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130 Years of Kidderminster Foreign & a Community Governance Review

Parish Councils, the first tier of local government, were mostly created by the Local Government Act 1894, and the first meeting of this parish council was held on 31st December 1894 in the Boardroom of the Union Workhouse, and the "Foreign" of Kidderminster then consisted of Trimpley, Habberley, Franche, Puxton, Wribbenhall, Netherton, Blackstone, Sutton, the Lea, Hurcott and Comberton—in other words, much of the land which lay outside of the old Borough of Kidderminster (i.e. the Forain). The Parish Council of Kidderminster Foreign then consisted of 15 councillors, and was based on three wards. In the following 40 years, the Borough of Kidderminster expanded, and engulfed much of what used to be the "forain" - basically the outskirts, and the 'foreign parish' contracted to just the remaining villages of Low Habberley and Trimpley, and the number of Parish Councillors was reduced to 7 in 1934. All of this history can be read about in detail in the article which the Clerk wrote for the Millennium book produced - "Kidderminster Foreign—Portraits of Trimpley and Habberley", edited by Nigel Gilbert.

So the Foreign (corruption of Forain) was essentially identified as the rural area surrounding Kidderminster. Hence its contraction now to the rural villages of Low Habberley and Trimpley, and current councillors have fought to try to retain this rural identity. As such, a recent resolution was passed to request a Community Governance Review to move the Habberley Park development out of this parish and into the area covered by Kidderminster Town. It was felt that the new development was somewhat incongruous with the rural nature of the remainder of the parish, and would create a geographical imbalance of the parish electorate. As such, Wyre Forest District Council are conducting a review with this aim, and so the contraction of the parish continues. Your current parish council will continue to fight against development and extension of urban Kidderminster into the rural village of Low Habberley, as we did in our objections in 2018 against the Local Plan when it first earmarked this field for development, but now also feel that the current development will have far more in common with the nearby town of Kidderminster than its rural neighbour—our parish village of Low Habberley. However, before this happens, a thorough consultation exercise with the electorate of this parish will be organised by Wyre Forest District Council, and due procedure followed. Electors are respectfully advised to check out the review and give response on the following links: <https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/community-governance-review-guidance/community-governance-review-kidderminster-foreign/community-governance-review-kidderminster-foreign-terms-of-reference-2024> and <https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/community-governance-review-guidance/community-governance-review-kidderminster-foreign/>

Editor's note—On a personal note, as your editor and Clerk to this Council now for over 30 of those years, I cannot help wondering what those 15 original Parish Councillors would have thought of the greatly reduced area now covered by the "Foreign or Forain", and how much change has been seen since this Parish Council was created on that New Year's Eve 130 years ago. Even then, reading the old archived minutes, they fought against the ever encroaching "urban sprawl", trying to retain the rural surroundings, but to no avail. So perhaps not so much has changed during those 130 years...but I do hope that the very pleasant and rural nature of this parish will continue and survive for many years to come, and that we can maintain the "forain".

Trimpley Vintage Rally



The Vintage Rally held in August was a hugely successful event, and our thanks go to the organisers for allowing the Parish Council to set up a stand to inform people a little about what we do. We also took this opportunity to promote Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley, and Trimpley Village Hall. We hope many of you came along and met up with some of your local councillors on that day.

Parish Council - Please visit our website : www.kfpc.org.uk

The public are welcome to come along to any Parish Council meeting and speak and/or discuss matters with councillors in the Open Forum at the start of each meeting. Verbal contributions later in the meeting are at the discretion of the Chair.

Opposite are the dates of the next meetings, which are usually on the **3rd Monday of each calendar month**, (unless altered for special reasons) and are held in Trimpley Village Hall.

Please see agenda, posted before each meeting on the website or noticeboards, for details.

Next Meetings (starting at 7.30pm) are: 18th November, 16th December and 20th January 2025

Your Current Parish Councillors are :
Mr. B. Phillips : Tel: 07760450567 (Chair)
Mr. C. Grainger : Tel: 01299 212174
Mr. C. Holford: Tel: 01299 404678
Mrs. R. Norton : Tel: 07916082260
Mr. R. Roberts: Tel: 01299 401048
Mr. S. Leigh: Tel: 07305328817
VACANCY

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** at the start of every meeting.

Village Hall Events

26th October - Quiz & Fish and Chips

7th December - Christmas Special Karaoke

Please support your local Village Hall.

Vacancy - Parish Councillor

There remains a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you would like to join the Council, and serve in this voluntary role to make Kidderminster Foreign an even better place to live, please complete an application form, which you can obtain from any current Councillor, or by downloading from the Parish Website below. Fully funded training will be available.

All applications will be acknowledged and considered, and co-option will be decided upon by existing Parish Councillors,

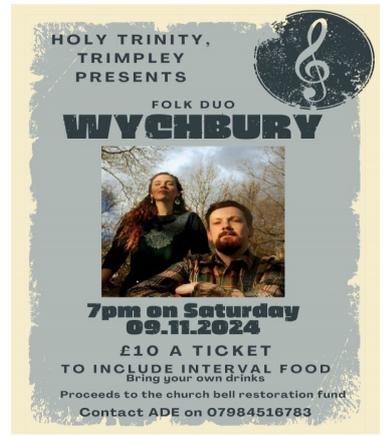
Holy Trinity Church

In August the All Age Worship was called "Art in the Churchyard". Everyone was invited to make something out of materials that could be found: amazing pieces were produced (see photos below) and everyone was delighted to create something from what was around us in God's creation. The art was left in place for a few weeks to be enjoyed by visitors.



In September Archdeacon Mark Badger led the Holy Communion Service; he had last been in Trimpley over 30 years ago. It was a pleasure to welcome him to Holy Trinity.

In November, Wychbury will be entertaining in aid of the Church Bell Restoration Fund (See →)



Art in the Churchyard



The MacMillan Coffee Morning held in September raised nearly £300. This was part of the monthly Coffee Mornings, held on the first Monday in the month, in the Village Hall which are free of charge. For more details, or to get involved please contact Jenny 07773919960.

Saturday 21st September saw the launch of the 2025 Holy Trinity calendar. Photographs from the competition were displayed around the church and refreshments served. Calendars are available at £7 each from Sue Thompson 01562752389 or in church after a Service. Looking ahead, on Sunday 3rd November at 4pm there will be an All Souls Service. A Service of readings, prayers and gentle music where everyone is welcome to come and remember loved ones, to light a candle and spend some time in quiet reflection.

Then, back by popular demand, on Saturday 30th November at 3pm, Grace Notes Choir will be performing in Church. Refreshments will be available. We are also in the process of planning another concert – so keep a look out for information on noticeboards around the village, on our Facebook page @HolyTrinityChurchTrimpley and our website www.achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-Trimpley

Christmas Services: Carols by Candlelight—Sunday 22nd December 4pm; Crib Service - Tuesday 24th December 3pm; Family friendly Holy Communion Service—Christmas Day 10am

Please do remember that the church building is always open for you to pop in, and everyone is welcome to all Holy Trinity Services and Events.

Finally, many congratulations and every blessing for Sue MacAskill and Kevin Draper who got married at St Mary's Church, Kidderminster on Saturday 28th September.

Volunteers and Litter Collectors

You may be unaware of some unsung heroes in the parish, who we would like to publicly thank here, who voluntarily go out and collect litter thrown out in local laybys and lanes. On a regular basis, you may see Alex Jordan and Ade Partridge going about to collect litter, which has been thoughtlessly discarded. Alex even made a sign to try to stop litter being dumped locally.



If we all took a disposable bag with us, when going for a walk, and **safely** collected litter we may come across, then we could keep the parish looking much tidier.

The Parish Council would also like to thank all those who already do these impromptu litter picks and also the volunteers who turn out regularly to keep the churchyard tidy. Such pride in the local area where we live and commendable voluntary community spirit will no doubt be invaluable in this age of service cuts, and help keep our parish a pleasant place to live.

Safety & Notes from the Police

Just a gentle reminder to all that the darker nights are drawing in and people are urged to secure and lock their houses and vehicles whilst unattended.

Also, when the frosty mornings start, people should never leave their vehicle unattended defrosting!

In addition to our local *trimpleywatch*, it is also useful to sign up to **Neighbourhood Matters**. This messaging service / email alert service is updated by members of the Bewdley Neighbourhood Team for residents of the area and gives advice on matters of safety, as well as any crime alerts locally.

Report it

In current times, with many service cut-backs, it seems that communities often have to rely on willing volunteers, or self-help to keep an area a pleasant place to live. However, some problems you may come across locally are beyond the ability of local people to deal with and when it is useful to have services to call upon to deal with some issues, and I list below some contact information for you for some things you may encounter, to report these as necessary.

On the **District Council** website: click on "report it" www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/my-wyre-forest

- **Flytipping**
- **Dead animals**
- **Issues with trees on WFDC Land (e.g. Habberley Valley)**
- **Street Cleaning and Care (inc. litter offences)**
- **Problems with your refuse bin, or collection**

On the **County Council** website, go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/report-road-or-path-issue (as it says) to report a road or path issue—including:

- **Gritting routes and issues with Grit Bins**
- **Potholes or damage to road or pavement surface**
- **Issues with Public Rights of Way**
- **Drainage and Flooding**
- **Mud, Oil, and other spillages on the highway**

Although we, as a Parish, along with our Lengthsman, will help whenever we can, your direct public reports in addition to either County or District will reinforce our Parish reports.

Trimpley Green WI Meetings

20th November—AGM followed by Christmas Music with Frances Fry

18th December—Christmas Fun & Secret Santa Meetings are usually held at 7.30p.m. in Trimpley Village Hall

