NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

Sedgeberrow's Northern Lights



See inside page 5 for more details.

Home Care Advert - PDF

Parish Council Update Spring 2026

A few headlines from the recent meetings of the parish council. Some of which are reported upon in more detail elsewhere.

- Councillor Richard Morris Leader of Wychavon District Council gave a presentation to villagers on the options for local government reorganisation and how parishioners could express their views
- The well-attended March meeting heard the views of villagers concerning the proposal for 155 new homes and a shop
- Andy White reported the oil buying club has been suspended due to global turmoil & suppliers unwilling to quote bulk orders; hopefully the situation will be resolved soon
- Clive Jackson report the successful supply/installation of a new defibrillator on Sandfield Lane. Thanks Clive for organising and Dave Spencer for hosting this facility
- Robin Chubb reported on the tree works at Glebe Meadow. Further works to be undertaken on trees with preservation orders which required securing consent from Wychavon. Thanks Robin and the volunteers who helped with site clearance.
- The plan to improve the accessibility of the Glebe Meadow has moved forward and Robin is hosting a meeting to explain the proposal on 15th April 19.30 at the village hall
- The security group led by Sue Morris has progressed work relating to the potential implementation of an ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) and associated CCTV system that can capture images of both number plates and drivers as a potential deterrent. A volunteer has stepped forward to act as a data controller which is a key role enabling us to share any data at the request of the police and DVLA. A tender exercise is planned which will then be subject to affordability tests.
- Mike Parker who has successfully chaired SeSaMe for the last few years is stepping down and volunteers are being sought to keep this initiative alive.
- A new village only direction sign has been installed at the Cheltenham Road/Main Street junction. The Parish Council have also requested that WCC undertake a monitoring exercise of the Winchcombe Road given concerns about the increasing number of HGV's using the route and their inability to pass without encroaching upon the footpaths.
- New rates bills have arrived through letterboxes and pleased to note that the parish council managed to keep any increase to a very low 0.3%
- Thanks to Bob Howe-Double who organised new signage for play areas. This was to comply with an outstanding recommendation from ROSPA. Whilst the wording and imaging was 'borrowed' from other play areas, feedback has suggested that the signs need 'tweaking' to reflect the particular circumstances in Sedgeberrow. This is in hand.

clerk@sedgeberrowpc.org.uk

Spring Village Pétanque Evenings

Sedgeberrow Pétanque is never closed of course but as the weather slowly starts to improve everyone is ready for the reintroduction of our regular “good weather” Friday open evenings. These are fun social events where players young and old can come along and learn and play the game in a round robin competition. They usually run regularly on Fridays from 6pm up to 9pm as we take advantage of the good weather.

The first one is on Friday, April 10th and we will continue every Friday afterwards.

Don’t worry about learning the game, there are plenty of villagers who can guide you.

If you can’t wait for a family game then please come along and us the pistes to play on at any time. The village has bought all the necessary equipment for villagers to use and this is stored in the locker at the rear of the shelter in Glebe Meadow. For security the store is

padlocked and the code can be obtained by texting any one of the telephone numbers on the sign. Anyone using the equipment is asked to follow the instructions on the store for maintaining good security for the equipment which we all own.

The equipment consists of :

Boules - Junior Plastic Boules - Throwing circles - Coches (jacks)

- Tape measure - Carry bags

Watch out also for the quarter and semi finals of the village's first ever Open Pétanque competition which we are sure will attract big crowds !! The great trophies designed by Steve Causon will be awarded to the winners.

We look forward to seeing you all in Glebe Meadow soon !

Sedgeberrow Northern Lights

“Who needs Cruises to Norway when you can see the wonderful Northern Lights from your own back garden!” according to our local weather watcher and keen photographer, Karina Singleton, of Churchill Road.



“I took these pictures on the 19th January when the aurora borealis decided to show a magical display over the UK. It went as far south as Devon and Cornwall. I went outside and was amazed by the display. The next morning I decided my photos to the BBC and see if they might use them . At that point I became a Weather Watcher and throughout the week I had many people say they saw my pictures on TV.

“I felt very proud of myself for doing this as it was exciting for me. I’m a big lover of nature and have been since childhood mainly thanks to my grandparents who taught me to love nature and appreciate our beautiful wildlife and all things in space. As part of my autism I only focus on nature around me. I have been into photography since I was 15 and saved my money for a special camera to use to take pictures of wildlife. “

West Sedgeberrow Land Proposal

Our understanding was that the whole village was leafleted about this proposal for up to 155 new dwellings and a shop. There was certainly a good attendance at the parish council meeting on 18th March where it was on the agenda, and our thanks to all those who made suggestions and took part in the debate.

As rehearsed at that meeting, early consultation is always difficult. The parish council had previously written to Wychavon as the planning authority requesting a full environmental impact assessment but this was not supported as whilst a very large development for Sedgeberrow it effectively fell below the national threshold to automatically trigger a full EIA.

Following debate, it was collectively decided that the parish should make our views known to the proposals from the developer. These had been drafted by the parish council to be deliberately anodyne but at the same time demonstrate that the location and scale of the proposal was not welcome. The comments were submitted that evening by the parish clerk ahead of the deadline, also noting the well-attended meeting.

A copy of that submission is listed below for information:

- The scoping exercise by Pegasus cited an urban extension to Sedgeberrow. For clarification, Sedgeberrow is a small rural village, so talk of an urban extension is either disingenuous or misinformed.

- Sedgeberrow has a neighbourhood plan and has been supportive of developments appropriate to sustained growth over the last few years as demonstrated by planning approvals. The scale of this proposal with a proposed circa 40% increase in households and its potential to drastically change the nature and character of the village is unwelcome, fails to recognise the neighbourhood plan and the wishes of villagers.

- Concern over the red line site boundary which continues way beyond the site along the Cheltenham Road towards Evesham; land clearly belonging to WCC as highway authority and yet this red line zone is not part of the concept masterplan.

- The village along with other parishes ran a sustained campaign to secure a 40mph speed limit at the Sedgeberrow north A46 junction; we will be interested what mitigation is proposed for the undoubted increase in traffic on the Cheltenham Road and its impact upon the two A46 junctions.

- Details are important as they demonstrate an understanding of the site and village:

    - Sedgeberrow is essentially a dark village with very little street lighting but again no details proposed.

    - No sustainable energy strategy; clearly important given global turmoil.

    - The technical documents referenced lack a viability assessment regarding the proposed shop; previous village shops have closed.

    - No reference to the potential impact of a 40% increase in households upon the local school.

Our Wychavon representatives – Emma Sims and Emma Kearsey advised that the South Worcestershire Development Plan was to be considered by the districts in the coming week. If approved, it should demonstrate a 5-year land supply on pre-allocated sites thus making it more difficult for a speculative proposal like this one to gain traction. However, the meeting was reminded that if this is the case, it does not mean that the proposal evaporates, merely that the site may be 'land banked' by the developer pending an opportunity to bring it forward at some point in the future.

Wychavon and Worcester Council Update

Please see below updates from the Council representatives:

The good news is that Wychavon's part of council tax has been frozen again, to include a £5 million suite of measures to benefit all residents. This was not unanimous surprisingly as the Liberal Democrats voted against the freeze and £5million to benefit residents.

We will be communicating soon the different measures we will be implementing throughout WDC. We aim for it to be things that will benefit all residents, young and old and everyone in between, those living in towns and villages and particularly my focus on the rural areas. This is in addition to the legacy projects that we are bringing forward.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan Review is due to be adopted as it goes before the three councils next week. This is a milestone as we will adopt the plan with a 5% buffer on the government's increased housing numbers.

In contrast, you may have been shocked, as was I, at the public consultation by Robert Hitchens for the development of 155 houses and a shop. This type of public consultation is to say it's been done and any responses can be taken out of context and used in a way not always helpful. If/when a planning application is made, that is the time to respond.

There has been a planning application for a new gas works at Wormington. I will be responding, particularly around the traffic modelling as we cannot allow Winchcombe road to be used by any of the vehicles. When it was first muted I requested the head of planning at WDC respond and he and I will do so again now the application has been submitted.

Still on the Winchcombe road the level of HGVs is now intolerable and it seems to have increased significantly by a company owned by Palletex. I will, along with Cllr Adrian Hardman seek to communicate with them to see what can be done.

The Rectory, you may have seen that part of the 19th century wall that many of us have known all our lives, has sadly been taken down by the new owner. I have worked extensively with Heritage officers and they have advised that we seek reassurance from the War Memorial Trust that the plaque which states the names of the men from the village who fought in the war, is protected, along with the War Memorial to prevent any future damage. If you need anything, as always please feel free to get in touch with me.

Cllr Emma Kearsey, Wychavon District Councillor, Broadway, Sedgeberrow and Childswickham Ward. emma.kearsey@wychavon.net Tel. 07727126124

Worcester Council

It is a genuine privilege and honour to represent the Bredon division. I'm proud of this area, proud of the strength of our communities, and proud of the way residents care deeply about where they live. That pride is exactly why I believe it's important to speak honestly with you.

From April, the Worcestershire County Council element of the council tax will rise by 8.98%. That is a substantial increase, and I fully recognise the pressure this places on households at a time when many people are already struggling with the cost of living.

What concerns me most is that this increase is being asked of residents without Worcestershire County Council having a current corporate plan in place. A corporate plan should set out a clear vision for the Council: what our priorities are, how decisions are made, what outcomes we are aiming for, and how success is measured. Without that, it becomes much harder for residents to see what they are being asked to pay more for, and how today's decisions fit into a long-term strategy.

The main driver behind the council tax increase is pressure on demand-led services—particularly Adults' Social Care, Children's Services, SEND provision, and transport. These are vital services, supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our county.

At present, around 76.5% of the Council's budget is spent on services supporting roughly 2.5% of the population. Those residents deserve care, protection and dignity—but the scale of this spend shows how critical it is that we get planning, prevention and early intervention right.

My concern is that we do not currently have a clear, published strategy for how demand in these services will be managed or reduced over time. Without that, we risk repeating the same cycle year after year: rising demand, rising costs, emergency savings, and higher council tax. Residents deserve better than short-term firefighting.

Before asking households to shoulder an almost 9% increase, residents deserve: a clear corporate plan, a credible strategy for managing demand-led services, and confidence that decisions today are building a more sustainable future, not just postponing the next crisis.

I will continue to raise these issues on your behalf, not because I doubt the importance of the services we provide, but because strong communities deserve strong leadership and clear plans.

Adrian Hardman, County Councillor, Worcestershire County Council



SeSaME Oil Buying Club

As you know the situation in the Middle East has disrupted Oil Supplies. This is now impacting Heating Oil prices and deliveries in the UK.

Suppliers are currently not accepting orders from Buying Groups, there is too much uncertainty over both oil availability and price. Some suppliers are currently only confirming prices on the day of delivery, that's how volatile the market is.

Fortunately we are heading towards the warmer months, hopefully, and demand will drop slightly. For now I do not expect to be able to place a club order until the situation in the Middle East is stabilised.

If you are concerned that you may run out then I would advise to contact one of the local suppliers:

Red Horse Vale

Ford Fuels

Boughton Fuel Oils - Droitwich

Compass Energy

Cotswold Petroleum

I will update you as soon as the situation stabilises and we can resume Club orders.

Sedgeberrow School Easter Update - PDF

Wychavon Parish Games

Following Sedgeberrow's incredible performance in the 2025 Parish Games many folk turned up to the Queens Head on 4th February to celebrate our achievements. We also used the evening to sign people up for this year's events.

The Team Captains and One Day Event programme for 2026 as follows:

Rounders Sun 28th June Badsey Capt Lindsey Reynolds

Men's 5 A-side Sun 5 July Evesham Capt Luke Smith Daniels

Cross Country Mon 13 July tbc Evesham Capt Jamie Gowers

Bell Boating Sat 18th July Pershore. Capt Jim Morris

Pétanque Sun 26th July Evesham. Capt Alan Harris

Angling. Sat 5th September Evesham Looking for a Team Captain..👮🦈

Bowls. Sun 13th September. Evesham Capt Paul Hitchman

Table tennis Seniors to play on Sunday 4 October

TT Juniors on Sunday 11th October We are looking for a Team Captain 👮🏓

The Knock Out competitions do not have a fixed start date but the Team Captains will be informed sometime late Summer/early Autumn.



Captains are:

Ladies Darts - Hannah Clutterbuck

Men's Darts- Clive Jackson

Skittles - Cheryl Pope

Pool - Richard Hunt

Dominoes- Lynn Chubb

Crib - Clive Jackson

Although sign up for teams has been very good so far we still need more volunteers to take part in many of the competitions.

We are also looking for Team Captain for Table Tennis and Angling.

All parishioners are welcome to join in any of the events please either contact the team captains directly or alternatively ring Cheryl Pope (07498 289225) or Sue Morris (07896 160453).

Fingers crossed for the 2026 season.

Sue Beasley

21st October 1951- 30th January 2026

‘A chatty woman - the heart of the village’



On 17th February hundreds of us turned out to mourn the death of our lovely Sue Beasley. It was a beautiful day, and the sun shines on the righteous as is often said! The number of mourners was testament to how much she was regarded, loved and had touched the lives of so many. Sue loved a full house!

The funeral and wake was a wonderful celebration of a much loved Sedgeberrow resident. Sue had touched the lives of so many of us - of all generations.

Whilst Sue was born in Middle Littleton she and Dave, her late husband who was from old Sedgeberrow stock, took up residence at the Old Post Office building on Main St in 1987, she gradually became quintessentially Sedgeberrow.

A lady who cemented firm lifelong friends and acquaintances throughout her life, wherever she went, including being like a mum to many young people.

When asked to describe Sue here’s an A to Z of what was said:
Amazing and active. Brilliant in all she did. Chatty, considerate, caring and cheery. Community focussed. Dedicated. Dignified and a driving force for good. Energetic and held

high in esteem. Fun and a fountain of knowledge. A relentless fundraiser. Generous and a thoroughly good egg! Humorous. Kind and loyal. The mince pie queen. Nurturing. Organised and professional. Party planner. Positive in life and a positive role model. Quizzical. Selfless. A scone supremo. Trusted and thoughtful. Understanding of others.

Whilst her children were young she became a child minder and looked after many children in the village. Sue became a valuable member of the village community. Along with Karen and Shirley they created Sedgeberrow Toddler Group (which now forms the nursery at Sedgeberrow School).

She was Chair of the Village Hall Committee for a number of years and was instrumental in getting Glebe Meadow set up as the park you see today. She was also Chair of FOSS. She also became the clerk of governors for 21 years.

When her eldest son, Andrew, started Sedgeberrow School she started helping out as a volunteer.
Later Fiona Smith would find her a permanent job as a teaching assistant in Reception Class. She loved this job, staying for 17 years until retirement. She became “Mrs B” working alongside Lorrin Campbell, Oli Roberts and Megan Williams, to name a few.

Over the years there have been too many colleagues and friendships to name them all, but one special group was the TA group comprising Jill Giddy, Wendy Millum, Chris Miles, Suzie Wilson, Sib Avery and Mary Smith.

After Dave lost his battle with pancreatic cancer, once again, Sue put her organising skills and persuasion to good use in the form of fundraising for Pancreatic Cancer research in memory of Dave. Over the years she helped raise thousands of pounds – always thinking of others.

Sue had an incredible dedication and commitment to children, her own grandchildren and outside the family at fishing clubs and at Sedgeberrow school. Being kind, caring and patient, the children adored her. We are told she possessed the rare ability of being truly present with the children, even when there were so many things going on in a busy classroom. She would always remember their names, always interested to hear of their progression through life.

The final say goes to Andy, Wills, Katie, Laura: “Words cannot express how heartbroken we are that she is no longer with us. There will be a Sue shaped hole in the village and all our hearts. We shall raise a glass of ‘Procheko’ or Shloer to you. Rest now and be with your Dave.”

AA Holmes advert - PDF



Worcester Council - Police/Neighbourhood Officers Update

Who are your local Neighbourhood Officers?

The team is known as the Evesham and Pershore Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team. The team have 2 Facebook pages, 'Evesham Police' and 'Pershore Police'. Please follow these to keep up to date with our activities and to see when our local drop in/engagement sessions are.

Your local Neighbourhood Police Officers are PC Alex Prentice and PC Shaquille Lakin. Your local Police Community Support Officers are, PCSO Jasmine Hill, PCSO Lee Stirling, PCSO Kyle Westwood and PCSO Karen Kempton. The email addresses for each of them are first.surname@westmercia.police.uk. Karen will be leaving the team shortly as she'll be taking up a new role within West Mercia.

Drop-In Sessions and Neighbourhood Matters

Drop-in sessions are held weekly around the patch. If you have anything you wish to discuss, please pop along to one of these sessions. These sessions are advertised on the Evesham and Pershore Facebook page as well as Neighbourhood Matters. Neighbourhood Matters is a free service which allows you to receive updates regarding crime in your area and also allows you to message your local officer. Take a look at the website for further information: https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/. Please feel free to come to any session you see advertised, you do not have to live in the village to attend. If you know people who do not have access to the internet, please feel free to share the information. The more people who know about these drop-ins, the better!

Reporting Incidents

Please remember to report crime and any incidents via 999, 101 or on the West Mercia website. Please do not email/ring/text individual officers if a crime has happened, this needs to be reported officially through the correct channels. **PC Alex Prentice 21115**

Pub Quiz dates - advert - PDF

Sedgeberrow Security Working Group

The Security Group was established in May 2025 in response to villagers' concerns about the apparent rise in criminal activity in Sedgeberrow. The group has met 6 times since May and hosted 2 village Open Meetings in January (attended by local police officers).

Our investigations with the local police and neighbouring parishes proved that there had been a spike in crime, particularly car theft and attempted car theft.

A possible preventative measure was proposed as the ANPR and CCTV system.

This was described in detail at the Open Meetings and parishioners were asked to vote either in favour or against.

The vote was overwhelmingly in favour of purchase of an ANPR / CCTV system, beginning in Winchcombe Road but with the option of moving to other areas of the village (ie Cheltenham Road and Main Street) once an assessment of its effectiveness had been conducted.

The Parish Council will now put the ANPR proposal out to tender. An anonymous donor has offered some funds and the balance will be found from PC funding, probably from CIL, and/or by grant application to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

What's on at Sedgeberrow Village Hall

Yoga Class

Mila runs a yoga class from The Village Hall twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30pm. For enquiries and to book your space please contact Mila: jam@yogajam.co.uk
Telephone: 07790 663 803

Baby and Toddler Group

Weekly stay and play session suitable from birth up to pre school age (4y). Open every Thursday 9am-10:30am (term time only) in The Village Hall. Visit their Facebook page for upcoming special events: Sedgeberrow Baby and Toddler Group | Facebook
Contact: sarahelizabethnott@gmail.com

Puppy Training

Puppy training for those between 12-20 weeks (once vaccinated)
Teach your puppy basic manners and skills during a 5 week course.
The course is run by Jenny Austin, Registered Veterinary Nurse
For course dates please email Jenny: lead.on44@yahoo.com

Sedgeberrow Pre-School

Sedgeberrow CofE Preschool runs during term time from 8am to 6pm.
Please see their website for costs and to enquire on availability:
Sedgeberrow CofE First School - Preschool Information
Email: office@sedgeberrow.worcs.sch.uk
Telephone: 01386 881391

Sedgeberrow Parish Council

The Council generally meets at 7:15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September & November in the Sedgeberrow Village Hall.
Villagers are invited to have their say during the first 20 minutes of the meeting.
Visit their website for the next meeting date and agenda, and previous meeting minutes:
Sedgeberrow Parish Council – Serving the people of Sedgeberrow (sedgeberrowpc.org.uk)
Contact the Clerk: clerk@sedgeberrowpc.org.uk

Sedgeberrow WI meets on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7.30pm in the Betteridge Room, attached to the school hall. We are a nice crowd and would be very happy to see any newcomers.

For enquiries on becoming a member please contact the Sedgeberrow WI President, Pam Hewitt, on 01386 442 270 or 07731 157 856.

Our programme for the next few months includes some cracking speakers:

17th March is a talk about Glos Night Spot (a charity linked to youth homelessness)

21st April is our own Heidi Kirby presenting a floral watercolour works shop.

19th May is a presentation on GARAS - the refugee centre in Gloucester.

Visitors are welcome and pay only a small charge of £2 which includes a raffle entry and refreshments.

Phone Box Library - Under New Management

Following years of dedicated effort from Mrs Sue Beasley, ably assisted by Mrs Joyce Harris new Custodians have now come forward to manage the village Phone Box library. It is Mr Tom Holdstock and family.



Glebe Meadow Accessibility poster - PDF



St Mary the Virgin - Sedgeberrow

Calendar of Events for April to June

April 3rd Good Friday 2pm
April 5th Easter Sunday 11am
April 12th Morning Praise 11am
April 19th Holy Communion 9--30 am
April 23rd Coffee Morning 10am
April 26 Morning Praise 11am

May 3rd Holy Communion 9--30
May 10th Morning Praise 11am
May 17th Holy Communion 9--30am
May 24th Morning Praise 11am
May 28th Coffee Morning 10am
May 31st Holy Communion 9--30

June 7th Holy Communion 9--30
June 14th Morning Praise 11am
June 21st Holy Communion 9--30
June 25th Coffee Morning 10am
June 28th Morning Praise 11am

If you are interested in joining and helping your village church we have a Parish Giving Scheme, so please contact Ann Banks on 01386 881623.

Spring Petanque advert - PDF



Worcestershire on Demand

Worcestershire on Demand (WoD) is an alternative transport option to fixed route public transport. It helps people make local journeys within a defined area, and offers residents and visitors transport in a zoned area and to specific places of interest outside of the zone. The service can also provide journeys to connecting transport services, such as other local buses or to local train stations.

Worcestershire on Demand allows you to book on to the service from an app. Passengers can request transport for a specific time or to arrive at their destination at a specific time and this will give a selection of boarding times available. Transport will collect the passenger from a designated pick-up point and drop off at the required location. Unlike fixed route bus services, the service is flexible depending on the destinations and collection points.

Download the app via Google Play or Apple App store. Once registered, you can book journeys via the app. A branded vehicle picks you up at your request, changing its route as needed so that all passengers who are travelling on the vehicle can get to where they need to go.

How far in advance should I book?

Prebooked journeys can be made up to 5 days in advance. Services can get very busy so it's always advisable to book ahead. Services can also be booked for the same day or to travel 'now'. We'd recommend ensuring that you book your return journey before departing to ensure availability and avoid disappointment.

When do services operate?

Services operate Monday to Saturday, 7:00am to 7:00pm. Services do not operate on Sundays or bank holidays.

Sedgeberrow craft, games and social night

The craft, games and social night restarted on Friday 30th January following the receipt of a grant from Wychavon DC. The aim of the night is to create a social space for everyone in Sedgeberrow and surrounding villages. It has been a huge success so far with 24 people turning up in January and 28 in February.



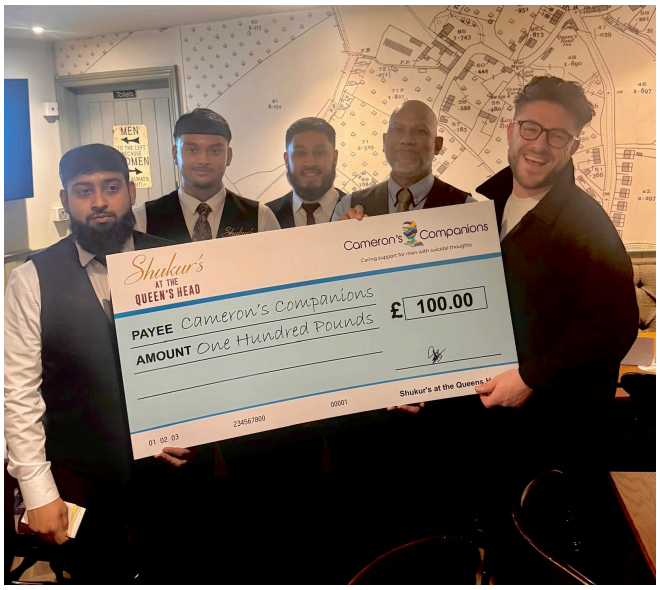
The night runs on the last Friday of the month in the village hall from 7 to 9pm.
Bring your own craft, games , drinks, snacks or just yourself. Everyone, all ages are welcome.



Charity Quiz - Shukurs at The Queens Head

The February quiz night at The Queens was supported by over 50 people from the village and beyond.

The event, which was organised to support Tom White's upcoming London Marathon run in aid of Cameron's Companions, eventually raised over £600 including a boost of £100 from Shah and Ali's team at Shukurs.



Tom, who grew up in Sedgeberrow but now lives further afield, wanted to pass on his appreciation to all of those who attended the night and have supported him in his attempt to raise as much money for a great cause.

Cameron's Companions provide free access to private counselling or appropriate therapies for men and boys in England and Wales, minimising waiting times for those in need. We are non judgemental and don't require a medical diagnosis or referral prior to helping.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/tom-white-2026

Cameron's Companions

Caring support for men with suicidal thoughts

Shukurs at Queens Back page Ad - PDF