

OUR THANKS TO THE CO-OP

For organising a toy collection to help disadvantaged children at Christmas.

Kidz2sbiK

Please drop in and drop toys off to help disadvantaged kids and distressed families at Christmas with Werrington's special family kindness fund.

Your unique community magazine is delivered free to Werrington, Cellarhead and Wetley Rocks with world-wide circulation thanks to Werrington Parish Council.

https://www.werringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news

Also on Werrington Parish Council Facebook Page.

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"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: It is the time for home."

Edith Sitwell

St Philip, Werrington &
St John the Baptist, Wetley Rocks



One of the great joys of being a minister in the Church of England is that you get to hear a lot of good news stories. People delight in telling us their journeys of faith, their answered prayers, the peace and comfort they received knowing God is always with them .

This year the Evangelical Alliance celebrates 180 years of making Jesus known, taking the Gospel into corridors of power and caring for the vulnerable. CEO Gavin Calver asserts that the Alliance's mission remains unchanged: to be Good News people in a bad news world.

St. Philip's is a member church of the Alliance and I am a personal member and so we share their aims as expressed by the CEO, to hold firmly to Jesus, remain rooted in scripture, live with courage and kindness and take every opportunity to share the hope we have found in Christ.

Christmas is always a time when we talk more about Jesus. We celebrate God with us – Emmanuel. That's a Good News story which we would expect to share with a lot of you, but you don't have to wait for Christmas – you are welcome each and every week at St. Philip's. Come and hear our Good News.

Our services and events in the next few months include:
Sundays: 8:30am Holy Communion and 10:00am informal service
(Morning Worship / Family Service / Baptism etc.).

Remembrance service at the monument at 2pm, then 2:30pm in church
Memorial Service 4pm on 6th December
Christingle Service 6pm on Christmas Eve; Communion at 11:30pm

Revd. Trevor Copeland

VILLAGE LIFE at LARGE



No, this is not your new Editor as David will always be lurking – but Suzanne is making the news, and it is good for Village Life. In our Summer issue we featured an Advertorial on her Helping Hands service, which I must confess my lovely wife Jean and I have used for many years following on from my dear mother Joan.

So, what are we talking about? – it's the response she got – **18 calls within the first few days and she is booked up** which just goes to show how important Village Life is to our community. Call 07870 728522 to get put on Suzanne's waiting list. Suzanne has also been a big help to me in relaunching Village Life, so my thanks to her.

MORE THAN JUST ADVERTISING

Village Life is one of the UK's top community magazines and by advertising in it you become noticed as part of our special locality and **become a Village Life Ambassador** to help foster a greater community spirit. As volunteers we make every penny count and our profits go to local good causes and national ones from which our residents can benefit such as the Air Ambulance, British Heart Foundation, Macmillan Cancer Support, Scotty's Little Soldiers and Dougie Mac.

AND NOW FOR NEXT YEAR



Told you I was lurking! **Thanks to all those who helped to make our first year such a roaring success.** We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful, and Prosperous New Year



Keep on the Bricks

David

TRENCH ART WITH MORE POPPIES



Our special Poppy Man - David Grey - was at it again for our super and iconic Poppy Display on the Washerwall crossroads. But like every year he has added some new additions maintaining our unique tradition. Trench Art was where soldiers in the trenches made mementoes from materials they found fashioning new items.



Werrington's commemoration display echoed the theme and was originally crafted using upside down Ash Bin Lids painted red to make up a Trench Art Poppy feature. The new additions were bottle bottoms and were added to this year's display along with the remembrance stones naming the local fallen. Literally hundreds of people pass the display every day making this something Werrington has become known for and we thank the Royal British Legion for their support

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NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW THAT!

With apologies to Michael Caine who claimed he never said it



Ever wondered about the design on custard cream biscuits? The beloved treats are thought to have first appeared in Britain in 1908, typically featuring an ornate baroque design pressed into Many folks are only just discovering the meaning behind the intricate patterns their surface. However, many custard cream fans have likely never questioned the origin of their distinctive pattern and characteristic upper layer. It was called the fern madness, Pteridomania.

When trains and the train lines started to come to the UK, going to remote places became fashionable and so people would try and find things that were in those remote, cold places, things like ferns. It became a symbol of friendship, of good times, and intelligence. Biscuit fans may also be intrigued to learn that traditional custard creams are made with custard powder, not egg. The invention of custard powder is credited to Alfred Bird, who created it for his wife due to her egg allergy.



Biscuits were the first industrial food, the first food stuff to be produced by a machine; form mixing, kneading, rolling out, cutting out, baking, it could all be done with minimal intervention from people. To put custard powder in a biscuit brought together two things which represented industrial progress.

Biscuit Nibbler

A LOCAL WERRINGTON VOLUNTARY GROUP HELPING MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND DISTRESSED FAMILIES +

Kidz2Kidz



For many years the good folk of our area have been helping to making Christmas special for those less fortunate. We work with dedicated Social Groups, the County Council Special Family Unit and Local Refuges. Special thanks go to Rev. Steve Parker whose contacts make this possible. Every year requests for our help grow bigger and over the years it is reckoned that many thousands of kids and families have enjoyed happier Christmases with our help. We will soon be starting for next time and so if you would like to donate or offer some toys, please contact David on 01782 302019 or david@dsaimaging.co.uk.

Sadly, we have lost one of our contacts with the closing of Home-Start due to funding issues. We worked with them for many years and have offered them our help to maintain contact with the kids and families who will continue to need support. Below is their parting thanks to Kidz2Kidz.

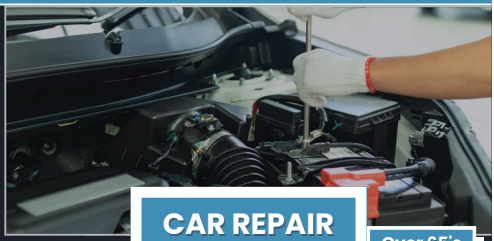
"We are deeply grateful to Kidz2Kidz Moorlands Fund for the support that you have given every Christmas for a number of years now. You transformed Christmas for lots of local children, and we are truly grateful to you. Please can you make sure that everybody who has been part of this support is passed our heartfelt thanks for being part of our legacy".

Best wishes Rachel

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW LOCAL FEATURE WITH WETLEY ROCKS EDITOR ALWINE GATER

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alwinegater@icloud.com



Wetley rocks – forthcoming events

St John's Church
4 December 7pm, Christmas concert with Moorland Voices and Denise Leigh (Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist)
18 December 7pm – Carols and Cakes, St John's Church
For further details contact Alwine on 07597 819987

Village Hall
5 December 10am - 2pm Christmas Fair
11 December 6pm - Cinema – Arthur Christmas

Regular events:
Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm – Pre-school
1st Tuesday of the month 7.30pm – Horticultural Society
2nd Tuesday of the month 7.30pm – Women's Institute
Wednesday 6.30pm – Dance and movement class
Thursday 5.30pm Rainbows / 6.30pm Brownies
For further details contact Louise on 07538 641318

Women's Institute
19 December – Bell ringers' concert – Village Hall

ON THE HORIZON COUNSELLING SERVICES

In view of the increase in Mental Health, Wellbeing and Lifestyle here we have a special service which offers supportive, compassionate counselling service tailored to you and your family's needs, but sometimes it not easy and On the Horizon understand that seeking help is sometimes a courageous first step.

But the quality of life matters and if we can make it better then our future days can be brighter and even more beautiful, so sometimes that first step is important. We offer flexible, confidential counselling for individuals aged 10 through to adults. Whether you prefer a peaceful, traditional room or an alternative setting, we adapt to your needs across a variety of comfortable session formats:

Werrington Wellbeing Lodges: Tranquil, private local settings designed for reflection and growth. **Walk & Talk** Counselling: Gentle sessions held amidst our beautiful local green spaces. **Home Visits**: Convenient, supportive counselling provided in the comfort of your home. **Remote Sessions:** Flexible telephone and online counselling options. We support children, young people, and adults through life's challenges, anxiety, life transitions, and personal growth.

Get in Touch Today to discuss how we can support you or your family:
Rachel: 07855652753, **Lisa:** 07807204412
Email: horizoncounselling1@outlook.com
Website: www.onthehorizoncounselling.co.uk

One of the local groups benefitting from the Village Life Sunshine Fund

THE WISHER OF THE WELL

A cloudless sky gives a natural backdrop to the ancient Washer Well, trimmed grass at the base providing a contrasting flora around the ancient artefacts in the Staffordshire Moorlands village of Werrington which is on higher ground some 875ft above sea level. The site includes a well that is still operational. It has been part of the local well dressing festivals and is one of 7 wells in the Parish.

The site includes the well and a bench in a green setting with small mature trees. Washer Well is one of the well's that formed part of the local tradition of well dressing in the Parish. People have taken the waters here for over 100 years.



This spring was probably in use by the local population for 100's of years. It is recorded on a 1775 map. A reliable supply of pure water was very important at the time; cholera epidemics spread by tainted water were common until the mid-19th Century. The well at Washerwall was reported as a very copious spring of pure water. Established as a supply of water for Burslem, Tunstall and especially Hanley and was sold from water carts at a half-penny a bucket.

In circa 1810 a plan was proposed to pipe the water from the spring to Hanley as "it was sufficient for the needs of the population of Hanley and Shelton" - this scheme never materialised. The stone structure around the natural spring on Washerwall Lane, Werrington was built in 1874.

It appears in the Domesday book and has been used by Drovers. It is made of local sandstone, and the waters have been taken by the Monks of Abbey Holton. In years gone by water from the well was streamed down to a small reservoir to the land above Bluebell Wood which now forms part of a Weston Close driveway.

The spring water was then piped down to Ash Hall, which was then the home of the Meigh Family, the famous potters from Stoke-on-Trent. Later the waters were diverted into Bluebell Wood, and a recently renovated bridge was built for walkers heading up the Salt Path Lane to Wetley Moor.

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Back in September the Government said, 'Households should stock up on food to prepare for extreme weather as the strongest El Niño event in a generation develops over the Pacific Ocean'

Back in February, months before this announcement, your Parish Council were already discussing the need to make sure that Werrington had a robust approach to developing a Disaster/Emergency Recovery Plan to keep the community safe and was the first in the Country to begin lobbying the Government to make it mandatory for Parish and Town Councils to have a Disaster/Emergency Recovery Plan in place.

As this initiative evolves the plan will be developing to make sure that it is in line with government guidelines, emergency services protocols, local government directives and other professional agencies.
The Werrington community will also be involved through the development of a Community Emergency Hub.

(A Community Emergency Hub is a place for volunteers to identify local needs created by local disruption and match those needs with offers of help from the community. For example, people needing help to clean up can be matched with people who will roll up their sleeves and help. Your Hub could be a safe shelter, support centre, or rally-point during a power outage and other major emergencies.

The Parish Council member with responsibility for Disaster Recovery Planning is Cllr Kenn Griffiths.

CELEBRATING LOCAL SUPPORT

We're pleased to honour Ash Bank Garage with a special award in recognition of their generous support and commitment to village life.

Businesses like Ash Bank Garage play a vital role in bringing people together and helping our village flourish.

> Big thanks to Ash Bank Garage for supporting our village and we are delighted to present your special award.
>
> – David & Kenn



Supporting local isn't just good for business — it's good for all of us.

Thank you, Ash Bank Garage, for being part of what makes our community special.

With thanks.

David & Kenn

VILLAGE LIFE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



KENN GOT IT RIGHT

When we heard the sad news that Village Life was unceremoniously dumped a few years back, like many we were all depressed that we had lost a vital line of communication with our residents particularly our elderly folks who make up over half of our local population.

Then over the hill came the cavalry lead by Kenn Griffiths (pictured when Parish Council Chair with regalia) who saw the disastrous loss of amenity that was about to happen, and so at his instigation we had a chat about re-launching and now look where we are with one of the UK's best community magazines. It has flourished and was Kenn's initiative that sparked it off.

We were told that they couldn't make it pay! – well we spent about two hours on the phone and all advertisers immediately said yes but only if we were doing it as a new team – and with our new pre-payment plan each issue makes a profit before we have printed!!

And one more thing, Kenn had such conviction as to what we could achieve he even offered to fund the initial costs, but our pre-pay plan covered this. Now we are journeying a positive road, the one led by Kenn, with more volunteers than ever. Village Life not only relives but is now more beneficial to all our residents.

Thanks, Kenn for all your help and support in making the rebirth of Village Life possible.

David

SHIP AHOY

The Beatrice Charity operates a 56ft adapted narrow boat on the Caldon Canal from its mooring at Cheddleton Flint Mill.



The charity provides free trips for children in SEND settings during term time and sponsored trips for adults with additional needs during holiday periods. Everyone involved with the charity is a volunteer.

The boat has a lift built into the foredeck and, depending on their size, can accommodate two wheelchairs and a maximum of twelve passengers. There is an accessible toilet onboard too. Trips are managed by a qualified skipper and two crew.

It costs £7-8,000 per year to maintain the boat and as well as donations, fund raising events, sponsorship, and bequests, weekend private hires are an essential element of funding. A day's hire costs £150 and ALL of that goes towards keeping the boat well maintained.

Clive and Mark have 15 years of service between them as skipper and crew, and many other volunteers are long serving too. For more information visit www.beatricecharity.org and perhaps enjoy a relaxing day out on the canal not far from your doorstep".

Clive Stagg

One of the local groups benefitting from the Village Life local Sunshine Volunteer Fund

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KAREN BRADLEY MP



Now that the schools have returned after the summer break, we return to the concerns about parking and traffic problems outside the schools in Werrington and the need for a pedestrian crossing and a school crossing patrol officer.

As promised, I presented a petition in Parliament before the summer recess on behalf of Werrington residents on Road Safety in Werrington.

The petition of residents of the constituency of Staffordshire Moorlands, declares that local people have urgent concerns about the safety of roads around Moorside High School, Werrington Primary School, and residential streets more widely in Werrington; and further declares that high traffic volume, excessive vehicle speeds, unsafe parking, a lack of safe crossing points, and insufficient enforcement and supervision pose a serious risk to the safety and wellbeing of the community, particularly for young people and those with additional needs. The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to work with the local authority and relevant agencies to facilitate urgent action including the installation of safe pedestrian crossings, the introduction of stronger parking restrictions, the provision of a school crossing patrol officer, the review and reduction of speed limits, and increased enforcement and monitoring.

The petition has been sent to the Department for Transport and I am waiting for a response.



After many months of gathering evidence, listening to your views, working with residents and stakeholders, we are delighted to announce that the draft Werrington Neighbourhood Plan has now been completed.

The Plan is currently undergoing the required screening process by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, and once this stage is finalised, our Werrington Neighbourhood Plan will be published for **Regulation 14 consultation**. This marks an important milestone and gives everyone in the community the opportunity to read the full Plan and tell us what they think. You will have a formal period of 6-weeks to view and comment on the Plan in Spring 2027.

The Werrington Neighbourhood Plan has been shaped by the ideas, aspirations and needs shared by our community. The upcoming consultation is your chance to review the proposed vision, aims and planning policies, that will help to shape and inform development in the future for our Parish, reflecting what matters most to our community.

We encourage all residents, businesses, landowners, community groups and other interested parties to take part. Every comment received will be carefully considered before the Plan is updated and submitted for the next stage of examination. Details of how to view the draft Plan and provide feedback will be published on the Werrington Parish Council website in Spring 2027.

Together, we can create a Plan that reflects our community's ambitions and helps guide positive change for years to come.

Thanks to Werrington Parish Council all new editions of Village Life and a complete set of the House Mates Directory are now on the web.

www.werringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Werrington Parish Council Facebook page

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HAVE A LITTLE BLUE MOON NATTER - CARING COUNTS



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VILLAGE LIFE IS HERE TO HELP

If you need a little local support we will help if we can or possibly point you in the right direction. Contact David on 01782 302019 or david@dsaimaging.co.uk

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Shared Memories Dementia Group

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WERRINGTON METHODIST CHURCH



December signifies the start of Meteorological Winter, stretching to the end of February. Winter can be a hard season. It is cold, there is less light. This may feel even harder this year after a wonderful summer of sunshine, warmth and brightness.

John, in his Gospel says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it". This is his description of the light of Jesus Christ.

Darkness may be part of our lives in many ways. Loneliness, Grief, Isolation, Financial Hardships or Homelessness. How can we reach out to support those in need? A visit, phone call and a friendly chat can become the light in someone's darkness.

Here at Werrington Methodist Church, we have a wide range of activities throughout the year and additional ones over the December month.

We have started a Children's Activities Club to run during School holidays this year. This has proved a great success. Our August session hosted 19 children enjoying games, crafts and refreshments. This will be repeated on a regular basis. Look out for us: we are Ash Children's Club. Our December event is planned for Saturday 19th December 9.30 to midday. Please contact for details.

In December, we start to think about Christmas, planning activities, wrapping presents, meeting friends and organising meals. "When is it Christmas, when will Santa Claus come?" a question asked by many Children. However, is this all that Christmas is?

Luke wrote "Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you, he is the Messiah, the Lord". This story is told all over the world at this time of year as we celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25th. This is the true message.

Join us for one of our services or events over the month of December,

13th December – Carol Service at 6pm

20th December 10.40am – Sunday Nativity Service led by our young people and leaders from Werrington Girls Brigade

24th December 7pm – Service with Sacrament led by Reverend Pam Roberts

25th December 10am – Short Service led by Paul Owen

Visit our you tube channel and view a Service or follow our Facebook Page

https://m.youtube.com/@WerringtonMethodist

Facebook – Werrington Methodist Church

Email us on: werringtonmethodist@outlook.com

"May your home be filled with laughter, love and Christ's light this Christmas Season"

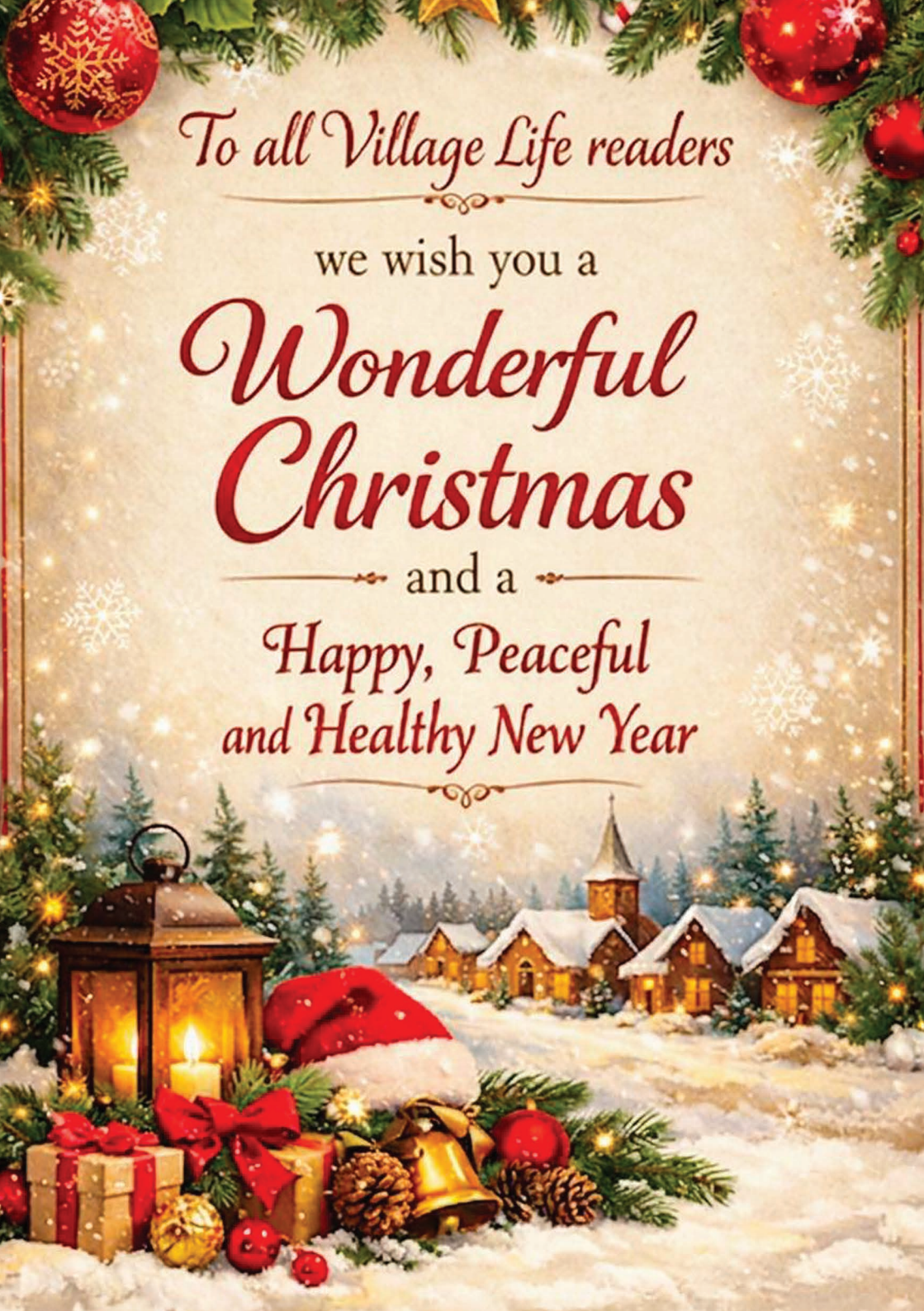
Gill Goulding Tel: 07709 928355

Methodist Werrington Church Facebook

Methodist Werrington Church YouTube



Our Friendship Tree


To all Village Life readers
we wish you a
Wonderful Christmas
and a
Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year



LET'S TURN UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CHRISTMAS SPARKLE TO HELP OTHERS IN NEED

So please do not through them away or hide them under the sink – let's use them to raise money to help disadvantaged children and distressed older folk – of which we have rather a lot - as part of the Village Life campaign to help the needy. As volunteers we will make every penny count as we all do it willingly so your gifts will do good rather than be thrown away.



If it helps, we can always pick up to save you a trip – just contact Trevor on 07394 949967 and you will already be starting to do some good. and we will find a good home for your gifts so they will live again. To arrange drop-off or queries ring David on 01782 302019 or david@dsaimaging.co.uk and we accept at Shaw Towers, 5 Weston Close, Werrington, ST2 9QN – (off Meigh Road)

MAKING EVERY PENNY COUNT

Village Life is organised by the Werrington Community Volunteer Action Group which operates on a Zero-Cost basis. We do not have any overheads or buildings to pay for and all the moneys we create are ploughed back into the community to enhance existing voluntary and charitable services or spring-board new ones. In 2026, our re-launch year, Village Life has allocated £950 to good causes. If you want to join with us, contact David above.

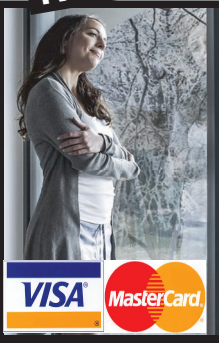
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