

STONESTHROW DIRECTORY



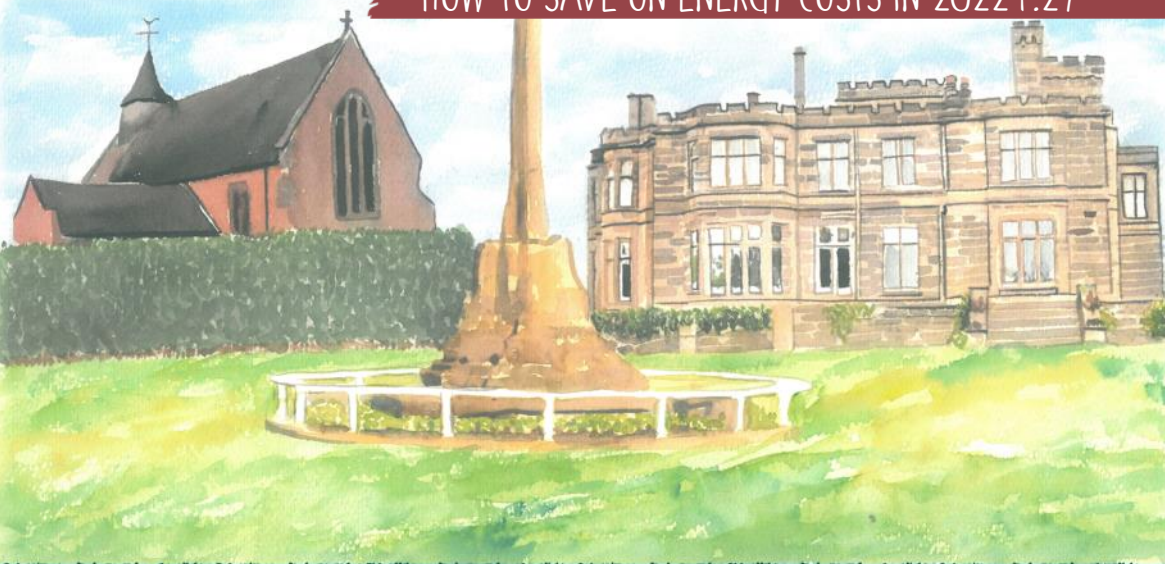
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BALSALL COMMON MERIDEN
HAMPTON IN ARDEN MILLISONS WOOD
APRIL / MAY 2022

JAMIESON CHRISTIE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT



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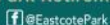
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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to our April/May edition of Stonesthrow Directory. Easter is just around the corner (as are the school holidays!), although it feels like only yesterday the children went back to school. There are of course plenty of things happening in the next few months, aside from an excuse to eat lots of chocolate!

Commonwealth Games 2022 are starting on Thursday 28th of July and there will be drop-in session days for you to find out what's happening locally (7th of April - Royal Leamington Spa (location TBC) - 3 -7 pm and 1st May - Warwick Food Festival - 10 am - 5pm). Not to forget, Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations are taking place across the country start of June.

Recently we've been reading about how our shopping habits have been changing, especially in this post-lockdown era. According to current predictions, we can look forward to more hybrid retail/digital shopping experiences, more checkout-free stores, and rapid growth in the reuse/recycling sector with the second-hand clothing market expected to grow faster than fast fashion. It looks like 2022 is set to be an interesting year in more ways than one!

When you are shopping around for products or services, we would still encourage you to stay local in your search for the best quality. Here are just a few reasons why: it's convenient, it's better for the environment by helping reduce your carbon footprint, you help support local businesses, you invest in your community, you help create demand for local jobs, food is more likely to be sustainably sourced, etc.

Here are some dates for your calendar:

15th of April - Good Friday (Bank Holiday); 18th of April - Easter Monday (Bank Holiday); 23rd of April - St. George's Day; 2nd of May - Early May Bank Holiday; 2nd of June - Spring Bank Holiday; 3rd of June - Queen's Jubilee (Bank Holiday).

Have a great couple of months and whatever you do - keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

Yours, Stonesthrow Publications

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Publications

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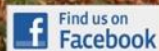
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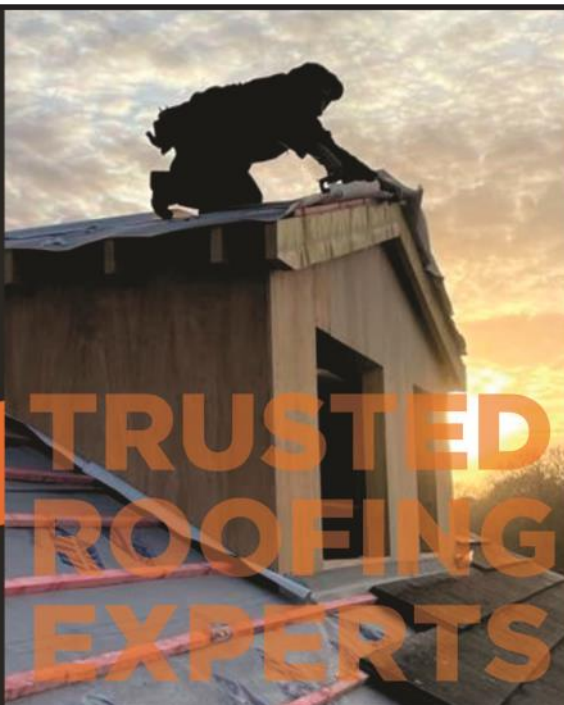
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A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

This summer promises to be one to remember with 2 very special events: the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Communities all over the Borough will come together to celebrate the Jubilee with a long weekend 2nd-5th June. Many of our parish councils and community groups are planning events - at the time of writing many details are still being finalised but do check out local sites to find out what is going on in your village.

On Sunday 5th July residents across the country are encouraged to join with neighbours and hold a street party. If you're thinking of organising an event it's not too late but do seek permission from Solihull Council www.solihull.gov.uk/About-Solihull/organising-street-party

Aside from the celebrations, the Queen's Green Canopy Project is encouraging residents to plant a tree for the Jubilee. Solihull Council have already committed to planting 250,000 trees over the next 10 years and many of these trees will be planted this year to commemorate this important event. Many new woodlands are being established across the Borough including Hope Coppice in Blythe Valley, a woodland in memory of all those affected by Covid-19. If you are interested in finding out more about the Council's tree planting or would like to get involved next planting season contact PlantingourFuture@solihull.gov.uk

Looking forwards to later in the summer, the Commonwealth Games will open in Birmingham on 28th July. Solihull will host many events at the NEC including weightlifting, para powerlifting, boxing, badminton, netball and table tennis. The Queen's Baton Relay will pass through the region on it's way to the Commonwealth Games Stadium for the opening ceremony, with local residents acting as Baton carriers.

The Baton left Birmingham airport on 9th October 2021 and landed in it's first stop, Cyprus. It will have travelled all over the Commonwealth before arriving in Scotland in June, travelling through the UK and making it's way back to Birmingham in time for the opening ceremony.

The Commonwealth Games is a huge opportunity for the region and where're looking forwards to welcoming athletes, support staff and spectators from all over the world, indeed many of them will be staying in Solihull. We're committed to creating a sustainable legacy from the Games - our region will benefit from new sports facilities and transport links and I also hope the Games will inspire us all to get more active.

To tie in with this international event the Birmingham 2022 Festival will be taking place with cultural events across the region, including Solihull. Running from March to September, there's a huge variety of live events from story telling to music performances and even mass tap dancing. Take a look at birmingham2022.com/festival for all the details.

Cllr Diane Howell
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LOCALLY

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Date: every Saturday / Time: 10am - 11.30am /
Venue: Balsall Common Village Hall, 112 Station
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Coffee Together

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10.30am - 12noon; Venue: The Jubilee Centre,
225 Station Rd, Balsall Common CV7 7FE
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mon and Berkswell. Entry fee is £2. this includes
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01564 772071. We have one or two vacancies in
this happy group of singers, particularly for tenor
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Kenilworth Market

Date: every Thursday / Time: 9am - 3pm / Venue:
Abbey End, Kenilworth

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Friends in Retirement Art & Craft Groups Open Day

Date: 26th, 29th of April / Time: 10.30am—12
noon; 13.30pm—3pm / Venue: Whar Hall
Community Centre, Solihull B92 0PG
FIRS (Friends in Retirement) is a charity where
groups of people enjoy a range of activities.
Yearly membership is £3 and each activity costs
anything from £1.20 to £5. Contact us:
www.friendsinretirement.co.uk; email
firs.solihull@yahoo.co.uk; call: 07535 669 018

Cinema Organ Society - Live Concert on our 1935 Mighty Compton

Date: 1st of May / Time: 1.30 pm / Venue:
Fentham Hall, Marsh Lane, Hampton-in-Arden,
B92 0AH

Our guest organist today is Chris Powell.
Admission £10 on the door, including
refreshments and parking. Please telephone
01564 794778 for more details.
www.facebook.com/COSMidlandsCompton, or
www.cinema-organs.org.uk

Everything Must Go Sale

Date: 7th of May / Time: 10am—1pm / Venue:
Knowle Village Hall
The Knowle Village Hall Association invites you to
an "Everything must go " Table Top Sale. Come
along and spot a lovely bargain. All proceeds to
the Knowle Village Hall Refurbishment Fund.

Lions Prostate Screening Event

Date: 21st of May / Venue: St Peter's Church Hall,
Holly Lane.

Ordinarily this test would cost £20, but you can
get tested for a small donation of £10 (or more if
you would like). Spaces are going quickly – one
hundred appointments have been booked
already, so guys - get yourself tested! Book online
via our website (www.balsallcommonlions.org)
Pick your preferred time - no queues – no

waiting. For a small donation of £10 - that's less than the cost of a takeaway!

Easter Adventure Quest at Kenilworth Castle

Date: 2nd - 24th of April / Time: 10am - 5pm /
Venue: Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden
Join us for a cracking adventure quest at Kenilworth Castle this Easter holiday. Explore the site to hunt for clues and challenges, and discover traditional Easter games like egg rolling and the egg and spoon race. Track down the Easter eggs and you'll be rewarded with a chocolate treat and an adventurer's certificate. The quest costs just £1.50, which you can pay when you arrive at the site. This is in addition to the normal ticket price. You can take on the quest every day of the school holidays. With eggs, chocolate and old-fashioned fun, it's the perfect way to get out and about in history this Easter. Book online and save!

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HOW TO SAVE ON ENERGY COSTS IN 2022

It cannot have escaped your attention that our energy bills are set to rise by over 50% this year. A worldwide squeeze on energy supplies has pushed the price of gas up to unprecedented levels. The UK is particularly hard-hit because about 85% of our homes have gas central heating, and gas generates a third of the country's electricity.

In the past, we have always been encouraged to shop around when energy bills rise, but that option is no longer available due to the collapse of so many of the smaller, more competitively priced energy companies. This means we're having to look for more creative ways to save on our fuel bills, for example by making improvements to the energy efficiency of our homes. Even the smallest of changes – when done consistently - could help offset rising prices and keep your energy bills at more manageable levels.

Here are our top six tips for saving energy at home, courtesy of the Energy Saving Trust. Adopt them all and you could save around £200 to £300 per year on your fuel bills!

1. TURN OFF STANDBY APPLIANCES AT THE PLUG

estimated average saving of £30 a year. Use plug sockets that can be turned on and off via our phone, to make sure you switch unused appliances off. Or you could use cheaper timer plugs to schedule turning appliances on and off.

2. INSTALL A SMART THERMOSTAT

estimated average saving of £75 a year. Smart thermostats can make your heating more efficient by only warming the rooms you are using. They work by learning how long it takes to heat your home, so they can have it at the right temperature at exactly the right time. They can also be controlled by your phone, which means you won't have to come back to a cold home.



3. TURN DOWN YOUR THERMOSTAT estimated average saving of £80 per year by turning your heating down by just one degree.

4. BUY ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES estimated average saving of between £7 to £65 a year. If you need to renew an appliance, choose one with a high energy-efficiency rating. An A+++ washing machine will typically use £65 less energy than an A+ one over an 11-year product lifespan. A modern, efficient dishwasher will typically cost around £7 less a year to run compared to an older model.

5. WASH CLOTHES AT A LOWER TEMPERATURE

estimated average saving of £5 a year just by washing at 30 degrees rather than 40 degrees. (Bonus tip: most household detergent brands produce a perfectly good wash at 30 degrees.)

6. INVEST IN SOME DRAFT PROOFING

estimated average saving £35 a year. Use draught excluders or draught-proofing kits to seal cracks in skirting boards and floors. If you don't have double glazing then you can buy special plastic lining for your windows.

Take a look at the Energy Saving Trust website for more helpful information for saving money on your home, travel and business fuel bills:

energysavingtrust.org.uk/hub/quick-tips-to-save-energy

About the Author: Helen Say is a freelance copywriter and blogger ww.cblservices.co.uk

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HOROSCOPES: APRIL / MAY

ARIES MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Your ruler, dynamic Mars, remains in individualistic Aquarius until the 15th, you can use this time wisely by networking and interacting with totally new groups of people and business colleagues. Your earning ability increases as Mercury arrives in Taurus on the 11th, innovative new opportunities to influence your work progress are coming your way. May is a super energetic month for you, starting with Venus arriving in your sign on the 3rd, followed by Jupiter on the 11th and finally Mars on the 25th. You'll feel this huge energy shift as your plans and projects gather momentum and new ideas become apparent. The Scorpio full moon eclipse on the 16th suggests that some important financial issues will come to the surface.

TAURUS APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Abundant Jupiter in Pisces brings enhanced intuition and renewed confidence and courage when it comes to making new friends. Your talents are in the spotlight and you'll need to take stock and review your options as your innovative ideas can now become reality. Venus arrives in dreamy Pisces on the 6th, perfect timing for romance to blossom! May: Communicative Mercury has just arrived in Gemini, illuminating the communication area of your chart. It's time to profit from a new sense of resolve when it comes to getting things done, try to make your decisions before Mercury turns retrograde on the 10th. It's time to let go of outmoded situations and discover inspirational new ways forward.

GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Dynamic Mars arrives at the highest point of your chart on the 15th, this is your cue to shift gear and turn up the pace. Your finances are a high priority and you should have more than one new money making idea up your sleeve. The full moon in Libra on the 16th suggests a creative opportunity could be coming your way. May: Mercury, your ruler, has just arrived in your sign offering up an exciting theme of innovative ideas and exciting new plans to help you move ahead. Try to get things done before the retrograde phase begins on the 10th. The powerful Scorpio full moon eclipse on the 16th illuminates a challenge around an ambitious project, access your intuition for best results.

CANCER JUNE 22 - JULY 22

The powerful Aries new moon on the 1st offers up some new and innovative opportunities concerning your career goals, if you have been holding yourself back, now is the time to stride forth and be courageous. Domestic matters also get the go ahead after the Libra full moon on the 16th, any recent setbacks and delays should start to ease. May: This month indicates that a totally different dynamic is on offer as your career moves into the spotlight. Jupiter arriving in Aries on the 11th places your confidence at an all-time high and pushes you even harder to go after what you want. A close friend offers you some good advice around the time of the Gemini new moon on the 30th, try to be open to suggestions.

LEO JULY 23 - AUGUST 23

During April your overall wellbeing is firmly in the spotlight, the Aries new moon on the 1st kick-starts your energy urging you to take time out for study, adventure and travel. Broadening your horizons is definitely the theme for the next month as you tune into your needs and make the necessary changes. May begins by offering a chance to clear up any emotional matters that have been in the background for some time. After the 11th, as mighty Jupiter changes sign, your thoughts turn to further broadening your horizons and travelling to some faraway places. The Scorpio full moon eclipse on the 16th illuminates your domestic area and a deep friendship could become especially rewarding for you.

VIRGO AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 22

April arrives with a much clearer picture of your way forward; energetic Mars in Aquarius offers the dynamic energy to capitalise on professional matters, as people around you will be very receptive to your ideas and plans. The powerful full moon in Libra on the 16th suggests that money matters may require careful handling. May: Pisces energy is strong at the start of the month, illuminating the relationship sector of your chart. Your intuition should be at its height, but you will need to avoid wasting energy on trivia as Mercury in Gemini is so easily distracted. The Scorpio full moon on the 16th in your financial area offers a more practical approach to enhance your earning potential.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 23

The important full moon in your sign on the 16th illuminates your ability to be successful and shows the need for you to find a good balance and a positive outlook in all areas of life. As dynamic Mars enters Pisces on the 15th, the emphasis is on your health and wellbeing, good nutrition, rest and relaxation are more important than ever. May: Your overall health and wellbeing continue to be illuminated this month as the intuitive sign of Pisces is strongly emphasised in your chart. Take this opportunity to further develop any new health strategies as this is the perfect time to make some lasting changes. The Scorpio full moon on the 16th suggests new financial insights are ready to be uncovered.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

April's planetary activity turns your attention to work related matters. The powerful Aries new moon on the 1st offers some exciting new prospects, making this the perfect time for success. After the 6th, relationship planet Venus arrives in enchanting and sensitive Pisces – very well positioned to enhance love and romance! May: The full moon in your sign on the 16th confirms the important decisions that you have taken in recent months, step back and enjoy your success! Work related issues are on a roll as new projects coincide with your determination to succeed. The new moon in Gemini on the 30th highlights a financial issue that needs addressing.

Christine Chalklin
Inspirational Astrologer and Life Coach

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 21

Work and lifestyle issues are in the spotlight this month, you'll feel drawn to finding a better balance in these areas. Creativity should also be at a peak as Mars is innovative and resourceful in Aquarius. A much higher profile leads you to being in the right place at the right time, particularly around the full moon on the 16th. May: Your love life enters the spotlight after the 3rd as romantic Venus arrives in passionate Aries and lights up this area of your chart. Relationships should flourish under these current trends and Jupiter, your ruler, is beneficial after the 11th. Mercury in Gemini ensures that you stay curious and explore, but try to avoid arguments.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 20

During April the emphasis is on all forms of communication; Abundant Jupiter and mystical Neptune are both in intuitive Pisces, giving you the gift of insight wherever it is most needed. An added boost comes from the powerful Aries new moon, allowing you to firm up your strategy for any career expansion that you have in mind. May brings a new sense of adventure and exciting new possibilities as your communication sector is illuminated and you have plenty to say. The Sun and impulsive Uranus also occupy pivotal positions in your chart, ensuring that you enjoy popularity and recognition; use positive thinking to get the very best out of any new social endeavours.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 18

Under the current planetary trends, ideas and communication around all aspects of your earning potential continue to occupy the spotlight. Dynamic Mars remains in your sign until the 15th, be sure to make the most of this powerful energy for multiple creative ideas. The Taurus new moon on the 30th brings a longstanding domestic issue to the forefront. During May your home becomes one of your top priorities, if you maximise your potential and put your powers of judgement to the test you should see the successful culmination of an ambitious project. Venus arrives in Aries on the 3rd, enthusiasm is high as love and relationships offer excitement and delight

PISCES FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Your breakthroughs arrive as you start to view events from an entirely new perspective. The powerful Aries new moon on the 1st suggests innovative and beneficial change will be coming your way very soon. Venus arrives in your sign on the 6th, joining Jupiter and Neptune and kick-starting your desire to make some important changes. May: Energetic Mars moves out of your sign and into Aries on the 25th, offering you the opportunity for renewal and clearing out. Venus is passionate in lively Aries from the 3rd suggesting that you have supercharged energy for ridding yourself of anything that is not essential in your life, even if it requires some serious soul searching.

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QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE: IN CELEBRATION OF A REMARKABLE LADY

On 6th February 2022, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years since her accession to the throne. This astonishing achievement makes her the longest reigning living monarch anywhere in the world. According to the Guinness Book of Records, the title was previously held by King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand until his death in 2016. His rule of 70 years 126 days was the second longest reign of a sovereign state in history. The longest-reigning monarch ever was King Louis XIV, who presided over France for 72 years 110 days (14 May 1643- 1 September 1715).

There is a year-long schedule of events to mark the occasion, and we're all being encouraged to play our part even in a small way. For example there's The Queen's Green Canopy project where communities are being helped to "plant a tree for the Jubilee" (www.queensgreencanopy.org). Plus we can buy souvenirs through the official Royal Collection shop (www.royalcollectionshop.co.uk).

But all eyes will be on the first weekend of June when the Platinum Jubilee celebrations begin in earnest, with the main events set to take place between Thursday 2nd and Sunday 5th June. We have an additional one-off bank holiday in England on 3rd June with the Spring Bank Holiday (which usually falls in late May) having been moved to 2nd June, creating a four-day weekend.

HERE'S THE ORDER OF EVENTS FOR THE PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND:

THURSDAY 2ND JUNE - TROOPING THE COLOUR from Buckingham Palace to Horse Guards Parade, ending with an RAF fly-past, watched by the Queen from the balcony of Buckingham Palace. Members of the public can apply for tickets via the website bp.army.mod.uk/queensbirthdayparade/

Thursday will also see 1,500 beacons being lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas

Territories, plus (for the first time) in each of the capital cities of the Commonwealth countries.

FRIDAY 3RD JUNE - SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING at St Paul's Cathedral.

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE - PLATINUM PARTY AT THE PALACE, a special live concert from Buckingham Palace that will bring together some of the world's biggest entertainment stars. Members of the public will be invited to apply for tickets, for more information go to www.royal.uk/platinumjubilee-central-weekend.

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE - THE BIG JUBILEE LUNCH where local communities are encouraged to come together, celebrate their connections and get to know each other a little bit better.

Meanwhile in London the Platinum Jubilee Pageant will involve performers, dancers, musicians, military personnel, key workers and volunteers. Part of this event includes the River of Hope, which will comprise of two hundred silk flags which will process down The Mall, appearing like a moving river. Primary and secondary school children are invited to create a picture of their hopes and aspirations for the planet over the next 70 years. You can register your school's interest to take part via riverofhope.co.uk. If you're planning your own local celebrations to mark this momentous event, then the Royal Family has created a wealth of free resources to help via www.royal.uk/resourcesplatinum-jubilee

About the Author: Helen Say is a freelance blogger and copywriter www.cblservices.co.uk



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With a new patio area and under cover seating, you'll be able to watch the lambs playing in the fields whatever the weather!

**WE ALSO HAVE A NEW COLD DRINK
RANGE COMING VERY SOON!**



**EASTER
OPENING TIMES:**

**GOOD FRIDAY
9AM-5PM**

**EASTER SATURDAY
9AM-5PM**

**EASTER SUNDAY
10AM-4PM**

**EASTER MONDAY
9AM-5PM**

Oakes
FARM SHOP

OPENING TIMES

MONDAY - SATURDAY
9AM - 5PM

SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM

CAFÉ LAST ORDERS ONE HOUR PRIOR TO
CLOSING TIMES ABOVE.

01676 535537

INFO@OAKESFARMSHOP.CO.UK

WWW.OAKESFARMSHOP.CO.UK

BALSALL STREET, BALSALL COMMON
CV7 7AQ

Pension
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CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Talk to us about a review of your previously transferred pension scheme benefits, plus

- Early retirement planning
- Alternatives to low interest rates
- Socially responsible investing for growth and/or income
- Inheritance tax and estate planning

Contact us to have a friendly chat and to learn how we can help.

Head Office:

Regent House, 430-432 Kenilworth Road,
Balsall Common CV7 7DN

Telephone 01676 532210 / 03300 505040

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