

MARCH 2018

# RADFORD FoRGE NEWS

Occasional Newsletter of the Friends of Radford's Green Environment

## POSTAL SERVICES SAVED!

Those of you who have noticed that the Post Office has closed – do not despair! After thirty-three years trading as a grocery store and off licence, the Best One shop has come to the rescue, having taken on both the local post office services and the newsagents.

The new opening time for the shop will be 6am and for the post office counter there will be extended hours from 7.30am to 9pm on weekdays with a later opening for the shop of 9am on Sundays. The post box collection will still be at 2pm and 5pm, in the old position for now, but you can also hand letters in at the shop.

Here is a brief round-up of the post office services:

- banking services – you can pay in and withdraw cash for free for most banks
- payment of household bills such as utilities and council tax
- Bureau de change – up to 1000 Euros on demand and other currencies with more notice.

So, let's continue to reduce those short car journeys into town, that are so damaging to your car and the environment, by shopping locally!



## What is the Neighbourhood Plan and why should I care?

The Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan will be extremely important to the village. A Neighbourhood Plan is a legal document written by the local community and is how we, as residents, can enforce control of development in the local area in the future.

The policies it contains can relate to any planning matters such as housing, heritage, environment, views (of the land or sky for example) and community identity. It will have an impact on future housing, which must avoid our precious green spaces and take account of any valued views (of St Nicholas Church for example). A designated 'Green Space' has the same protection as Green Belt.

The NP is a community effort, having been drawn up so far by a group of interested villagers, so it is vital that as many people in the village read and comment on it before the deadline of 3rd April. The more people who comment on the Plan, which is in draft form at present, the more likely it is to be adopted by Warwick District Council. Once adopted, the Plan will last until 2029 though it will have to be reviewed regularly to ensure continued protection. Please see page 2 to learn how you can see a copy of the draft Plan and comment before 3rd April.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMUNITY FEEDBACK EVENT

**We need your input!**

**RADFORD COMMUNITY HALL**

**ON SAT APRIL 14.**

**11.15 – 15.15**

**Drop in any time to  
give us your views.**



## Canal Access – Nearly there

FoRGE has been in negotiation to secure safe pedestrian and cycle access to the canal towpath west of the village where the canal crosses the A425. We are pleased to announce that discussions between FoRGE, the landowner and the Canal and River Trust (CRT) are at an advanced stage. A small triangle of land will be bought by the CRT in the next few months. We will then seek funding for construction work. Watch this space...

## FoRGE Events **OPEN TO ALL**

### BatWalk

**Fri 20 April, 7pm \*Children Welcome**  
**Canalside Community Farm,**  
**Southam Rd £4/£2\***

### Pond Survey

**Sun 6 May, date & time TBC FREE!**

### Plant Sale

**Sat 19 May 11am - 1pm FREE!**

**Baptist Church Hall, Lewis Rd**

**\*Tickets from Best-One Shop**

**or email: [info@radfordforge.co.uk](mailto:info@radfordforge.co.uk)**

# WILDLIFE IN SMALL GARDENS



It is tempting, when you have a small garden, to think "Oh well, there's nothing much I can do to help wildlife flourish," but some people do manage it. Both of these photos were taken in Radford Semele, one in Hatherall Road and one in Semele Close. As you can see, neither of these front gardens is particularly deep – in one case no more than two metres and yet both are mini havens for wildlife

This is thanks to clever planting which provides cover for a variety of creatures either by the addition of climbing plants on the fence, shrubs that can also provide food and in one case quite a substantial tree. It works – the nest boxes (inset photo) were all fully occupied last year.

But what about tree roots undermining foundations? The Royal Horticultural Society's website has a free plant finder section which allows you to state the size of tree and other factors and then gives you the options. Also, any responsible, proper nursery or garden centre will be able to advise you.

Just one word of warning – don't site nest boxes above a window unless you want to be cleaning it on a very regular basis for several weeks!

## Allotments in Radford?

At the Neighbourhood Plan meeting at least six people said that they'd like allotments. The Parish Council is duty-bound to consider this if six council-tax-payers send them a letter requesting allotments in the village. Although it's not always possible for a Parish Council to find land, it is this level of local government that needs to investigate the request. Email [info@radfordforge.co.uk](mailto:info@radfordforge.co.uk) if you are interested.

## Neighbourhood Plan - we need your input!

**B**y the time you read this a community draft of the Neighbourhood plan should be ready for viewing. This is the first public draft of the Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan for consultation by the parish community, and any comments are welcome. The consultation period for written responses closes on April 3, and these will be incorporated into the document.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering group has, where relevant, taken on board all your previous comments. Where possible, any issues or suggestions which cannot be included in the Plan will be raised with the relevant authorities.

You will be able to download a copy from: [goo.gl/Ym3iR7](http://goo.gl/Ym3iR7) if you don't have access to the internet, or know someone who doesn't, and would like a printed copy please get in touch or leave a message on 07985 647 507.

We also intend to put paper copies around the village at the Baptist Church, St Nicholas Church, the Best One shop and post office, the Sports and Social Club, the Community Hall, the school and the nursery, subject to their permission.

Please let us have your comments by email to [info@radfordsemeleneighbourhoodplan.org](mailto:info@radfordsemeleneighbourhoodplan.org) or post them c/o the Clerk to the Parish Council, 1 Lewis Road, Radford Semele, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1UB or drop them in the boxes which will be at the shop and the Sports and Social Club.

Everyone is invited to a Community Feedback event about the draft Plan at Radford Community Hall on Sat April 14. Drop in any time between 11.15 and 3.15 to give us your views. Thanks to Oli Aries (Chair of the NP steering Group) for the information on the front page and to Emma Nelson for initiating the Q and A session from which this article is taken. To see the full Q and A please go to: [www.goo.gl/cFxf4k](http://www.goo.gl/cFxf4k)



RADFORD SEMELE  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
**PLAN**

**WHITE LION  
RADFORD SEMELE**





**CHEF & BREWER**

Mon - Sat  
Sunday



**GREENE KING**

Midday-11.00pm  
Midday-10.30pm

60 Southam Road

01926 425770

DEFIBRILLATOR ON WALL FACING CAR PARK



# Bewildered by all the building? Lost the plot?

We asked Councillor Sabin to provide this roundup of housing applications and current builds. You can comment and check progress on any application online: [goo.gl/f34ZVm](http://goo.gl/f34ZVm)

Ones to watch are: W/17/1971 demolition of The Lodge in Spring Lane with W/18/0288 the building of two houses in its place, and W/17/2352 two houses in the Valley.

## Full list current at time of goin to press

W/17/1879	Frizmore House, Fosse Way – No decision on file
W/17/1909	10 Godfrey Close – Granted 8/12/17
W/17/1971	Demolition of The Lodge in Spring Lane
W/17/2029	46 Southam Road – Granted 20/12/17
W/17/2111	5 Radford Hall – Granted 11/1/18
W/17/2117	1 Radford Hall – Application deemed to be invalid
W/17/2201	Bovis/Offchurch Lane site (Site Levels) – No decision on file
W/17/2228	51 St Nicholas Road – PC No objections – Granted 29/1/18
W/17/2241	3 St Nicholas Road – PC Commented but no objection – Granted 24/1/18
W/17/2352	The Valley (Two houses)
W/18/0006	Leigh Foss, The Valley – Extension – PC Objection
W/18/0028	19 The Gardens – Extension – PC No objection
W/18/0161/LB	2 Radford Hall – Window renovation – PC No objection
W/18/0180	36 The Gardens – Extension, Awaiting validation
W/18/0288	Building of 2 houses in School Lane

Thanks to Stan Sabin, Radford Semele Parish Council

## Don't moan - phone

It's easy to complain to friends, neighbours and family about the hole in the road, the water running down the street, or the smell of gas.

But please report it. You might be the only person who does. There have been recent instances of gas and water leaks. Both leaks had been going on for weeks but nobody had reported them.

And the more people who report an incident the better – this tells the company or authority involved that the problem needs swift attention.

### Here are some useful numbers:

Noise from Construction Sites: Environmental Services Unit, Warwick District Council	01926 456725,
Water/sewage leaks and broken Severn Trent manhole covers	0800 783 4444
Smell of gas	0800 111 999
Power cuts – first check it isn't just your house!!	0800 6783 105
Black smoke, chemical smells	01926 456725/456734
Potholes in road	01926 412 515
Problems on the canal	
emergency eg. The fish are dying	0800 4799 947
non emergency	0303 040 4040



Photo: Kristina Servant  
- Creative Commons

## ForGE Wildlife Talks – you missed a treat if you weren't there...

**All the signs of Spring are here – bulbs pushing up, lengthening daylight, fat but hungry bumblebee queens emerging... And, we're still lucky round here to enjoy the child's delight of frogspawn – or is it toadspawn? How would you know the difference?**

In November, we learned this when ForGE hosted an open-to-all talk from Warwickshire Amphibian and Reptile Team ("WART", clearly, they see the funny side of life). Check out their web page: <http://groups.arguk.org/wart>. The group are a devoted team of volunteers who survey the quantity and spread of Warwickshire's frogs, toads, newts, snakes and lizards. The search for our "vanishing viper", the adder, is ongoing.

At this time of year, expect to see "strings" of toadspawn (as distinct from clumps of frogspawn) and look out for toads in the road! The male toad will use open habitats for seeking passing females, but often uses a road for this, where he can become trapped by the kerbs or killed by traffic. Check roadside drains if it is safe to do so, as you may be able to rescue a trapped amphibian.

Our very popular next talk in January was given by a representative from the Stour Valley Wildlife Action Group. The topic, Barn Owls, captured the imagination of many in the village. Some great film footage and photography helped narrate the story of how the SVWAG have encouraged more barn owls to nest in their area. Inspiration for us all, perhaps?

To keep in the loop about our talks and events, see our Facebook Page: [goo.gl/TPdNbA](http://goo.gl/TPdNbA) and look out for posters in the village stores.

## Making friends while waiting for the bus

**Stagecoach decided to re-write the no. 63 and 64 bus timetables for the service between Leamington Spa and Rugby at the New Year.**

A fresh script to wait for the bus with and a chance for those of us at the stop to get to know each other better, making new friends and exchanging different greetings. Building works and traffic control have led to delays, with queues of cars in the village during the slow hour - grim faced motorists alone in vehicles that seem larger than ever. If you hear the rumble of a bus coming around the corner don't be deceived, because it is much more likely to be a container truck these days. When the service eventually arrives there's an atmosphere of relief, however full it is and everyone can forgive the driver!



# FORGE ECOLOGY GROUP

## NATURE SPOTTERS NEEDED

The group is working on logging the results of last year's hedgerow survey onto the Warwickshire Wildlife database. Thanks to the QGIS computer program (the County system), this will eventually be capable of being displayed in a variety of ways, including map form. However, as a group, we are still learning – work in progress!

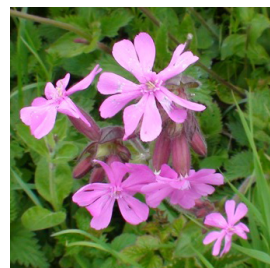
Meanwhile, we have plans to do a pond survey later in the year - please keep an eye on the FoRGE website for further details, but Sunday 6th May is a provisional date for this.

In the meantime, we are hoping that people who spot any plants or animals around the parish can let us know about it. A short form for reporting what you see can be downloaded: [goo.gl/QviKLZ](http://goo.gl/QviKLZ) and will hopefully take no more than five minutes to complete. It complies with the County system and so can be passed on easily.

It would be ideal if you could supply a photo of the creature/plant - camera phones are generally up to the job nowadays. (See examples on right).

We would also like as precise a location as possible, ideally a postcode or six figure grid reference. For grid references, try downloading GridReferenceFreeOS from Google Play Store onto your smartphone if you have one and don't forget to switch on your phone location. Happy hunting!

BARBARA WYATT



## Then and now... but where?

Can you identify this village location?

Email answers & your photos to: [info@radfordforge.co.uk](mailto:info@radfordforge.co.uk)



Photo: Nick Rabson

## Donations keep coming...

Thank you two more private donors who have generously donated sums of £50 and £100. This is much appreciated and, together with £45 raised by the Brass Band this Christmas and the £90 from the surplus from Owl Talk ticket sales (see report on p. 3), FoRGE's finances are in very good shape.

**best-one**



**Best One Village Shop**

29 Lewis Rd, Radford Semele,  
CV31 1UQ 01926 426972

**NEWSAGENT  
MINI-MART**

**POST  
OFFICE**

**OPENING HOURS**  
**Mon-Sat 6am-9pm**  
**Sun 9am-9pm**

**Canalside  
Community  
Food**

a community supported  
agriculture scheme for  
Warwick Area



*Like fresh air?  
Love fresh food?*

- weekly box of fresh, organic seasonal food
- collect from the farm or Leamington.
- volunteer to help to grow it
- attend work days and social events

[canalsidecommunityfood.org.uk](http://canalsidecommunityfood.org.uk)

Call or text: 07758 340491



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**Tel: 01926 338825 or  
07733 368245**

**[www.vhs2dvd.info](http://www.vhs2dvd.info)**

Friends of Radford's Green Environment is a residents' community group which has a voice as well as active intentions to green up our space. We act for the benefit of the community and local wildlife. Membership is open to anyone who lives in and around Radford Semele.

**Radford  
FoRGE**

Friends of Radford's Green Environment

**[www.radfordforge.co.uk](http://www.radfordforge.co.uk)**

**e: [info@radfordforge.co.uk](mailto:info@radfordforge.co.uk)  
t: 07985 647507**

**f: <https://goo.gl/TPdNbA>  
[friendsofradfordsgreenenvironment](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofradfordsgreenenvironment)**

New  
Members  
Welcome