

G R E A T W Y R L E Y

PARISH GUIDE



2008–2010



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Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in the Great Wyrley Parish Guide is correct and neither Plus Publishing Services nor Great Wyrley Parish Council accept responsibility for any loss or inconvenience arising from any errors which may have occurred.

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For further details contact our school office on

01922 857020 or

e-mail us at: office@landywood.staffs.sch.uk

Our vision is:

- To be the best we can possibly be
- Relationships between all groups of individuals should be built on a mutual respect and trust.
- Care and concern for other human beings should be an essential aspect of our daily lives.
- A serious approach to learning should be balanced with a sense of humour and fun.
- Each and every member of our school has the right to feel included as part of the whole organisation.



WELCOME TO GREAT WYRLEY

On behalf of Great Wyrley Parish Council may I welcome you to the second edition of our Parish Guide. Once more Great Wyrley Parish Council has agreed to sponsor the guide for the benefit of the community. The guide contains a wealth of information on all aspects of life within Great Wyrley, covering civic, social, commercial and voluntary organisations. It also shows the services directly provided to the community by the Great Wyrley Parish Council. It is intended to be of use not only for local residents, but also for visitors to the area.

You will find details of the depth and breadth of services, organisations and groups who operate within the area. It will be of no surprise to the Parish Council how well blessed this community is with the number of people who quite happily volunteer their services in order to make the area a better place to live. They ask for no reward and often are never recognised. The Parish Council would wish to place on record its thanks and appreciation to all those who make such positive contributions to the improvements in the quality of life resulting from their efforts.

Can I express my thanks to all those who were involved in the publication of this guide, including Plus Publishing Services who have produced it. We have tried very hard to ensure that the information contained in this guide is accurate however if there are any omissions or errors please accept our apologies.

Cllr. Tom Lowe, Chairman – Great Wyrley Parish Council 2008-2009



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GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Great Wyrley Parish Council came into existence in 1894, following the enactment of the Local Government Act of the same year. One of its very first investments must have been the purchase of land for the purpose of a Cemetery, the land being situated in Station Street in Cheslyn Hay. The Conveyance for the land is dated Nineteenth of May 1896, and is hand written throughout, and is not noted for its full stops. The land was purchased for the sum of “four hundred and sixty three pounds five shillings and eight pence”, and was purchased by the Parish Council from “The Great Wyrley Colliery Company” and “Bernard Gilpin of Longford in the Parish of Cannock in the County of Stafford Gentleman.” The Conveyance was signed by the then Chairman of the Council, Charles Bromwell, Member Thos. Sambrook and Clerk Thomas Garratt. Since those days Great Wyrley Cemetery has been the burial ground for both residents of Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay and beyond.



The Secretary and Clerk

Since those days the Council has invested heavily on providing services to the community. Today the Parish Council provides services that in other areas are provided by District Councils, for example sports pitches with changing rooms, recreation areas, a cemetery, children’s play areas, a community centre, public open space, youth shelters, skateboard park, BMX track, bus shelters. These are some of the services that the Parish Council directly provides for the community.



Ground staff

An increasing role that is becoming more and more important is acting as a focal point for the concerns of local residents; and voicing those concerns to other organisations such as the Staffordshire County Council, the South Staffordshire District Council, the Highways Authority, and the South Staffordshire Housing Association to mention but a few.

The Parish Council meets, usually, on the first Wednesday of the month (except August when there is a recess). Meetings commence at 7.15pm, and there is a public participation session during the meeting where local residents are welcome to raise local issues if they inform of their intention prior to the commencement of the meeting. The Leisure Services Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee meet alternatively on the second Wednesday each month (again except for August).

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The meetings are advertised on notice boards throughout the village, but it is worth checking prior to attending a meeting in case there has been a change of date.

The Parish Offices are located in the Community Centre, Landywood Lane, and are open between the hours of 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Telephone 01922 414768, Fax 01922 701609, e-mail: mike@great-wyrley-pc.demon.co.uk, website: www.great-wyrley.net.

On the following pages you will see the services provided by the Council in greater detail.

GREAT WYRLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Great Wyrley Community Centre is situated on Landywood Lane next door to the Health Centre and adjacent to the Quinton Court Shopping Centre. It is owned and managed by Great Wyrley Parish Council.

A wide range of voluntary groups and organisations are based at the Community Centre and a timetable of hirers are shown below (correct at time of going to press).

Monday

Landywood Playgroup	Hall	9am -12 noon
Art Class	Lounge	10am – 12 noon
Art Class	Club-Room	1pm – 3pm
N.H.S. Trust Support Group	Lounge	2pm – 4pm
Tap Class	Hall	7.00pm – 9.00pm

Tuesday

Landywood Playgroup	Hall	9am – 12noon
Art Class	Lounge	1.00pm – 3pm
Pensioner's Keep Fit	Hall	2.00pm – 4.00pm
Christie Theatre Arts	Hall	5.30pm – 9.00pm



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Wednesday

Landywood Playgroup	Hall	9am – 12 noon
Weight Watchers	Lounge	9.30am – 11.30am
Tap Class	Hall	1pm – 3pm
Computer Class	Lounge	1pm – 3pm
Council Meetings	Lounge	7.15pm – 10.00pm

Thursday

Landywood Playgroup	Hall	9am – 12 noon
Art Club	Lounge	12.30pm – 2.30pm
Kickboxing	Hall	7pm – 8pm
Dance Class	Hall	8.30pm – 10.30pm

Friday

Pensioner's Friday Lunch (monthly)	Hall	12.00 – 4.00pm
Available for Private Hire		

Saturday

Chrystie Theatre Arts	Hall	9.00am – 5.30pm
Available for Private Hire		

Sunday

Available for Private Hire

In addition to the above

- the Great Wyrley Physically Handicapped Club meet once a month on a Thursday afternoon from 2.45pm – 4.30pm.
- the Blood Transfusion Service hires the whole of the Community Centre on a monthly basis for blood donations on Fridays.

The Community Centre has three individual rooms for hire the Main Hall, the Lounge and the Club Room. The Centre is fully licensed and all forms of regulated activities can be catered for. There is a bar in both the Main Hall and the Lounge. There are sliding doors between the Lounge and Hall so that for the larger party the Main Hall and Lounge can be combined to make for a larger room. Thus the rooms are adaptable for whatever occasion hirers might have in mind; from the small intimate group to the larger party.

The Club Room can be used for a small meeting room but is also available to support the larger party also and can be used for cloaks or food.

The bar is operated by the Council's professional caterers Plyvine Ltd of Stourbridge who have been the Council's caterers for many years and are well used to any type of function. They can provide a wide range of foods and are capable of serving any size of hire.

Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday are available for the private party or function and no occasion is too small. The Council has a small but professional team who run and maintain the Community



Community Centre



Community Centre staff

Centre and enquiries can be made via 01922 414768, day time and evenings. Members of staff will be on duty during your function to support and assist during your time at the Community Centre.

The Parish Council also provides a number of functions within the Community Centre for the benefit of the local community. On a monthly basis there is a luncheon club for elderly citizens – a three course meal with entertainment/bingo for £5.00. Transport to and from the Community Centre can be arranged via Landywood and District Voluntary Help Centre. These take place on a Friday but as there is no established pattern you are advised to

phone 01922 414768. The Parish Council are always looking out for volunteers to help.

During the Christmas period there are a number of activities taking place, including a pantomime for young children, pensioners Christmas parties (two sittings), Carol Concert, New Years Eve Party, New Years Day Walk.

The Parish Council is always seeking volunteers to help support the above functions.

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LEISURE SERVICES WITHIN THE PARISH

The Parish Council provides a wide range of leisure services within the Parish.

RECREATION GROUND

The Recreation Ground is located at the junction of Jones' Lane and the main A34 Walsall Road. The recreation ground comprises three football pitches (one of which is a junior pitch), changing rooms, groundsmen's store and play area.

MEMORIAL GARDENS

At the actual junction with the Walsall Road and Jones' Lane is the Memorial Gardens. The actual memorial is the gates and surrounds, the brick piers contains names of the fallen as do the wrought iron gates. The original gates were stolen just under 20 years ago and the new gates were provided by the good graces of local businessmen and were manufactured by Cannock Gates. Inside the Memorial Gardens is a landscaped area of trees and rose beds, and there are a number of other memorials, including a tribute to Princess Diana and the obelisk requested by the British Legion. There is also the first tree to be planted by the Forest of Mercia a maturing oak.



Memorial Gates

OPEN SPACE

There are a number of areas of public open space owned by the Parish Council i.e.

- Star Land (containing Jubilee Drive)
- Yemscroft
- Community Centre Field
- Millennium Green



Skate Park

PLAY AREAS

The following play areas are supplied and maintained by the Council.

- Community Centre Field
- Leander Close
- Brook Lane
- Dunston Close
- Recreation Ground

YOUTH AREA

Contained on Community Centre Field there is a Youth Area comprising of

- Skateboard Park
- Youth Shelter
- B.M.X. track
- Five-a-side and basket ball area

BUS SHELTERS

The Parish Council own 12 bus shelters throughout the village.

CEMETERY

Although located within the Parish of Cheslyn Hay the Great Wyrley Cemetery is owned, operated and maintained by the Parish Council.

It was purchased in 1895 by the Parish Council, which had only just been created. The original conveyance is many pages long and is in wonderful copper-plate hand writing with no sign of punctuation marks.

The Cemetery is rapidly coming to the end of its useful life, although it will be some years from now before burials will cease.

QUILIANO

Great Wyrley Parish Council has developed friendship links with Quiliano, a village in Northern Italy. The friendship really started in January 1998 when Landywood Primary School developed links with the Primary Schools in Quiliano as a result of an educational initiative developed by the European Union. These partnerships developed and blossomed and were brought to the attention of the Parish Council by the then Headteacher, Mr Alan Stockley.

Following preliminary meetings between representatives of both authorities during May 1999 it was agreed to sign a document of intent. In that same year mutual exchange visits were undertaken.



**The Municipal Coat of Arms
of Quiliano**

The Chairman of the Parish Council at the time, Councillor Brian Wood, and the Mayor of the Commune of Quiliano, Nicola Isetta signed the document of friendship. The document was signed firstly in Quiliano and then, later in the year in Great Wyrley.

Both Communities declared their wish to:

- Value the experiences that have already been gained
- Allow the exchange of geographical, social and cultural information between the representative communities
- Give the young citizens of both communities the opportunity to widen their cultural horizons and be related to different social worlds
- Compare and contrast different economic and touristic realities within the communities by seeking ways of interaction, exchange and development

Since those days a number of visits and exchanges have taken place and successful links have been established between Wyrley Juniors Football Club and their counterparts in Quiliano and a number of joint football tournaments have taken place.

The Parish Council is anxious to continue the development of the links of friendship between the two communities and would welcome ideas and suggestions from the community.

Quiliano is a commune (municipality) in the Province of Savona in the Italian region of Liguria, located about 45 km southwest of Genoa and about 5 km west of Savona. As of 31 December 2004, it had a population of 7,225 and an area of 49.5 km².

The municipality of Quiliano contains these frazioni (subdivisions, mainly villages and hamlets): Cadibona, astride the watershed between the Alps and Appennines, Valleggia, Montagna, Roviassa, Faia and Tiassano.

In the environs of Quiliano remain several Roman archaeological sites: a Roman bridge still functions in the valley of **Quazzola** and remains of a Roman villa may be seen at San Pietro in Carpignano.



The Church of St Lorenzo – Quiliano

YOUTH FACILITIES

As well as providing direct services to the youth of Great Wyrley, the Parish Council promotes strong links within the community with the local youth groups. The local Scouts, Guides, Beavers, local schools, and pre-school groups all support and assist the Parish Council in many ways. The Parish Council is very grateful for all the support given throughout the year by all such groups.

The Parish Council has also always worked very closely with the Royal British Legion, and when the Chairman of the local branch, Mr John O Talbot approached the Parish Council about forging links with local cadet organisations the Parish Council readily agreed.

As a result the Parish Council formed links with the Air Training Corps 196 Squadron based at Bloxwich and Training Ship Vanguard Sea/Marine Cadets based at Walsall. In 2004 the Parish Council “adopted” both of these organisations. In the same year the Council also formed links with the Army Cadets based in Cannock.

Since those days the Air and Sea Cadets in particular have played an active role within the Great Wyrley community and with the other youth groups mentioned as well as the Army Cadets when available have supported:

- The Remembrance Day Services
- The 60th Anniversary of D Day
- The end of the Second World War celebrations
- The dedication of the new Memorial to those killed in action in the Memorial Gardens in the Autumn of 2005
- Great Wyrley Parish Council Civic Services
- The annual Great Wyrley bonfire
- The annual pensioners Christmas party
- The Great Wyrley Carnival

Those involved with all these organisations can be proud of the service so freely given by the members within them, certainly the Parish Council is extremely grateful for the support it receives. The Council would struggle to put some of these functions on.

THE GREAT WYRLEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Who are we?

Membership of the Great Wyrley Community Partnership is open to any person from the volunteer/community organisations within the village of Great Wyrley or have links primarily operating in the village.

What do we do?

The object and aims of the Community Partnership is to identify projects for the benefit of the community, gain funding to support these projects and work together as a partnership to promote community links in the village. To this aim we share information for all groups involved so that any of the events are given publicity throughout the village.

What have we done/are doing?

We have produced a video of memories from the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II, funded by the Lottery. As part of this we have supported various groups in the village to celebrate their own events, these have included the High School, Royal British Legion and Townswomen's Guild.

We assisted the Parish Council in the Best Kept Village Competition (2007) by undertaking 'litter picks' and running Poster and Computer Graphics Competition. We have also assisted in the



Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School

Headteacher: Mr C Leach
Tel: 01922 857030
Fax: 01922 857066
Email: office@gwpahs.org

Hall Lane
Great Wyrley
Walsall
WS6 6LQ



The High School is a mixed 11 to 18 comprehensive school serving mainly the Great Wyrley and Landywood communities. We also attract students from a much wider area between Cannock and Walsall. We have a pleasant, well-equipped campus offering students a wide variety of academic and sporting facilities including a theatre, drama studio, recording studio, swimming pool, gymnasium and an extensive computer network. All buildings and areas of the school have wheelchair access, following the installation of five lifts and numerous ramps. Most departments are housed in specialist accommodation allowing close collaboration between staff and teaching groups. As a Specialist Performing Arts College we are upgrading our facilities further for art, music and drama, whilst continuing to develop and offer the full range of curriculum to all students.

The Governors, Staff and Students of the school are committed to maximising the potential of all members of our learning community. We seek to provide a secure and happy working environment where we can build our futures on the best of the past. Our students are the greatest advertisement for our work and we welcome visits from prospective parents and their youngsters to see the quality of the education we have on offer.

The school has strong links with the community being part of the Great Wyrley Community Partnership. As well as being the home of the Great Wyrley Community Band, Drama and Musical Society, numerous sporting and recreational groups are based at the school. All the facilities are available for hire by the community in the evenings, at weekends and during the holidays.

For more information on the above or anything to do with the school arrange a visit by calling on 01922 857030.

promotion of Healthy Walks Initiative. We produced the Great Wyrley Calendar, made up of photographs from the village, and we are now exploring the viability of a Heritage Wall to commemorate the history of the village, and purchasing items that can promote 'the community'.

When/Where do we meet?

We meet on a monthly basis at the Senior Citizens Centre, Broadmeadow Lane on the first Thursday of the month, 7.30pm – 9.00pm if a Bank Holiday it is usually the second. Please check with the people listed below if you want to come along, you will be most welcome.

There is a constitution and the Annual General Meeting will take place on 1st Thursday in November.

The group always welcomes new members so come along and see what we do.

Contacts Sue Wood 01922 414181 or Mavis Elwell on 01922 414153.

LOCAL CHURCHES

St Mark's Church

St Mark's Church was built in 1844/45 in order to serve the communities of Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay. In 1840 the vicar of Cannock realised that St Luke's in Cannock could not accommodate all those entitled to worship there. It was decided to build a Church in Great Wyrley and the building cost was £2,800.

The First Christening took place on the day that the Church was consecrated, July 22nd 1845. In 1849 a school and a master's house was built on land adjacent to the churchyard. The school was attended by around 100 children.

Many changes and additions took place over the years but in 1974 a serious fire broke out and a great deal of damage occurred. Despite the fact that the repairs took over twelve months to complete the Vicar, the Revd. John Craig never cancelled a service.

The Church is very active within the community and supports a number of groups and organisations.

Contact Revd. Graham Horner, the Vicarage, 1, Cleves Crescent, Cheslyn Hay 01922 414309.



St Mark's Church



St Andrews Church

St Andrews

St Andrews Church was constructed in the late 1960's with the foundation stone being laid on 30th April 1966. The Church was commissioned to serve the Landywood area, and the then Vicar of St Mark's Church, in the late 1950's organised a Planned Giving Programme. This was required to raise £12,000 over three years.

The first fully ordained Vicar was the Reverend John Dixon, and in his time of ministry St Andrews became a fully-fledged District Church responsible for its own finances.

The current Minister is the Revd. Richard Westwood 46, Gorsey Lane, Great Wyrley, 01922 419161

St Marks and St Andrews supports the following: King's Club, Carers and Toddlers Club, St Marks Choir, Faith Finders, Comet Boy's Club, Tots Time, Wotever Club, 2-3 Club, Men's Society at St Mark's, St Mark's Music Group, Prayer Groups Mothers Union.

Great Wyrley Wesley Methodist Church

It is said that John Wesley preached in a barn near to the Wheatsheaf Inn. As a result Methodism became very strong in Great Wyrley. The first Methodist chapel was built in 1836. It was a small building at the junction of Benton's Lane and Gorsey lane. Due to its size a new Church was built alongside the first to accommodate bigger congregations. Unfortunately subsidence caused too great a problem and eventually the buildings were abandoned.

A new chapel was built at the junction of the Walsall Road and Shaw's Lane and this was opened in 1925.

The Church supports a Sunday School and youth groups, ladies groups, Wesley Guild and Bible Study Groups.

Contact Revd. Anthony Hick 01922 414156.

Upper Landywood Methodist Church

The Chapel is a small traditional building built in the last century by volunteers. It is a well-kept building in good repair. The Church stands in an area between Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay and overlooks a narrow stretch of land in Streets Lane with very little additional grounds.

The current membership is small and there are a number of adherents who come from the immediate area and further afield.

The Church believes that there is every hope that a traditional Sunday evening preaching service with quarterly communion will continue to attract a mature congregation with occasional attendances reaching twenty or more for special services.

Contact Revd. Anthony Hick 01922 414156.



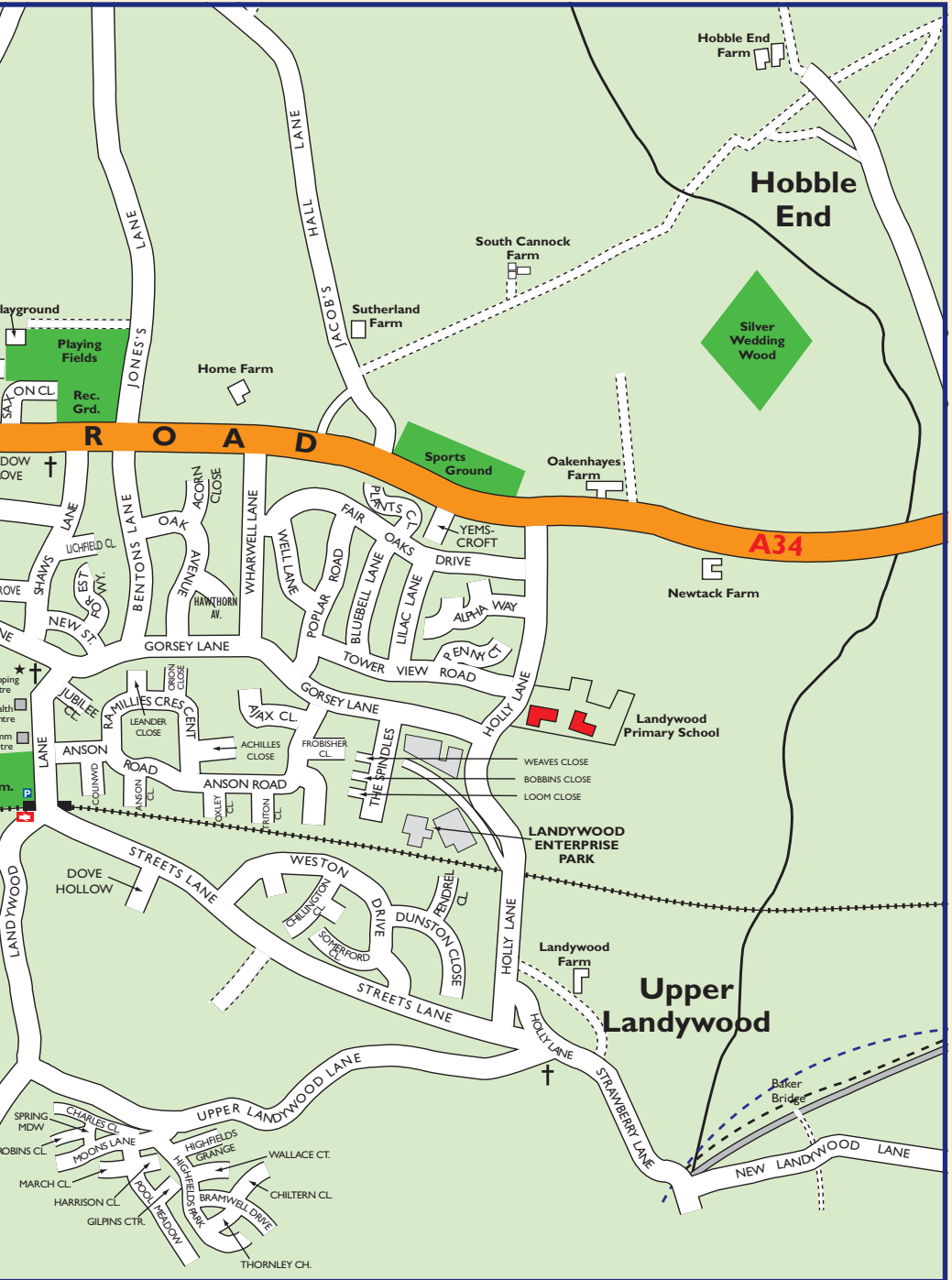
Great Wyrley Methodist Church



Upper Landywood Methodist Church



GREAT WYRLEY PARISH MAP



Hobbie End

Silver Wedding Wood

A34

Upper Landywood

Landywood Primary School

LANDYWOOD ENTERPRISE PARK

Landywood Farm

South Cannock Farm

Sutherland Farm

Oakenhayes Farm

Home Farm

Newtack Farm

Hobbie End Farm

Sports Ground

Playing Fields

ROAD

Rec. Grd.

SAISON CL.

DOW DOVE

SHAW'S LANE

LICHFIELD CL.

NEW ST.

GORSEY LANE

JUBILEE CL.

ANSON

DOVE HOLLOW

LANDYWOOD

STREETS LANE

WESTON

UPPER LANDYWOOD LANE

CHARLES CL.

MOONS LANE

MARCH CL.

HARRISON CL.

GILPINS CTR.

THORNLEY CH.

WALLACE CT.

CHILTERN CL.

BRANWELL DRIVE

HIGHFIELDS GRANGE

HIGHFIELDS PARK

FOOT MEADOW

WALLACE CT.

CHILTERN CL.

BRANWELL DRIVE

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BRANWELL DRIVE

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School

Great Wyrley Senior Mixed School was opened in 1941, two years after it was supposed to due to the outbreak of war. Three hundred and forty nine pupils were enrolled – 111 of them were evacuees from Margate. In 1958 the School roll was 647 and the school was somewhat overcrowded and by now the School was called Great Wyrley County Secondary School.

In 1973 the number on roll had reached 1,290 however the school had changed due to a building programme in the late 1960's. Changes in education meant that the school lost its first and second years to newly established "Middle Schools". In September 1980 there were 761 pupils.

In 1985 education changed once more and the school became a High School for pupils 11–18. The National Curriculum was then introduced and the GCSE had also arrived. Then in 2006 the school was granted the accolade of a Performing Arts School High School. The new Headteacher, Mr Leach arrived in 2004.

New investment in the school continues following a new science block and a growing range of facilities for students with disabilities, which point to a confident and exciting future.

Contact Headteacher Mr Leach 01922 857030.

Moat Hall Primary School

Moat Hall Primary School was built in 1968 and celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Moat Hall has changed dramatically over the years. The school was built close to the site of Moat House sharing a site with the High School. The original Infant and Junior Schools shared an entrance from Park Lane. Eventually they replaced Great Wyrley Primary School which is today used as Great Wyrley Day Centre.

Major changes took place during the 1970's and 1980's with new building taking place. However a fire to the first school building was a disaster and North Wyrley had to wait another 10 more years for a nursery.

The current school opened in 1986 with staff moving from schools throughout the area.

The school is now welcoming the grandchildren of original pupils asking to be in the same "houses" as their parents and grandparents: Spode, Wedgwood, Minton and Shelly.

Contact Mrs McSorley Headteacher 01922 857005.

Landywood Primary School

A school has existed on the present site of Landywood Primary School since 1908, when a Victorian type building was erected.

The old school had a long and successful history right up to the early 1970's when a new junior school was built. The old building could no longer cope with the needs of an expanding community. In 1972 Landywood Junior School was opened by Sir Patrick Cormack MP.



School children on Carnival Day

Changes to the education system in the 1970's with the introduction of three tier school systems meant major changes to Landywood Infant and Landywood Junior Schools.

The three tier system only lasted nine years and in 1985 the schools were changed again. The Landywood Primary School was thus instituted.

The present Landywood School is a successful primary school with over (300) children attending. A new Headteacher has recently been appointed

Contact Mr Withers Headteacher 01922 857020.

Saint Thomas More Catholic School and Church Hall

Saint Thomas More Catholic School was opened in 1973. The school was built on a piece of land in Huthill Lane purchased by the then Parish Priest, Fr. Charles Friel. The land was originally purchased to build a school and a church to serve local families. At that time Mass was celebrated at "The Institute" at the corner of Norton Lane and the Walsall Road.

Unfortunately Fr. Friel passed away before the project was completed and Fr. David Duggan continued with the project. Due to changing needs the project was changed to a school with a church hall.

Since those days the school and church hall has been successful in its aim of serving the community. Over the years the church hall has become the home of many groups including the Ladies Guild, The Men's Society, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies and dancing groups. Number of pupils on roll has steadily risen and stand at over 160 now with the school serving both Catholic and non Catholic families in the Great Wyrley Area.

Contact: Mr D. McCauley Headteacher 01922 857075.



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A SELECTION OF LOCAL AMENITIES

Senior Citizens Welfare Centre – Broadmeadow Lane

The Centre was opened in 1959 by the Bishop of Lichfield. The Centre was built following a decision made by the “Darby and Joan” Club of Senior Citizens to have a home of their own. Until then they had met at the Great Wyrley Wesleyan Church.

The original intention was to be open each day; however this did not work out and the Centre opens for the specific needs of the groups who use the Centre.

The Centre is overseen by a Management Committee made up from the user groups and the Parish Council who give the Centre a grant of £1,100 each year. They do welcome any local residents who wish to support them.

Great Wyrley Working Men’s Institute

Situated on the corner of Norton Lane and the Walsall Road this venture was unique, providing a facility for the working man a social and recreational opportunity without the influence of intoxicating drink.

The land was donated by a Mr W Smith and the building was opened by Colonel Harrison of Norton Hall in 1870 and contained one of the first public libraries. It also provided a reading room with newspapers and periodicals for members.

It was regrettably neglected during the Second World War and used as a youth club after but this too waned.

The building is now used by the Table Tennis Club whose secretary is Mr Tony Reeves 01922 634648.



The Institute

Great Wyrley Multi-Purpose Day Centre

Great Wyrley Multi Purpose Day Centre is a day service for the local community based at what was the local junior school. It was opened in 1988. A respite unit adjoining the day centre was opened in 1992. The aim of the service is to provide a holistic care to vulnerable people from ages 19 to 90 plus. The service protects the individual user’s independence, protects their status and offers a variety of opportunities to assist development both physically and mentally.

The service is provided by Staffordshire County Council who recently completed a review of all such facilities. Whilst other areas may not have been successful the decision not to close the facility in the short term has been welcomed.

Landywood and District Voluntary Help Centre

This well respected voluntary help organisation founded in 1976 operates from 154, Walsall Road, Great Wyrley.

The Voluntary Help Centre provides a range of support for the elderly and vulnerable through its network of volunteers who come from all walks of life. These services include transport to hospitals, doctors and local clinics, local clubs for the elderly and disabled, lunches (served on our premises) for elderly people who need support, coffee shop at 154 for people to pop in and have a drink and socialise. The Centre also runs a club for local people with special needs, a shop selling good quality second hand clothing and bric a brac and loans Red Cross medical equipment.

Voluntary work does not affect unemployment benefit. It can be very rewarding and a good way of meeting a new range of friends. We urgently need drivers for our own transport plus escorts with carers to help as hostesses (during the daytime and evening) and support teams for the enquiry desk and Centre shop. Tel. No. 01922 418381.



Landywood and District Voluntary
Help Centre

Office hours Mon. to Fri. 10am-12 noon, Mon. Tues. and Wed. afternoons 1.30-3.30pm.

Great Wyrley Scout and Guide Centre – Linford Lodge
Great Wyrley Scout and Guide Centre is located on the A34 Walsall Road adjacent to the Star Public House adjacent to the Star Land Public Open Space. It is a fine example as to how voluntary groups can co-operate and join together to bring forward a fine facility. A gift of land was made following the proposal of Mike Collins a Parish Councillor and Sir Patrick Cormack MP.

The building was professionally designed by architects and the local community got together and raised funds and worked themselves to get the building erected. The facility opened in 1988 the culmination of 10 years very hard work.

Contact Mrs Mary Owen 01922 412449.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF GREAT WYRLEY

Wyrley is well over 1,000 years old. Its name is Saxon in origin derived from Wir leah “the bog myrtle glade”. In the Domesday Book Wereleia was said to consist of four carucates of cultivated land and was held by Almicas of the Bishop of Chester. Following the Norman Conquest a large tract of land belonging to the Bishopric of Lichfield was absorbed into Cank Forest to make a Royal Chase.

Possibly not more than 50 or so people would have inhabited the wild countryside that was swampy and covered with bracken and unkempt forest.

In Alfred the Great's time the Treaty of Wedmore cited the Watling Street as the dividing line between the Saxons in the south and the Danes in the north. The Saxons were still in Wyrley when the Normans came, and William the Conqueror allowed a Wyrley Saxon to remain as the Forester of Cannock Chase.



The Pool by Garrets Brook

So our coat of Arms depicts three bugles to remind us of the Royal Chase we once were, the stringing of the bugles with the bog myrtle plant reminds us of the swamps that covered so much of our area. The arms of the Wyrley family are described as an azure shield on which an argent chevron is engrailed between three bugle horns sable.

The ancient family of Wyrley had a continuous existence of 600 years acquiring land at Hampstead and Perry Barr near Birmingham. There are many streets and areas bearing the Wyrley name in the Midlands. It is on record that Adam, son of Robert, bought land in Wereleia in 1154 and styled himself “de Wereleia”.

Mark Wyrley was a Member of Parliament in 1554; William Wyrley was amanuensis (literary assistant) to Erdeswicke when he wrote his survey of Staffordshire in 1597. Sir John Wyrley, knighted in 1641, was a devoted Royalist, unlike the people of the village from which he took his name, for they were predominately Roundhead.

In the latter end of the eighteenth century the family name came to an end, with an heiress who married into a family called Birch of Leacroft, Cannock. The name of Wyrley appears in many varieties of spelling; Wirleg, Wirlegh, Wirele, Werlay, Wyrle, and Worley. Disputes about land ownership are frequently mentioned in the assize rolls of King John, the plea rolls of Henry II and even more frequently in the plea roll of King Edward I (1272 – 1307).

For the most part Wyrley has been a peaceful village since the Danes and Saxons considered it not worth fighting over.

However it is said that in the Civil War period there was a skirmish in the area of Wharwell Lane. The Moated Manor House of Wyrley, home of Colonel Leveson, a staunch Royalist, was destroyed to prevent it being used as a gun emplacement to threaten the Roundheads' encampment at Wharwell Lane.

Much of the Cank Forest was cleared by Tudor times, when oak was used for fuel and the building of ships. With clearance and drainage of the land the village expanded into an agricultural community. Then, with coal and iron being discovered in the 18th and 19th century it brought to Wyrley its own industrial revolution. New canals, new roads, new railways all brought skilled men and materials together and where they met new factories were built as at Churchbridge, to forge the tools needed to develop the new colonial

lands overseas. Miners, industrial workers needed homes, shops and public houses. They needed religion and education; churches, chapels and schools were built and so the village grew.

Whilst we no longer have the coal or the canals the return of the railway has been welcomed and the convenience of the A34, A5, M6 and M6 Toll keeps the village of Great Wyrley an attractive place to live, lying close to the countryside and easy commuting distance of the conurbation.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Great Wyrley is situated to the north of the West Midland conurbation. It is within the County of Staffordshire and the District of South Staffordshire. The attractions of the nearby cities of Birmingham and Wolverhampton are close by as are the towns of Walsall, West Bromwich and Dudley. The centre of the country's second city is only 15 miles from Great Wyrley. Therefore if you wish to see Premiership football it is only a short journey to Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion, and Championship football at The Wolves and Birmingham City; Walsall FC is in League One.

However living in Great Wyrley is close to living in the Countryside; just to the north is the town of Cannock and the smallest Area of Outstanding Beauty in mainland Britain is that of Cannock Chase.

Cannock Chase is well known for it's herd of deer and the Staffordshire County Council has established a well used Visitor Centre at Marquis Drive where there is a small display of the history of Cannock Chase. Scenic walks can be followed with good signposting and guides to help you follow the routes. Specially marked trails lead walkers deep into the forests of Scots and Norwegian Pine Oaks and Silver Birch. Herds of Red, Muntjac, Roe and Fallow Deer roam the 20,000 acres together with Foxes, Badgers, even the English red squirrel is rumoured to be present and a colourful variety of birdlife.

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The Great War Trail reminds us that during World War I, the Chase was home and training ground to thousands of Commonwealth servicemen. The Chase is also the home of the Commonwealth war Memorial and the German Military Cemetery as well as the Katyn Memorial. The Katyn Memorial was built in the memory of the 14,000 members of Polish forces and professional classes executed in the Katyn Forest in 1940. This memorial reflects the strong Polish community in Staffordshire.

Other close by Country Parks and gardens are Baggeridge Country Park near Wombourne, Biddulph Grange near Stoke-on-Trent, Highgate Common Country Park near Swindon South Staffordshire and the National Memorial Arboretum is located at Alrewas.



Memorial dedication

Museums available also, the Museum of Cannock Chase is located at Hednesford, Cheddleton Flint Mill at Leek, Bass Museum of Brewing at Burton on Trent, and Royal Air Force Museum at Cosford Shifnal, Etruria Industrial Museum Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire County Museum at Shugborough Staffordshire Regimental Museum based at Whittington Barracks Lichfield.

Of historical interest are Ancient High House (largest timber framed house in England) Stafford; Boscobel House, where King Charles II hid, Brewood; Castle Ring, an Iron Age fort, Cannock Wood; Chartley Castle Weston Stafford; Chillington Hall Codsall Wood; Kinver Edge Iron Age hill fort Kinver; Lichfield Cathedral Lichfield; Moseley Old Hall Elizabethan House Wolverhampton; Shugborough ancestral home of the Lichfields; Stafford Castle; Tamworth Castle; Wall (Letocetum) Roman site on the A5 near Wall; Weston Park ancestral seat of the Earls of Bradford.

Fun and entertainment can be had at Alton Towers, Drayton Manor Park and Zoo; Hednesford Raceway – stock car and other forms of motor racing; Snowdome a truly alpine experience Tamworth; Uttoxeter Racecourse and Wolverhampton Racecourses are reasonably close.

THE WYRLEY GANG

On the morning of February 1st 1903 a horse belonging to Mr Joseph Holmes was found slaughtered in a field; the nature of its injuries shocked local people being most cruel and severe. It was not an isolated incident as a series of such attacks were perpetrated, all in the Wyrley area. Due to the viciousness of the attacks and the numbers involved Great Wyrley became the centre of interest. Local people became frightened and local women and children would not venture out at night. The nickname given by locals of “Jack the Ripper” did not help to soothe the troubled times. The Home Secretary was lobbied by the Parish Council for extra policing and compensation for those who lost their animals, but he ruled that it would not be in order to levy an additional rate for this purpose. A public fund was inaugurated.

The outrages, in which sheep and cows as well as horses were involved, continued throughout the summer months with the same savage and disgusting methods. Letters were written which took the form of threats to individuals, bogus requests and even boasts about the activities of what the writer described as “The Wyrley Gang” led by a Captain Darby, and this started to bring notoriety to the situation. There is evidence that a great deal of the letters, some of which were very disturbing may have been written by the same individual and hand writing experts were called in who agreed that there were several characteristics common to the writer of most of the letters also that the person was educated and had a good knowledge of the English language.

On 18th August a pony belonging to Great Wyrley Colliery was mutilated and that same morning Inspector Campbell from Cannock and Sergeant Parson from Great Haywood arrested a Mr George E. T. Edalji who was a practising solicitor in Newhall St, Birmingham. George Edalji lived with his father the Revd. Shapurji Edalji at the Vicarage in Great Wyrley. The Revd. Edalji was previously a Parsee who had converted to Christianity, married an English woman and had been appointed as vicar at Great Wyrley. In the mid 1890's the family had been the butt of practical jokes and menacing anonymous letters. Even though these letters threatened the family it was considered by the Chief Constable that the culprit was George. When the key to the local grammar school was found on the Edalji doorstep the Chief Constable wrote to the vicar saying he knew George had been responsible and that "he hoped to give the culprit a dose of penal servitude". These events must have stuck and some dubious evidence was found at the family home resulting in George Edalji being sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

However the maiming continued; a thoroughbred horse belonging to Mr Harry Green of High House Farm was found in a field near Darges Lane. And when two horses were attacked at Landywood Farm, George was moved to Lewes Prison Sussex to prevent any communication with "associates". The boasts of Captain Darby and the Wyrley Gang continued.

In the meantime the case had received the attention of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle the author of the most famous fictional detective in the world; Sherlock Holmes. He investigated the case thoroughly and came to the conclusion that George was innocent (mind you it must be remembered that Sir Arthur also believed in fairies and was taken in by some rather famous 'photographs of two young girls and fairies'). This evidence as well as a 10,000 signature petition from the Wyrley area and public protests eventually led to a King's Pardon and George was released and re-admitted by the Law Society to their roll of solicitors. The Daily Telegraph began a subscription which raised some £300 for him.

The attacks petered out and so this revolting episode in the village's history terminated with the identity of the perpetrators and the object of their crimes still a mystery.

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In 1934 George Edalji wrote an article for the Daily Express, his last, apparently, public statement on the affair. He concludes:-

“The great mystery, however, remained unsolved. All kinds of theories were advanced. One is that the outrages were the work of a lunatic seized from time to time with blood lust. Another was that they were done with the idea of bringing the parish and police into disrepute, or possibly the work of some dismissed policeman. One curious theory was suggested to me. A man belonging to Staffordshire told me the outrages were committed, not by a human being, but one or more boars. He suggested that the animals were sent out at night after being given some kind of dope which made them ferocious. He said he had seen one of these boars. The boar theory seemed to me then – as it does now – too fantastic to be taken seriously”.

Footnote: a fictional book about the outrages and Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji has been written by Julian Barnes and published by Jonathan Cape (ISBN 0-224-07703-1 hardback and ISBN 0-224-07782-1 paperback).

How to Contact Us

If you wish to discuss parish matters there are a number of ways in which you can do this. You can speak directly to your local Parish Councillor or write to them at their contact details given below.

Members of Great Wyrley Parish Council

Landywood Ward

Cllr Mrs Carol Lawson	87 Fair Oaks Drive, Great Wyrley, WS6 6HA	416461
Cllr Christopher Tibbitts	3 Quinton Avenue, Great Wyrley, WS6 6LR	410231
Cllr Peter Turner	34 Wharwell Lane, Great Wyrley, WS6 6ET	414746
Cllr Brian Wood	53 Bentons Lane, Great Wyrley, WS6 6EE	414181
Cllr Mrs Sue Wood	53 Bentons Lane, Great Wyrley, WS6 6EE	414181
Vacancy		

North Ward

Cllr Miss Karen Jenkins	7 Station Road, Great Wyrley, WS6 6LH	410900
Vacancy		

Town Ward

Cllr Albert F Charles	29 Hut Hill Lane, Great Wyrley, WS6 6PD	412290
Cllr Shaun Jarvis	30 Saxon Close, Great Wyrley WS6 6DJ	07961901056
Cllr John Jones	47 Wardles Lane, Great Wyrley WS6 6DX	413198
Cllr Mrs Jacqui Lowe	74 Brooklands Avenue, Great Wyrley WS6 6LG	418346
Cllr Tom Lowe	74 Brooklands Avenue, Great Wyrley WS6 6LG	418346
Cllr Ron Myatt	35 Huthill Lane, Great Wyrley WS6 6PB	413849
Vacancy		

Alternatively you can speak to any member of the Parish Council staff, write telephone or e-mail. Contact details are as below.

The Parish Council offices are situated in the Community Centre, Landywood Lane, Great Wyrley, Walsall WS6 6JX.

Telephone: 01922 414768. Fax: 01922 701609. E-mail Address is mike@great-wyrley-pc.demon.co.uk, website: www.great-wyrley.net

LOCAL GROUPS

Children & Youth:

1st Great Wyrley Scouts
Mrs Mary Owen
5 Shanklin Close
Tel 01922 412449

The Scout H.Q.
Walsall Road
Contact: Mrs. Mary Owen
Tel 01922 412449

Cubs: As above

St Thomas More Scouts:
St Thomas More R.C. Primary School
Huthill Lane
Contact: Mrs. G. Wilson
Tel 01543 577509

Guides and Brownies:

The Scout H.Q.
Walsall Road
Contact: Mrs. Lisa Horton
Tel 01922 418129

Churches:

St Mark's Church, Station Road
Revd. Graham Horner
Tel 01922 414309

St Andrews Church, Hilton Lane
Revd. Richard Westwood
Tel 01922 419161

Great Wyrley Wesley Methodist Church
Walsall Road
Revd. Anthony Hick
Tel 01922 414156

Catholic Priest
The Presbytery,
Hallcourt Crescent, Cannock
Fr. Patrick Brennan
Tel 01543 503149

Education:

Landywood Primary School, Holly Lane
Headteacher: Mr. Withers
Tel 01922 857020

Moat Hall Primary School, Johns Lane
Headteacher: Mrs Patricia McSorley
Tel 01922 857005

St Thomas More R.C. Primary School
Huthill Lane
Headteacher: Mr D. McCauley
Tel 01922 857075

Great Wyrley High School
Hall Lane
Headteacher: Mr Leach
Tel 01922 857030

Playgroups:

Landywood Playgroup
Community Centre, Landywood Lane
Contact: Mrs L. Harrington
Tel 01922 414768

Quinton Playgroup
St Andrews Church, Hilton Lane
Contact: Mrs Brown
Tel 01922 419256

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St Mark's Playgroup
St Marks Church Hall
Station Road
Contact: Mrs L. Lownes
Tel 01543 574059

St Mark's Carers & Toddlers Group
St Marks Church Hall
Station Road
Contact: K. Sullivan
Tel 01922 701145

St Andrews Tots Time
St Andrews Church
Hilton Lane
Contact: Mrs N. Price
Tel 01922 412846

Environment:

CHADFACCS: Footpaths &
Conservation Society
Contact: Mrs M Kendrick
Tel 01922 414382

Recreation Groups:

Art and Art Appreciation
Great Wyrley Community Centre
Contact: Brenda Jenkins
01922 418662

Carnival Committee
Contact: Mr A. Kelsey
01922 414647

Cheslyn Hay and District
Historical Society
Contact: Trevor McFarlane
01922 414772
Trevor.cheslynhayhistorical@talktalk.net

Chrystie Theatre Arts
Community Centre, Landywood Lane
Contact: Mrs C. Powis
Tel 01922 417662

Darby & Joan Club
Contact: Mrs H. Whittaker
01922 415638

Great Wyrley Community Band
Contact: Mr Vaughan Smith
01543 257535

Leisure for Pleasure Art Group
Great Wyrley Wesley Methodist
Contact: Mrs Jenny Dunn
Tel 01922 415232

Mother's Union
St. Mark's Church Hall, Station Road
Contact: Mrs Gill Hall
Tel 01922 4129979

Pensioner's Keep Fit
Community Centre
Landywood Lane
Contact: 01922 414768

Physically Handicapped Group
Contact: Mrs J. Dunn
01922 412507

St Mark's Mens Society
Contact: Mr Gren Watson
Tel 01922 416879

Senior Citizens Club
Contact: Mrs N. Foster
Tel 01922 413663

Senior Citizens Welfare Committee
Broadmeadow Lane
Bookings: Mrs M Hill
Tel 01922 410429

Tai Chi
Great Wyrley Wesley Methodist
Contact: Richard Wilcox
01543 425924 or 07724183091

Townswomen's Guild
Contact: Mrs A Lyons
78 Love Lane
Great Wyrley
WS6 6NW

Walk and Talk
Great Wyrley Wesley Methodist
Contact: Mrs Pat Jones
Tel 01922 412094

Royal British Legion:

Contact: Mr John Talbot
01922 414363

Women's Section:

Contact: Mrs Pat Leach
01922 4417758

Voluntary Organisations:

Landywood Voluntary Help Centre
Walsall Road
Contact: Mrs C. Myatt
01922 418381

Great Wyrley Community Partnership
Contact: Mrs S Wood 01922 414181
or Mrs Mavis Elwell 01922 414153

Sport:

Great Wyrley Amateur Boxing Club
343 Walsall Road
Contact: Mr Peter Hickenbottom
Tel 07957601424

Wyrley Juniors F C
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gareth@downwithdesign.com
07836202764

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DOCTORS:**Great Wyrley Health Centre**

Wardles Lane
Dr Wilson 01922 415515
Dr Chaim 01922 415515
Dr Desai 01922414315
Dr Patel 01922 414949

Drs. G. Kukathasan and Dr. Sharma
The Surgery
2a Southfield Way
Tel: 01922 415151

Nile Practice

Park Street Cheslyn Hay
Dr Anna Onabola and
Dr H Zein'elabdin
01922 413209

High Street Surgery

Cheslyn Hay
Dr Webb, Dr Welding
and Dr Agarwala
01922 701280

DENTISTS:

Birchwood Dental Practice
Dr Sangha
171 Walsall Road
Great Wyrley
Tel: 01922 413275

Mr H.D. Khiroya
2 Southfield Way, Great Wyrley
01922 413703

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Any time Call free 0800 111 999

ENVIRONMENT:

Environment Agency;
Customer services 08708 506506
Floodline 0845 988 1188
Incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

FIRE AND RESCUE:

Emergencies only 999
General enquiries 08451 22 11 55
For free home fire safety check
08451 22 11 55

HIGHWAYS:

Staffordshire County Council
"Clarence" Customer lighting and
Roads Enquiry Centre Freephone No.
0800 23 23 23
Clarence@staffordshire.gov.uk

Highways Agency
0845 7504030

HOSPITALS:

Cannock Chase Community Hospital
01543 572757

Walsall Manor Hospital
01922 721172

Stafford District General Hospital
01785 257731

HOUSING ASSOCIATION:

South Staffordshire Housing
Association,
Acton Court,
Acton Gate,
Stafford. ST18 9AP
Tel: 01785 312000

LIBRARIES:

Great Wyrley
Unit 22 Quinton Court
Shopping Centre
01922 414632

Cheslyn Hay
High Street
01922 413956

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Great Wyrley Parish Council
01922 414768

South Staffordshire
District Council
01902 696000

Staffordshire County Council
01785 223121

OPTICIANS:

Kelcher (Opt) Ltd
132 Wardles Lane
01922 412040

POLICE:

Emergencies only 999
Cheslyn Hay Police Station
01922 413072
Watling Policing Unit
01785 218838
Crime stoppers 0800 555 111
Staffordshire Central number
08453 30 20 10

POST OFFICE SERVICES:

Wardles Lane 01922 417960
Customer helpline 0845 7223344
Website www.postoffice.co.uk

SCHOOLS:

See under Local Groups/Activities

RELATE:

Relationship Advice
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TRANSPORT:

Travel West Midlands 0121 254 7272
Arriva Midlands North 01543 466123
Green Bus Service 01922 414141
Centro traveline 0870 608 2 608

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Customer enquiries South Staffs.
Water Plc
Emergencies 0800 3891011
Leakline 0800 243352
Billing 0845 6070456

For sewerage problems contact
Severn Trent Water 0800 7834444

COUNCILLORS

Staffordshire County Councillors

Cllr Mr Michael Lawrence
11 The Leas
Featherstone
Wolverhampton
WV10 7AJ
Tel: 01902 730369
Mob: 07713 294285
formike.lawrence@virgin.net

Cllr Mrs Kath Perry
8 Roman View
Churchbridge
Cannock
Staffordshire
WS11 8TA
Tel: 01922 412369
k.perry@sstaffs.gov.uk

South Staffordshire District Councillors

Town Ward

Cllr Brian Bates
9 Chestnut Drive
Great Wyrley
WS6 6LU
Tel: 01922 418961
b.bates@sstaffs.gov.uk

Cllr Mrs Kath Perry
8 Roman View
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Cllr Mrs Janet Johnson
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Great Wyrley WS6 6LG
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Landywood Ward

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Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 8TA
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r.perry@sstaffs.gov.uk

Cllr Mrs Kath Williams
5 Poplar Road
Great Wyrley WS6 6EY
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Glenthorne Community Primary School

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For more details, please contact Mr Matthew Gould, Headteacher

Glenthorne Community Primary School, Glenthorne Drive, Cheslyn Hay, Staffordshire, WS6 7BZ

headteacher@glenthorne.staffs.sch.uk

www.glenthorne.staffs.sch.uk

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Telephone: 01922 857075 Fax: 01922 857078

E-mail: office@st-thomasmore.staffs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr. D. McCauley B.Ed (Hons)

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OFSTED (2008)



The Catholic Primary School serving families in
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