness and isolation.

To ensure we do all we can to deliver on our strategy 2025 goals we are delighted this month to welcome three new trustees - Hugh Ind, Tayo Oguntonade, and Andrew Whyte - to our Board. Together they bring with them a wealth of expertise, skills and knowledge to add to those already on our Board.



Hugh Ind is the Chief Executive of the British Transport Police Authority and was previously a civil servant for over 25 years. He spent most of that time in the Home Office where his last role was as Director General for Immigration Enforcement.

Hugh brings to Neighbourhood Watch a firm belief in the benefits of active communities for effective crime prevention.

Tayo Oguntonade has a background as an experienced Mortgage Broker, Property Expert, Investor and Commentator. Tayo regularly uses his expertise to break down complex and relevant property topics for the everyday person to understand. Tayo can be seen presenting The Great House Giveaway on Channel 4. As the co-founder of BrickzWithTipz, a property blogging platform he founded with his wife, Tayo's expertise and advice have reached over 100,000 people in need.



In a career spanning more than 30 years, Andrew Whyte has worked in senior communications roles across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Over the last 15 years, Andrew has been Director of Communications at the Arts Council England, two government departments – Defra and the Foreign Office – and most recently

at the Financial Conduct Authority until April 2021. He is currently a member of the Advisory Board of specialist research company Echo Research and is a Chartered Practitioner of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.

Our full 2020-2025 Strategy can be read [here](#) and our Impact Report 2021/22 which sets out our achievements over the past year can be read [here](#).

## Sandra Bauer joins us as our Head of Policy, Partnerships and Projects



**We are thrilled to announce that Sandra Bauer has joined the Central Support Team as our new Head of Policy, Partnerships and Projects.**

Sandra takes over from Jayne Pascoe as she headed off on retirement last month. Jayne was a great asset to us and support the movement to take great strides forward. We wish her all the best in her new ventures.

Sandra has responsibility for setting policies, working with partners from

public, private and voluntary and community sectors, including police forces across England and Wales, and the Home Office to develop and help deliver key priorities in line with our 2020-2025 Strategic plan.

A strong believer in the power and value of partnership working, Sandra looks forward to building on the strong foundations of collaborative working at Neighbourhood Watch Network. If you would like to get in touch with Sandra, you can reach her on [sandra.bauer@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:sandra.bauer@ourwatch.org.uk).

## NEW Coordinator pack in our online shop

Last month we opened our first-ever online shop selling official Neighbourhood Watch branded merchandise.

Our shop launched with a bang and we had over 150 orders in its first month - a massive thank you to everyone who placed an order with us.

Since its launch we have introduced a couple of new products, one being our Impact Report 2021/22 and the other being a Coordinator Pack.

Our **Impact Report 2021/22** is free but we do charge for delivery. It highlights the fantastic work that Neighbourhood Watch has done over the past year and is a useful tool when promoting membership to Neighbourhood Watch, or approaching local partners.

Our **Coordinator Pack** is a special item for our valuable volunteers. We wish we could give these away but we need to ensure we cover our costs to ensure the shop can keep running, so we have priced the pack as keenly as we can at £13.00 plus delivery.

The Coordinator Pack includes:

- 1 tote bag
- 1 trolley coin keyring
- 1 quality A5 notebook with a wallet holder at the back, and
- 1 limited edition 40th anniversary Neighbourhood Watch pin-badge.



In the lead up to Christmas, this pack makes a ideal thank you gift for your local Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

[SHOP NOW](#)

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1982 - 2022

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBER OFFER

Order a Patlock for £42.50 at [patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch](https://patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch)

**ENOUGH.**

If you saw a man harassing a woman, what would you do?

"I'll interrupt and ask what the next stop is"

"I'll ask the driver to help"

"We'll ask if she's ok"

Find out different ways to safely tackle violence against women and girls at [gov.uk/enough](https://www.gov.uk/enough)



HM Government

If you think it's wrong, act on it

## Our Autumn round of Community Grants Fund is now OPEN

We are pleased to announce the launch of another round of funding for community projects open to Neighbourhood Watch groups.

Applications are now open for our Autumn round of funding, closing on 30th of November.

We want to help you kickstart, improve or expand your community work as part of Neighbourhood Watch.

**For this round, 100% of available funds will go towards activities or one-off development projects that help your group or Association promote and support the work of Neighbourhood Watch.**

We're also interested in funding events which address crime prevention and those that draw out some of our hard-to-reach communities, connecting them with neighbours in a social setting – it could be a street party, or a coffee morning – anything that helps address loneliness in your area.

You may wish to focus your activities on supporting people through the cost of living crisis. To get ideas on actions you can take, click [here](#).

The size of grant you can apply for in the Autumn round is between £100 - £500.

Groups can only hold one grant at a time and only hold one grant in each financial year. The grant will need to be spent by the end of June 2023.

Groups are defined as: schemes, areas, districts or Associations, e.g. several schemes can hold grants within an Association, and that Association can also hold its own grant, but all projects or applications must be clearly defined and separate from each other.

Applying couldn't be easier

1. Visit [ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants](https://ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants) to read the guidance and download the application form and budget form
2. Return the completed form to [fundraising@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@ourwatch.org.uk) by 30 November 2022.

We look forward to receiving your applications.

## THINKING ABOUT STARTING A NEW SCHEME?

We can help.

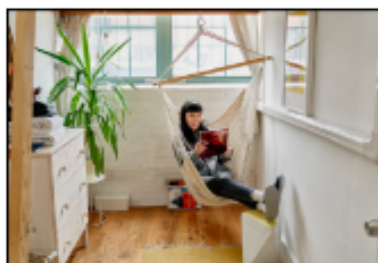
Our comprehensive [Knowledge Hub](#), provides Coordinators (and other volunteers) with role support, resources, access to training, early access to events, unique volunteer offers and the opportunity to connect with others.

[Find out more](#)

## NEW Airbnb Host and guest guides

We are proud to be continuing our partnership with Airbnb as part of their UK Trust and Safety Alliance.

Together we have produced a Host guide '[How to be a better neighbour](#)' and a guest guide



How to be a good neighbour during your trip



on '[How to be a good neighbour during your trip](#)'.



Host Guide:

How to be a better neighbour



The guides contain tips on building a resilient community, how to be a considerate neighbour, and protecting your home. Learn more about the UK Trust and Safety Alliance [here](#).

## New neighbour? Get gas safe, not gas-stumped

**According to new analysis of the latest gas safety inspection figures carried out by Gas Safe Register, 1 in every 6 properties on the average British street, houses at least one dangerous gas appliance – from boilers, to cookers and fires. And, worryingly, they have been most commonly found in homes that have changed hands recently.**

What many people don't realise is that, left not serviced and unchecked year-on-year, gas appliances can cause carbon monoxide poisoning, as well as gas leaks which – in some extreme circumstances – can lead to fires and explosions that cost lives and shatter neighbourhoods.

With many homeowners potentially putting on the heating in their new home for the very first time as the clocks go back and shorter, darker, colder days arrive – we're partnering with Gas Safe Register on a new campaign urging all householders, especially new homeowners and people who are currently in the home buying process, to get clued up on the gas safety basics to be aware of and act on.

If you're moving into a new home, or have recently done so, from a gas safety perspective there are things that you should be aware of and have the confidence to ask about, so you can avoid being 'gas-stumped'.

To help ensure that you don't put your new property, loved ones or even new neighbours in danger, Bob Kerr – Gas Services Director at Gas Safe Register – has [shared some tips](#) on how every home owner, whether new to their home or not, can get clued up on gas safety basics.

### Prepare

Find out where your gas Emergency Control Valve is located, so you can quickly switch the gas supply off in an emergency

### Paperwork

Ask the current owners for all records they have about installation, maintenance and safety checks for their household's gas appliances and gas pipework

### Peace of mind

If they can't provide a record, or it's been more than 12 months since the last check, get in touch with a local Gas Safe registered engineer who can carry out a safety check for you

### Play it safe

Only Gas Safe registered engineers are experts in gas appliances, flues and pipework. So, your homebuyer or structural surveys might not confirm if the gas appliances in your new property are working as they should be – get them checked to be on the safe side

### Pause use

If you're worried about any gas appliances in a new home, don't use them until you've had them checked out by an expert. Signs that something could be wrong include lazy yellow flames, black marks or sooty stains on or around the appliance, increased condensation or intermittent pilot lights

### Perfecting your home

If doing work to a home after you've moved in:

- Don't try to fit, fix or move gas appliances such as boilers, hobs or fires yourself. Use a Gas Safe registered engineer
- Don't block or cover air vents and flues – your gas appliance will need ventilation to work safely
- Before drilling, hammering or putting screws into a wall or floor, check what's behind

For more information on how to stay gas safe in your home, and to find a local Gas Safe registered engineer in your area, visit [www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk](http://www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk) or call 0800 408 5500.



## ERA's Top tips on keeping your home safe during Winter

**With the winter nights drawing in, and people out much more than we have been in the last two years, home security is now at the forefront of most homeowners' minds.**

**Whilst we all know the importance of keeping doors locked and windows closed, there are other ways to keep your home safe over winter.**

Sumier Foster-Shah, Product Support Manager at ERA, provides some top tips on how to improve home security during the winter months.

### Put a lock on windows

We all know the importance of making sure windows are closed before leaving a property, but it's also important to understand the mechanisms on your windows and make sure they are locked.

Aside from the traditional lock and key approach, another option for homeowners is to add technology to confirm their windows are locked. A smart window sensor will add an additional layer of discreet monitoring and security to any window. The ERA Protect WindowSense uses innovative technology to alert the property owner via a smartphone notification if they detect an attempted break in.

Push notifications can also provide a reminder if the window is left open or if the sensor has itself been tampered with.

### Remove places people can hide

Rather than enhancing security, big hedges and tall fences can actually offer burglars an easy place to hide. We recommend keeping fences at the front of the property low to allow clear visibility and use taller fences at the side or rear to make access more difficult.

When it comes to hedges, try to keep those at the front to a height where you can still have a clear view over the top. You can also use prickly or barbed shrubbery along boundary lines to act as an effective natural barrier.

### Protect your garden

Whilst we all pay attention to the home itself it is also important to protect the surrounding areas of the home.

Keeping an eye on side gates, rear boundaries and any public footpaths around the house can seem like a big task, but investing in cameras to monitor sheds or side entrances will instantly offer peace of mind.

A floodlight camera, such as the ERA Protect Floodlight Camera, will allow you to see and hear what's happening outside your home. With smart functionality, you can monitor the property day or night and access live stream footage, all via the app.

# ERA

### Check your door security

Updating your door lock can seem like an expensive or complex job but it is actually relatively easy and can be carried out as a DIY task.

Rather than adding a new lock, you can easily update the door cylinder, the locking mechanism, to offer added security and peace of mind.

### Create a checklist

It is increasingly common to have an 'escape plan' for fire alerts but we would also recommend homeowners create 'exit routines' to ensure that they don't forget to carry out any important items before leaving the property in the event of an emergency.

A list that covers not leaving valuables near windows or settling your burglar alarm will ensure that your property is always left as safe as possible.

**As a valued partner of Neighbourhood Watch, ERA Home Security are offering all Neighbourhood Watch supporters 25% off their range of security cameras until the 21st of November, to help secure your homes during these dark nights.**

**SPECIAL OFFER**

Each camera will provide a live feed, straight to your smartphone through the free ERA Protect app. You can view your property and perimeter from anywhere in the world. Included is ninety days protect cover plan, which records all activity triggered by motion and stores it in a secure cloud for up to thirty days.

After your ninety day trial of the plan, recording and storage plans are available for as little as £2 per month, or expand your security layers with 4G sim activation and professional monitoring. Alternatively, the cameras live feed is free, with no ongoing charges so the choice is yours.

**To take advantage of this exclusive offer, simply visit [eraprotect.com](http://eraprotect.com) and use the code NHCAM25.**



## DECEMBER 2022

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### DAILY EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to join any of the acts of worship that take place at the cathedral. Services are normally held at the following times:

#### Monday – Saturday

8 am – Morning Prayer

10.30 am – Eucharist (*8.30 am on a Saturday*)

5.30 pm – Evening Prayer or Evensong

#### Sunday

8 am – Holy Communion

10 am – Cathedral Eucharist (*this service is also live streamed*)

11.30 am – Matins or Morning Prayer

3.30 pm – Evening Prayer or Evensong

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### EXHIBITIONS

#### Waste Not, Want Not

**Monday 12 September to Saturday 31 December | Mondays to Saturdays, 10am – 5pm**

The exhibition this autumn in the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library will showcase items from the collections that have reused or repurposed older materials and given them a new lease of life. From old books and archives to the careful use of parchment, to reframing stained glass fragments and the reuse of silver and gems – there are many ways that the cathedral of the past ‘wasted not’.

**Normal admission charges apply**

### EVENTS

#### Toddler Group

**Mondays in term time, 9.30am**

Join us each Monday morning in term time to play and pray in Hereford Cathedral. Listen to a Bible story, take part in a craft activity and have fun in our weekly drop-in. Suitable for toddlers between the ages of 1-3 years.

**Free to attend but donations are welcome, children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.**

#### Year of Prayer Lantern Workshop

**Wednesday 30 November, 7 & 14 December, 3.45 pm – 4.45 pm**

In partnership with Hereford Diocese, we will be holding three family lantern making workshops in preparation for the Diocesan Year of Prayer launch, which takes place in January. For more details and to book your space please visit the cathedral website

#### Christmas Sparkle Organ Concert

**Saturday 3 December, 1.15 pm**

Lunchtime organ recital of Advent and Christmas favourites given by Peter Dyke, with large screen projection.

**Admission is free with a retiring collection in support of Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust.**

### **Family Nativity Trail**

**Monday 5 December – Tuesday 3 January**

Pick up a free leaflet from the Welcome Desk as you arrive and follow the trail around the cathedral to find the different parts of the nativity story. Answer the questions as you go around, take the highlighted letters from your answers and you will be able to make a festive word at the end of the trail! Once you've found the answer, take your sheet to the Cathedral Shop or Welcome Desk to claim your sticker!

### **Ex Cathedra: Christmas Music By Candlelight**

**Wednesday 7 December, 7.30 pm**

These popular concerts seek out the heart of Christmas. A seamless blend of seasonal favourites, little-known gems and inspiring new music create a deeply atmospheric celebration of this most wonderful time of the year.

**Tickets from Birmingham Symphony Hall Box Office 0121 780 3333, Courtyard Hereford 01432 340 555 or Cathedral Shop 01432 374 210.**

### **Hereford Choral Society: Handel's Messiah**

**Saturday 10 December, 7.30 pm**

A special candlelit performance by Hereford Choral Society with Marches Baroque. **Tickets available from: [herefordchoralsociety.org/tickets](http://herefordchoralsociety.org/tickets)**

### **ABF The Soldiers' Charity Christmas Concert**

**Wednesday 14 December, 7 pm**

ABF's annual Christmas concert returns in all its glory, with school choirs and bands.

**Tickets will be available from the Cathedral Shop, Tel 01432 374 210 and The Courtyard Box Office [www.courtyard.org.uk/abf](http://www.courtyard.org.uk/abf).**

### **Hereford Cathedral Christmas Fair**

**Saturday 17 December, 9.30 am – 4 pm**

Join us for our annual Christmas Fair with over forty stalls selling a range of festive produce. Please join us in the Cathedral Close at 12 noon for carol singing.

**Admission free, with a collection to support the work of Hereford Cathedral.**

### **St Michael's Hospice 'Light Up A Life' Service**

**Sunday 18 December, 5 pm**

Everyone welcome. Please visit [st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](http://st-michaels-hospice.org.uk) for more information.

### **Christmas Capers**

**Monday 19 December, 7 pm**

Join cathedral staff and volunteers for a fast-paced evening uncovering festive facts from the cathedral's archives and around the building.

**Tickets cost £12 and can be purchased from the cathedral website.**

### **Christmas Messy Church**

**Tuesday 20 December, 11.30 am – 3 pm**

Make a selection of seasonal crafts to take home! Messy Church is Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. We will have craft activities, food and fun - all centred around the teaching of the Bible. This is a free drop-in event with no pre-booking required. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

### **Christmas Lego Club**

**Wednesday 21 December, 12 - 3 pm**

Test your skills at creating crazy constructions with a Christmas twist with Lego! Enjoy this freestyle Lego session in the South Transept with thousands of bricks and hundreds of mini figures, learn building techniques and make new friends. Spaces are free but limited, booking essential via the cathedral website.

### **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

**Thursday 22 & Friday 23 December, 7pm**

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols. Admission by ticket only, to apply for your free ticket please download an application form from the cathedral website.



**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

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**Christingle Nativity Service**

**Christmas Eve, 2.30 pm**

A celebration of Christmas light for children and families, with the telling of the Christmas story and the distribution of Christingles. Admission is free with a retiring collection for The Children's Society. **Due to its popularity, this year's service is ticketed to help manage numbers, please book via the cathedral website: [www.herefordcathedral.org/events](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/events)**

**Choral Evensong With Blessing of the Crib.**

**Christmas Eve, 5.30 pm**

**Christmas Day**

**Holy Communion with hymns, 8 am**

**Cathedral Eucharist, 10 am**

**Choral Matins, 11.30 am**

**Holy Innocents' Day**

**Wednesday 28 December, 3.30 pm**

A quiet service of remembrance for parents and families who have suffered the loss of a child, whether recently or long ago. All welcome.

**Epiphany Carol Service**

**Sunday 8 January 2022, 3.30 pm**

Sung by Hereford Cathedral Voluntary Choir, celebrating the veneration of the Christ-Child by the Magi.

**La nativité du Seigneur**

**Saturday 28 January, 7 pm**

Peter Dyke, assistant director of music at Hereford Cathedral, will give a performance of Olivier Messiaen's organ masterpiece La nativité du Seigneur, which consists of nine movements or 'meditations' inspired by the birth and life of Christ.

**Tickets will be available via the cathedral website.**

## Guidance for Complaints Procedure

It is vital that the public has confidence in the high standards of local government, and that there is transparency about the conduct of councillors and the mechanisms for dealing with alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct. Equally, it is vital that councillors themselves have confidence in these mechanisms, and that investigations into such complaints abide by the principles of natural justice. Under the Model Code of Conduct, councillors are required to cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and respect the impartiality of officers. This is in recognition of the key role monitoring officers have in ensuring what might be contentious and difficult issues are handled fairly. This guidance is to support them in carrying out their duties.

More than 100,000 people give their time as councillors. The majority do so with the very best motives, and they conduct themselves in a way that is beyond reproach. However, public perception tends to focus on a minority who in some way abuse their positions or behave badly. Even where behaviour does fall short most issues are resolved easily through a simple apology or through swift action from an officer, a political group or meeting chair. Reference to the Code of Conduct and a formal complaint are very much the last resort where issues remain unresolved.

Anyone who considers that a councillor may have breached the Code of Conduct may make a complaint to that councillor's local authority, usually via the principal authority's monitoring officer. Each complaint must be assessed to see if it falls within the authority's legal jurisdiction, for example whether the subject member was acting as a councillor or representative of the authority at the time. A decision must then be made on whether or not some action should be taken, either as an investigation or some other form of action.

When a matter is referred for investigation or other action, it does not mean that a decision has been made about the validity of the allegation. It simply means that the authority believes the alleged conduct, if proven, may amount to a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and that some action should be taken in response to the complaint.

The process for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints must be fair and be seen to be fair. The law does not specify how complaints are to be handled. However, in most authorities, initial assessment of complaints that a councillor may have breached the Code of Conduct is usually carried out by the authority's monitoring officer (in our case the Parish Clerk and one other Councillor who is not party to the complaint). Even where the matter is normally delegated to the monitoring officer, they may reserve the right to refer the matter to a committee of councillors, for example where the monitoring officer has a conflict of interest or the matter is particularly high-profile.

Local authorities, including parish and town councils, should publish information on their websites about what can and cannot be considered as a complaint, how to complain (including a standard complaints form if appropriate) and where Code of Conduct complaints should be sent to. They should also provide clear details of the procedures they will follow in relation to any written allegation received about a councillor.

Yarkhill Parish has produced a complaint form which sets out all the information they expect to receive from a complainant. This can be helpful to both the authority and the complainant. The form can be found at the end of this information. Complaints do not have to be made using the form but should include the information requested in the form.

The authority should also make it clear that only in exceptional circumstances would a complainant be granted confidentiality and that as a matter of fairness the complainant's identity would normally be disclosed to the subject member

Under the Localism Act, however, formal complaints must be submitted in writing. This includes electronic submissions, though the requirement for complaints to be submitted in writing must be read in conjunction with the Equality Act 2010 and the duty to make adjustments. For example, a complainant may have a disability that prevents them from making their complaint in writing. In such cases, authorities may need to transcribe a verbal complaint and then produce a written copy for approval by the complainant or the complainant's representative.

When a complaint is received by the local authority the relevant officer should acknowledge its receipt and set out the process to be taken to assess the complaint with an agreed timescale.

The full Guidance information can be accessed at [Guidance on Member Model Code of Conduct Complaints Handling | Local Government Association](#)

