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Town scheme to bring more affordable homes

by **Sonny Rackham**
sonny.rackham@bullivantmedia.com

A PROPOSED development of 100 homes in Droitwich is set to become entirely affordable after the site was bought by a housing association.

Bromford has acquired a 12-acre site off Tagwell Road, with pre-existing outline planning permission for 100 homes, from land promoters St Phillips Land.

The proposed properties are a mix of one and two-bedroom flats and two, three and four-bedroom houses. The majority will be made available for rent with others forming part of the housing association's shared ownership scheme.

Properties will be built using modern construction methods and be fitted with air source heat pumps and other sustainable solutions to increase energy efficiency.

Bromford's senior land manager, Duncan Melville, said: "This is an exciting opportunity for us to increase the number of affordable homes we own in the area.

"House prices across Wychavon are 12 times average incomes which is pricing local people out and increasing demand for affordable rented homes.

"By using funding from Homes England, all the homes we'll be building on this site will either be for rent or affordable home ownership."

Subject to gaining reserved matters approval from Wychavon District Council, Bromford's in-house construction team aims to start work by end of year, aiming to complete it by 2027.

The outline planning application was submitted in 2020 and Wychavon did not reach a determination on the proposals.

In a statement to the Standard, Wychavon said the complex nature of the application meant it was unable to make a decision on time.

And, although the appeal decision noted Wychavon had one potential reason for refusing the application had it been able to make a decision, it said, realistically, it could not demonstrate a five-year land supply.

The proposed reason for refusal related to the location of the site being outside of Droitwich Spa's development boundary.

This meant the National Planning Policy Framework's presumption in favour of sustainable development applied and the proposed reason for refusal would have failed, so Wychavon did not contest. It was granted at appeal by the Planning Inspectorate in October 2022.

With the site now under new ownership, revised plans are being prepared for submission in the near future.

Council response

A Wychavon spokesperson said: "When they are, a new period of public consultation will be carried out in the usual way.

"We don't have a date at this point for when a decision on the application will be made."



DODDERHILL Parish Council has thanked road workers for repairing the access road to Wychbold Village Hall as part of a community scheme.

The authority had taken the difficult decision to close the road because, due to worsening potholes, there was a risk of injury to people, dogs, cars, bikes and other vehicles.

The parish council was obtaining quotes for repairs when Martin Phillips contacted one of the councillors about a parish member's concerns.

In his liaison role for one of the contractors on the Smart Motorway Programme (SMP) Alliance National Emergency Area Retrofit M5 J4a to 6 scheme he was able to organise for the road to be fixed.

The work was completed within a few days, thanks to SMP Alliance Partners bmJV and Forkers Ltd and the improvement scheme contractors, Heidelberg Materials. The tarmac was donated by Midland Quarry Products).

A parish council spokesperson said they were amazed by the thoroughness of the job and the excellent end

result.

"The road was swept, the drains were cleared, the potholes and the areas around them were excavated and new tarmac was laid."

Turn to page four for more on the M5 scheme.

Members of Dodderhill Parish Council were delighted by the repairs to the access road to Wychbold Village Hall. Picture courtesy of the parish council.

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RATING BOOSTED: AFTER a recent inspection, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has moved the rating of Redditch's Alexandra Hospital from requires improvement to good.

The CQC carried out an unannounced inspection of children and young people services at the Alex, which is run by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, in October of last year.

Inspectors found staff recognised the signs of people at risk of experiencing harm and worked closely with partner organisations to protect them.

They also saw young people provided feedback when they were involved in incidents and staff learned from these experiences, preventing them from happening again and improving services.

Craig Howarth, CQC deputy director of operations in the Midlands, said: "It was clear staff had put in significant work to improve areas we identified at our previous inspection.

"We also saw leaders were much more effective and our experience tells us that good leadership, means better care, which

is what we saw here.

"People were happy with the care they received.

"Staff provided children, young people and their families with high quality care and all the information they needed, which added to their positive experience.

"People also told us about their positive experiences of the trust's outpatient services.

Mr Howarth said staff were also committed to improving young people's experience of care and treatment and helped them feel comfortable and less nervous.

However, it was noted there was not a funded phlebotomy service for children which meant people faced a wait of three or more months for a blood test, but inspectors were told leaders planned to develop a treatment provision.

Mr Howarth added: "Staff at Alexandra Hospital should be proud of the findings of our report and the improvements they have made.

"We look forward to visiting again in future to see their continued progress as they build on these positive findings."

Plenty to see at comedy festival

DROITWICH Spa will be transformed into a hotbed of humour when 130 fringe events take place as part of The Rik Mayall Comedy Festival.

The festival, from May 31 to June 7, is set to be the biggest cultural event to hit the town in decades.

More than 50 per cent of the fringe events are either free or 'Pay What You Want' to make as much comedy as possible accessible to all.

With just seven weeks to go until the extravaganza kicks off, people are being urged to grab tickets for shows they have their eyes on.

Despite rumours of a sell-out, there are still tickets available at the main venue, The Norbury Theatre, for shows such as Live At The Apollo's Scott Bennett, Angelos Epithemiou of Shooting Stars fame and shows for families including Grimm Tales and for new parents and babies, Aftermirth comedy club.

Fools Talk Theatre presents 'Against The Clock!' - A 'Hooray for Harold Lloyd' Story and cult-rock legend Jon Otway and Young Ones star Paul Bradley's musical 'Verbal Diary' are selling fast.

As well as traditional performance venues, local businesses have fully embraced the innovative and bold spirit of this debut festival by hosting shows in spaces you would not normally expect.

Festival director, Stuart Panrucker, said: "What's been so heartening is how enthusiastically local businesses embraced this hugely exciting event and not having a conventional space to host shows hasn't put them off."

Quirky places to take in a show are the men's hairdresser Barbertain which has a full programme of events throughout the week, a beauty clinic - Inspire by Rachel, a 600 year old shop turned cafe - Coffee Culture, and even in the back of local haberdashery shop, Ernns on Droitwich High Street.

Mitch Benn, best known as resident musical satirist Radio 4's The Now Show, brings two separate shows dedicated to Rik Mayall to the Droitwich Working Men's Club - one even featuring a full band including the Comic

Strip's Ronnie Golden.

As well as celebrating the comedic legacy of Rik Mayall - who lived in Droitwich from the age of three - the festival also aims to champion new talent and provide a testing ground for fresh material.

Coun Richard Morris, who instigated the festival, said: "One of our core values is about 'trying something new' embracing the bold, fearless spirit of Rik Mayall - and we're encouraging both performers and audiences to do just that."

The volunteer-run festival, which aims to put Droitwich on the comedy map, will feature free family days, plays, spoken word, improv, music, magic, dance, storytelling and singing

Dan Renton Skinner will be performing as Angelos Epithemiou. s



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See page **27**

New park gym is taking shape

by **Sonny Rackham**
sonny.rackham@bullivantme-
dia.com

RESIDENTS in Rubery can now work out in a local park at no extra cost after new gym equipment was installed.

Local Labour councillors, Peter McDonald and Esther Gray, were delighted to see the old equipment in St Chad's Park replaced with new apparatus.

It means residents can work out in the open for free.

Coun McDonald said: "I am really delighted to see the old worn-out equipment I managed to fund many years ago replaced."

"Too often worn-out equipment is taken away and never replaced."

The pair have used various revenue streams available to them through Bromsgrove District Council's commitments to improve parks and open spaces across the region

to help fund the equipment.

The council committed to funding improvements at its play areas in February's budget, with a plan released in December 2024 budgeting for a £2million spend over the next 10 years.

Coun Gray added: "I am determined to see further investment especially improving the ground around the play area which most of the year is a quagmire."



Rubery Councillors Peter McDonald and Esther Gray try out the new kit in St Chad's Park. Picture by Marcus Mings 1525008MMR

Housing association's £20k boost enables Wellbeing Hub to expand

A WORCESTERSHIRE housing association has provided a donation of £20,000 to Droitwich Wellbeing Hub to help it continue to offer essential mental health services to the community.

Platform Housing Group awarded the donation through its Wellbeing Fund.

The scheme was initially launched in 2021, to help people with essential needs such as food, energy and household appliances.

Since then it has gone from strength-to-strength and is now being used to support community based schemes such as the Wellbeing Hub.

The funding has enabled the non-profit hub, which offers counselling and wellbeing support, to hire additional staff and secure further funding to sustain and grow its services.

Pip Cavilla, Co-founder and Therapeutic

Counsellor at the Droitwich Wellbeing Hub said: "Our partnership with Platform has been incredible - this funding has already made a huge difference to the way we support local people."

"It's helped us expand our reach and meet the increasing demand for mental health support."

Marion Duffy, chief operations officer at Platform Housing Group, said funding projects like this was important during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

"That's why our Wellbeing Fund is so important - it allows us to respond directly to what people needs, whether that's essential items like a cooker, energy and food vouchers, or access to vital mental health services like those offered by the Droitwich Wellbeing Hub."

THE BROMSGROVE Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding a Memorial Service at Crown Close to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day on May 8.

The service will start with the standards parading from Amphlett Hall to the Cenotaph at 10.45am.

A VE Day flag will be raised before the start of the service.

Wreaths will be laid by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Bromsgrove District Council chairman and leader, along with Armed Services representa-

tives - the Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. Other wreaths will then be laid.

Everyone is welcome to attend and anyone wishing to order a wreath can contact Jeff Evans by emailing: bromsgrove.chairman@rbl.community or by calling 01527 576251 and leaving a message.

Mr Evans said: "The memorial service will be a poignant reminder of our history and the enduring importance of honouring those who have served and continue to serve our country."

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LEFT: The CFC Redditch girls football team in their National Highways-sponsored jackets. s



RIGHT: Planters were installed in The De Montfort School's eco garden in Evesham. s

M5 workers boost community

MORE THAN £15,000 and 550 volunteering hours were spent on local community projects by road workers who have just finished installing emergency areas on the M5 in Worcestershire.

by Mia Whitehouse

The team completed works including renovating an eco garden at an Evesham school, maintenance of Redditch sports clubs, pothole repairs on Wychbold Village Hall access road and sponsoring the CFC Redditch girls football team.

This followed the ten new emergency areas being constructed between the Junctions 4A (Bromsgrove) and 6 (Worcester) of the M5.

Work began in January 2024 and ended in February this year as part of a National Highways' programme.

Colin Thompson, National Highways sponsor, said: "We appreciate any roadworks can cause some disruption so we, and our supply chain, try to give a little back to the communities as a thank you for people's patience.

"Thanks to our willing volunteers, we were able to help out a number of very worthy causes as well as hopefully inspiring the next generation of engineers and highways specialists."

He added the number of emergency areas on that section of the M5 had more than doubled, providing drivers with more frequent opportunities to pull over should they break down or experience difficulties.

The team in De Montfort School in Evesham helped to enhance the eco garden with a greenhouse, benches, sleepers and plants. Students will be able to grow fruits and vegetables, supporting biodiversity and the 25.8 per cent of students on free school meals.

Gemma Hobbs-Beasley, from De Montfort School, said: "The newly-rejuvenated outdoor areas will not only provide opportunities for physical skills, knowledge and understanding, but will boost confidence and social skills.

"It enables students to be hands on with nature and to improve our mental health and reduce anxiety levels."

Tree clearance and maintenance works were completed at Redditch Cricket, Hockey, Rugby and Squash Club, including improvements to

the car park, rugby pitches and sports club.

David Roberts, from the Redditch sports club, said: "The work has saved the club a considerable amount of time, effort and money, and made a massive improvement to the appearance of the overall club."

"Having this work completed means the small amount of money the club has can be put back into the club to help young teams with equipment and improve essential kit the young children need."

As well as this, the National Highways team visited 18 different schools and colleges to inspire the next generation into a career in construction.

An M5 Discovery Day was held for Worcester Sixth Form College, with students able to visit the M5

works offices and compound to get first-hand insight into life in the highways industry.

Andrew Fitzpatrick, Worcester Sixth Form College's senior lead for progression, said: "Many of our students want to apply for degree apprenticeships but they are often limited by their knowledge of industry and the Discovery Day showed them the huge number and variety of opportunities available to them in the Built Environment."

National Highways' commitment to deliver £900million worth of further safety improvements nationwide has created 150 additional emergency areas completed across the M1, M3, M4, M5, M20, M25, and M27.

Visit the website at nationalhighways.co.uk for more on the improvements.



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For further information, please visit: www.studleychristadelphians.org

High Sheriff's farewell hails HB9 'heroes'

THE HIGH Sheriff of Worcestershire marked his final formal engagement with a visit to the Harry Bennett HB9 Foundation in Bromsgrove.

Charles Moyles JP was in the town last Tuesday and his time in office concluded on Thursday.

Held in the presence of family members, volunteers, and Coun Sam Ammar, chairperson of Bromsgrove District Council, the event celebrated individuals who had made exceptional contributions to the foundation since its creation in 2020.

The charity was established in memory of local teenager Harry Bennett and works to ensure all young people can access the benefits of sport and physical activity.

In a heartfelt opening address, Mr Moyle praised the work of 'local heroes' who have supported HB9's mission through fundraising, advocacy and community action.

A total of eight people were formally recognised during the visit, with certificates presented as part of the

by **Tristan Harris**
tristan.harris
@bullivantmedia.com

High Sheriff Awards. Award recipients included brothers Alfie and Josh Bullivant, along with Henry Smith, founders of Bennett's Boots – a scheme selling nearly-new sports boots at just £5-a-pair.

The project has raised more than £5,000 – the equivalent of more than 1,000 pairs of boots – all reinvested into the HB9 Foundation to expand access to sport for young people.

Tracey and Scott Smith were acknowledged for their ongoing fundraising and for spearheading HB9 Awareness Days at Rigby Hall School, where Tracey is the headteacher.

Russ and Sam Bullivant were recognised for their committed fundraising efforts and their tireless promotion of the foundation within the local community.

Ryan Lewis, a close friend of Harry Bennett for more than 12 years, received an award for his moving narration of the HB9 promo-

tional video – an inspiring piece which has helped galvanise public support for the Foundation's work.

Mark Goddard was commended for naming HB9 as Charity of the Year at Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club, with a fundraising target of \$5,000 already under way – almost £700 has been raised so far.

In addition to those present, a further seven people who were unable to attend were also formally recognised by the High Sheriff and certificates will be sent to them.

The office of High Sheriff is an independent, non-political Royal appointment, held for a single year.

It is the oldest secular office in the United Kingdom after the monarchy, with roots dating back before the Norman Conquest.

High Sheriff Awards are personally given on behalf of His Majesty the King, honouring individuals and groups who make significant contributions to their communities.

Visit justgiving.com/hb9 for more on the Harry Bennett HB9 Foundation and to donate to the cause.



Recipients and family with Coun Sam Ammar and High Sheriff Charles Moyle JP. Picture by Marcus Mingins 1525006 MMR1

Police appeal after sheep stolen

A LARGE number of sheep were stolen from a farm in Bromsgrove last week prompting a police appeal for information.

A total of 19 sheep were stolen from Chadwick Manor Farm, Lydiate Ash, near Junction 4 of the M5, between around 6pm on Monday and 9am last Tuesday (April 1 and 2).

The livestock stolen were

all ewes who were in lamb which would have caused distress to the animals involved.

Police said enquiries are ongoing.

Sarah Sceats, north Worcestershire rural and business officer, said: "The farmers are understandably distressed by the damage to their livelihood but also for the welfare of the

sheep who were in lamb when they were stolen. It would have taken a larger vehicle, possibly with a trailer, to take them."

West Mercia Police are urging anyone who may have seen anything or has dash cam or CCTV footage to call 101.

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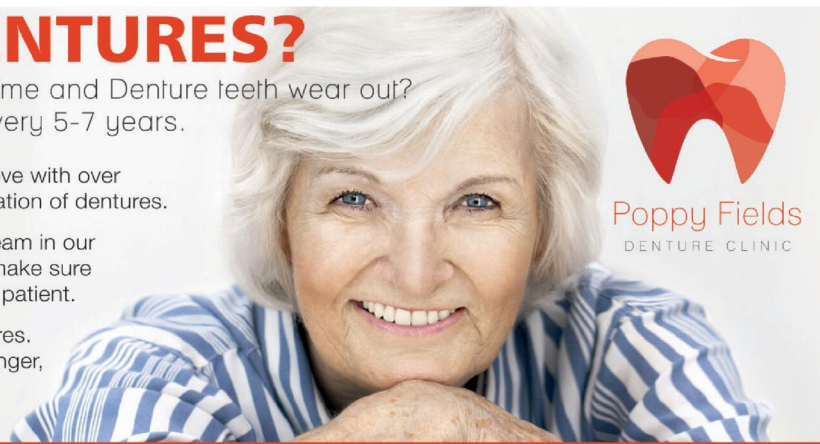
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Sharing education on vaping dangers

A SUPPORT worker in Bromsgrove has been able to share her new-found knowledge about vaping with youngsters she is mentoring after taking a drug education training session.

Support worker Maria* works within an alternative provision school and has shared her new understanding of the risk of vaping with Ruby*, a teenager she is mentoring.

Maria learned that a single vape at 600 puffs is the equivalent of smoking 40 cigarettes. She explained this to Ruby to help her understand vaping's impacts on mental and physical wellbeing.

Ruby had been using an 1,800-puff vape, which is illegal according to UK regulations and potentially

by **Sonny Rackham**
sonny.rackham@bullivantmedia.com

even more harmful than a legal vape.

A few hours after their conversation, Ruby called her to say she had made the decision to limit herself to using one 600-puff vape per week.

Maria was delighted.

She said: "It was totally unprompted on her part. I see that reduction as a massive success and it wouldn't have happened without the training."

The session, delivered by national drug education charity Hope UK, was part of a county-wide programme to upskill teachers, youth workers and other professionals working with children and young people. It aims to better equip them

to deliver up-to-date and evidence-based drug education in their teaching and pastoral support sessions to reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in drugs and criminality locally, including child exploitation and county lines gangs.

The programme is free for practitioners and is funded by Worcestershire County Council and the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion.

Sessions cover general information about drugs, drug use, how to communicate openly with young people about alcohol and drug use, effective drug prevention interventions and where to get help.

On completion of the first in-person session, participants gain access to a dedicated website which provides further information.



Learnners trying to identify various substances in a drug education session. Picture by Hope UK. s

The training will be delivered throughout 2025, and is targeted at all schools, FE colleges, special and alternative provision schools and youth services.

Anyone within these organisations who would benefit from the

training are eligible to attend. Email training@hopeuk.org or call 020 7928 0848 to book.

Visit hopeuk.org/wcc for more information.

* Names of individuals have been changed.



Paralympian Rebecca Redfern paid a visit to Rashwood Care Home. s

Rebecca shares Paralympic journey with home residents

RENOWNED Droitwich Paralympian Rebecca Redfern visited a care home to share her journey of triumph and determination with residents.

The talk at Rashwood Care Home celebrated her gold medal success at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games to provide an inspiring and uplifting experience for those who attended.

Rebecca, who has made history in the world of Para-sport, spoke

candidly about her journey to the podium, the challenges she faced and the unwavering dedication required to achieve such an extraordinary accomplishment.

With her gold medal shining as a symbol of perseverance and hard work, Rebecca captivated residents with her story.

During the session, Rebecca took time to engage with the residents, sharing behind-the-scenes insights into the preparation and

mental strength needed to compete at the highest level.

She also answered questions from the audience, offering words of encouragement to those facing their own challenges, and emphasising the importance of never giving up on one's dreams, regardless of obstacles.

The visit was part of Rashwood Care Home's ongoing aims to provide enriching experiences for its residents, bringing in

speakers and events that offer inspiration, joy, and personal connection.

Rashwood Care Home's social engagement co-ordinator, Silvia Milligan, said: "We are incredibly grateful to Rebecca for taking the time to visit us and share her remarkable journey."

"Her visit has left our residents feeling inspired and proud to have been a part of such an uplifting experience."



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Hop into Easter in Redditch



Spring has well and truly sprung, and Easter in Redditch is blooming with fresh air, family fun and sweet surprises.

Whether you're chasing down chocolate eggs, enjoying a lakeside stroll, or simply tucking into a hot cross bun, there's something special about this time of year.

Easter is a season of renewal – lambs are leaping in the fields, daffodils are bursting into colour, and longer, lighter days bring a sense of hope after the long winter months. And of course, no Easter is complete without a few chocolatey indulgences – bunnies, eggs, and treats tucked into every corner!

Easter also holds deep spiritual meaning – a celebration of hope, new life, and the resurrection of

Jesus Christ. Church services, hymns, and quiet reflection remind us of Easter's Christian roots, offering a time to pause, connect, and appreciate the values of love, renewal and compassion.

So whether you're spending time in one of the many magnificent churches we have here in Redditch, taking part in a Easter egg trail at Forge Mill, enjoying a Easter egg hunt through the giant maze at The Kingfisher or Meeting friends at the BoatHouse At Arrow Valley for Water Activities, there's no shortage of ways to celebrate.

However you mark it – with family, faith or simply a well-earned Bank Holiday break – here's wishing you a cracking Easter from all of us at the Redditch and Bromsgrove Standard.

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12th - 20th April

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It's OK to want more



I'm Chris Thomas, a businessman of 25 years, a father to two young girls, a keen runner, a former magistrate and someone who has always been passionate about building a better future.

For too long, the same tired political parties have been stuck in endless arguments and outdated thinking. But I believe our best days are still ahead of us.

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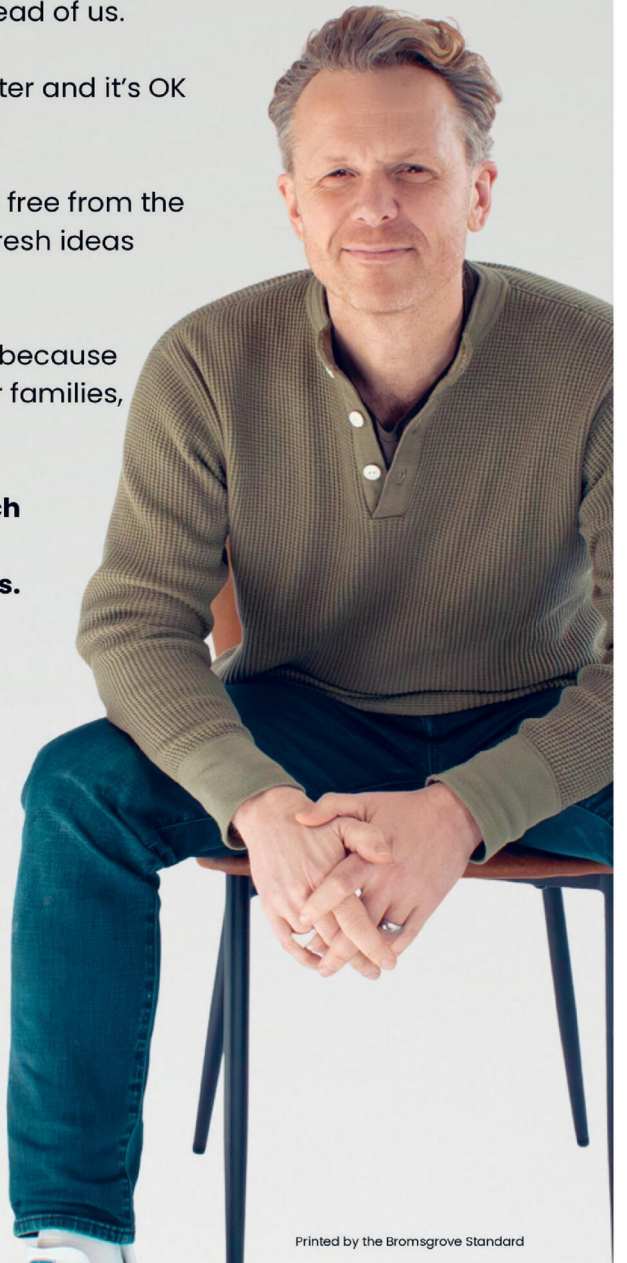
It's OK to want safer communities, better opportunities and common-sense policies that work.

Whisper it to your friends or shout it from the Lickey Hills,

It's **OK** ... to vote **Reform UK**



Christopher Thomas



Beware thieves at ATMs, warn police

POLICE officers in north Worcestershire are signposting the way to the public to protect themselves from distraction thefts at cash machines.

Warning posters are being displayed around the machines in Kidderminster town centre this week and will be rolled out in Redditch and Bromsgrove in due course.

The message tells members of the public to be cautious when using cash machines as thieves who may be operating in the area will try to distract them.

by **Sonny Rackham**
sonny.rackham
@bullivantmedia.com

The proactive campaign follows reports of people being targeted while at the machines by tricksters, normally working in pairs, diverting the victims' attention.

For example, the con artists may point to a bank note on the floor and ask the person if they have dropped it and meanwhile an accomplice will attempt to withdraw cash from the machine while their card is still in it or take the card itself.

They may also attempt to

get close to the person at the cash machine and ask questions, distracting them and allowing another offender to access the machine.

Sarah Sceats, Rural and Business Officers (RABO) for north Worcestershire, came up with the idea of the posters and is working with banks to roll them out across the area.

Ms Sceats said: "While thankfully there have only been a handful of these types of distraction thefts in this area, this tactic is becoming more prevalent nationally."

"We are acting now to help protect members of the

public from being tricked out of their money at cash machines.

"Working in partnership with local banks, we have designed and printed the new posters to stick next to machines warning people to be cautious whilst using them.

"Our advice is to be mindful of anyone nearby who seems suspicious or who may be trying to distract you and take extra care when at the cash machine."

West Mercia Police is rolling out posters to warn the public about distraction thieves at cash machines. s



Firefighters issue warning after tackling several fires on open land

A PROLONGED dry spell has led to a rise in the number of outdoor blazes getting out of control across north Worcestershire and a warning from Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service.

There has been very little rain in the past week-and-a-half and temperatures on some days have been upward of 20°C.

At the end of last week, over the weekend and dur-

ing this week, fire crews have been called to several incidents in Bromsgrove, Rubery, Redditch and Kidderminster.

A fire in the open in Gannow Green Lane, Rednal, around 5pm on Monday, was started by a disposable barbecue - firefighters used a water backpack to extinguish the flames.

In Bromsgrove on the same day, firefighters dealt

with a blaze in grasslands off Perryfields Road.

Also on Monday, a crew from Wyre Forest Fire Station was called at 11.53am to an embankment fire on the Severn Valley Railway at Devils Spittleful. Two seats of fire were located and were extinguished using beaters and water backpacks.

Last Friday there was a fire at Burlish Top Nature Reserve in Stourport which

started when youths lit a bonfire and it spread. Firefighters used water backpacks and buckets of water to extinguish the blaze there.

A Wyre Forest Fire Station crew was also called around 1.30pm on Sunday to a fire in the open in Borrington Road, Offmore, Kidderminster. The fire involved 10m by 10m of undergrowth and trees which had spread to plastic

underground culverts. The fire was extinguished by the firefighters using a water jet.

It is believed that one was started deliberately as two youths were seen fleeing the scene.

These are just some of several fires across Worcestershire which has prompted a warning from Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service.

A spokesperson said: "We

urge people to refrain from using disposable barbecues and safely put out cigarette ends to avoid inadvertently starting a fire."

The service also discourages outdoor fires in rural areas.

Anyone using incinerators, log burners and bonfires should keep them away from fences, foliage, buildings and bushes and always keep buckets of water nearby.

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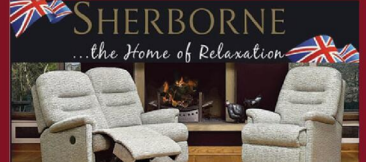
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Good news on screening but more is urged

WORCESTERSHIRE is among the top three areas in the West Midlands for bowel cancer screening uptake.

by Ashleigh Osborne
news@bullivantmedia.com

Early detection is crucial as it allows treatment to begin sooner, significantly improving outcomes and saving lives.

According to the latest Government figures, over three-quarters of eligible people were screened for bowel cancer in 2024.

At 75.4 per cent this is higher than the West Midlands rate of 70.2 per cent and England's rate of 71.8 per cent.

Public Health in Worcestershire is revealing these figures to coincide with Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, where we highlight the importance of spotting the signs and early detection.

Our high screening rates mean more people have the chance to receive timely treatment.

Lisa McNally, director of Public Health in

red or black and unexplained weight loss.

While these symptoms are common and can be linked to other conditions, it is essential people get checked by a GP if they experience them.

According to NHS England, people aged 50 and 52 are now starting to automatically receive a home test kit every two years by post when they become eligible, marking the final phase of the NHS ambition to offer everyone aged 50 to 74 the screening test.

Around 850,000 additional people in England a year will be eligible for the screening test, with over 4million more people invited since roll-out began in 2021.

People can call the free bowel cancer screening helpline for advice on 0800 707 60 60.

Information on bowel cancer and the screening programme can be found on the nhs.uk website.



Steam locomotive 7029 'Clun Castle' hauled the Shakespeare Express from Worcester to Stratford-on-Avon on Sunday. Picture by Vintage Trains. s

THE POPULAR Shakespeare Express has completed its first outing of the new running season.

The train was heading from Worcester to Stratford-on-Avon while being hauled by steam locomotive 7029 Clun Castle when it visited the town on Sunday during the 40th anniversary of the train's inaugural run.

The train also passed through Kidderminster and called at Droitwich, Stourbridge Junction and Birmingham Snow Hill before arriving in Stratford-on-Avon for a break of around four hours to enable passenger's time to enjoy sightseeing and shopping, before commencing

the return journey.

A class 37 diesel locomotive, number 37240, also hauled the train from Birmingham to Worcester in the morning and back to Birmingham in the evening working its first passenger service since 1996.

A spokesperson for organisers Vintage Trains said: "It was pleasing so many people came to see the train, with Clun Castle and the class 37 both performing well."

For details on the three other steam-hauled Shakespeare Express trains this year visit: vintage trains.co.uk for more information.

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On Thursday 1st May from 5pm – 8pm, prospective students can visit the Colleges Worcester or Redditch campuses to get a deeper understanding of the adult and higher education courses on offer at HoW College.

The departments will be on hand throughout the evening to provide comprehensive information and guidance about the courses on offer and how they can kickstart your future. Whether you're looking to advance in your career, change your career path, gain important skills, or pursue a passion, the teams will be on hand to help navigate your future.

At the Worcester campus, you'll have the opportunity to explore a diverse selection of higher education and adult courses, including ESOL, Access to HE, Human Resources, Cyber Skills, and more. Meanwhile, at the Redditch campus, you can delve into courses such as Business, Accounting, Functional Skills/GCSEs, and additional exciting offerings.

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THURSDAY 1ST MAY 2025**

**WHERE
WORCESTER AND
REDDITCH CAMPUSES**

**WHO
ANYONE LOOKING TO
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HEART OF
WORCESTERSHIRE
COLLEGE

News in brief

THERE will be fun for youngsters in Droitwich when the free Easter Kids Fun Fest comes to Droitwich from 10am to 5.30pm on Saturday and Sunday, April 19 and 20.

People can just turn up and enjoy a host of activities and entertainment in the Green Flag-awarded Vines Park.

The festival, which has now been running for five years, is set to be bigger than ever with 41 stalls and attractions.

There will be a funfair and pony rides from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

A performance from ENTW9 Dance will take place at 1.30pm on Sunday, there will be karaoke at 1.30pm on Saturday and 2.30pm on Sunday and a children's disco at 4pm on Saturday and 3.30pm on Sunday. And there will be an Ester egg hunt on the Sunday at 1pm and Magic Dave at 3pm.

Other attractions include ice cream, boat rides, burgers, toys, a doughnut store, Slush Puppies, cakes, candy floss, sweets, arts and crafts.

The event is being put on by the organisers of SaltFest.

Visit: saltfestdroitwich.co.uk/easter-kids-fun-fest for more.

RESIDENTS in Bowbrook will get to quiz some of the Worcestershire County Council election candidates standing in their division.

An event is being held at 7pm tonight (Friday, April 11) at Fernhill Heath Memorial Hall which everyone is welcome to.

The event was originally arranged by Peter Jewell, who is standing in Bowbrook for Reform UK, and the Conservative Party candidate has now also confirmed they would be attending.

The discussion will be chaired by retiring Worcestershire County Councillor Mike Rouse.

The organisers say they are awaiting confirmation from the Labour candidate and were trying to contact the Green Party to invite its candidate.

The Standard spoke to Lib Dem candidate Margaret Rowley who said she would have liked to attend but, due to the short notice given - some three days - she was unable to make it.

Waseley Hills High toast the 'Good' times

A RUBERY school has ended a more than 20-year stint of mostly below par Ofsted inspections after being graded 'good' in all areas following its latest assessment.

Waseley Hills High School, part of the Central Region Schools Trust, was found to be 'good' in all areas following and inspection on February 4 and 5.

Inspectors praised how the school had 'worked hard' to ensure improvements to the curriculum which meant 'each subject was both ambitious and well sequenced'. As a result of this hard work, outcomes at the school are improving.

The report highlights leaders' 'high expectations' of students' behaviour, and praises how students 'benefit from strong relationships with both staff and their peers'.

Students at Waseley Hills are 'courteous and respectful to others' and 'take pride in their work'.

Waseley joined the Central Region Schools Trust in November 2021 as a Department for Education intervention project to improve the standard of provision at the school.

Prior to its most recent



inspection, Waseley was graded for 20 out of the past 23 years of Ofsted inspections, making this latest 'good' in all areas inspection a major milestone in the school's upward trajectory.

Alongside joining the trust, Waseley was awarded a complete new build of the school building as part of the Department for Education's school rebuilding programme.

This multi-million pound project will see Waseley have an 8,493sq ft state-of-the-art area, including completely new

facilities the community will have access to.

The new leadership of the school, alongside the new facilities which open in September, give the local community the educational setting and provision it deserves.

The Ofsted report is a key milestone in the ambitious new future for Waseley Hills and recognises the hard work of the staff, students and community coming together to strive towards excellence.

Tom Preston, principal at Waseley Hills High School, said: "We are incredibly proud

of the progress our school has made.

"Our staff have worked tirelessly to drive improvements, ensuring every student receives the high-quality education they deserve.

"This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our parents and carers."

Staff and students at Waseley Hills High School are celebrating the successful Ofsted inspection.

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 Holy Saturday - 19th April / Easter Sunday - 20th April

St Leonards CofE, Church Hill, Frankley, B32 4BL
07748 693408

Good Friday, 2pm - An hour before the cross
 Easter Sunday, 11:15am - Easter Communion

St Chad's CofE, New Road, Rubery, B45 9JA
0121 2383168

Maundy Thursday, 7.30pm - Informal Communion service
 Good Friday, 2pm - Quiet, reflective service
 Holy Saturday, 9pm - 'Lighting the Fire'
 Easter Sunday, 10am - Family-friendly Holy Communion

Holy Trinity CofE, Rose Hill, Lickey, B45 8RR with
St Catherine's CofE, St Catherine's Rd, Blackwell
B60 1BN, 0121 445 1425

Good Friday, 2pm - Service of reflection at St Catherine's
 Easter Sunday, 10am - Easter Communion at St Catherine's
 Easter Sunday, 10:30am - Easter Praise at Holy Trinity Lickey

Our Lady's RC, Leach Green Lane, Rubery, B45 9BQ
0121 453 3452

Good Friday, 7pm - Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday, 11.30am - Blessing of Food for Polish Community
 Holy Saturday, 7pm - Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday, 11am - Mass

Beacon Church Centre URC, Whetty Lane, Rubery,
B45 9DL, 07526 250645

Good Friday, 4pm - Reflection
 Easter Sunday, 11am - Worship with Holy Communion

Longbridge Methodist Church, Bristol Rd South,
B45 9TY, 0121 257 2584

Good Friday, 2.30pm - Good Friday service
 Easter Sunday, 11am - Easter morning service

St Stephen's CofE, Edgewood Road, Rednal, B45 8SG
0121 243 4634

Good Friday, 9.30am - Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday, 7pm - New Light Service
 Easter Sunday, 10am - Easter Morning service of celebration

St Andrew's CofE, Sandhills Road, Barnt Green,
B45 8NR with St Michael's CofE, Cofton Church Lane,
Cofton Hackett, B45 8PT, 0121 447 7097

Good Friday, 9:30am - Service of reflection at St Andrew's
 Good Friday, 3pm - Messy Good Friday Activities and reflections
 for all ages at St Andrew's
 Easter Sunday, 9:30am - Family Communion at St Andrew's
 Easter Sunday, 6pm - Easter Communion at St Michael's



Good Friday
Walk of Witness
 Gather at Our Lady's
 on Leach Green Lane
 (B45 9BQ) from 10am
 for a 10.30am start.
 The walk will end at
 St Chad's with hot
 cross buns!

Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service
 Join us on Beacon Hill
 (use the Monument
 Lane Car Park)
 at 5.45am (yes,
 really!) to welcome
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Transport scheme's plea for volunteers

A COMMUNITY transport scheme serving Redditch and Bromsgrove has launched an appeal for volunteer drivers.

by **Tristan Harris**
tristan.harris@bullivantmedia.com

BluWave Community Services, which has now been running for seven years, was set up by Celia Arthur and Carole Walker to make a positive impact on the lives of the elderly and disadvantaged in the two towns.

It aims to help overcome the isolation faced by people who cannot access regular means of transport and to enrich the lives of those using the services.

By tailoring our services to meet individual needs, the community interest company wants to improve the participation of the elderly and

disadvantaged in the wider community and increase their independence. This in turn improves their wellbeing and quality of life.

Bluwave drivers are all volunteers, and the quality of volunteers is key to the success in delivering a safe and person-centred service. Volunteers are dedicated, passionate and have great empathy and want to help others.

They do more than just drive cars, they also provide a vital social connection.

BluWave is recruiting volunteers who are happy to use their own cars to take people to and from hospital or to a GP appointment.

Equally, these may be trips to social activities - journeys that enrich lives and really add to the pleasure of day-to-day living.

Volunteering can be a rewarding experience.

One volunteer driver said: "Once I retired, the days did get longer, without the strains of the workplace, no group of work mates to talk to. Volunteer driving fills some of that void."

"It helps you put your own woes and troubles into perspective and it is also rewarding to the heart and soul and breaks even financially."

Anyone wanting to find out more about becoming a volunteer driver for BluWave should email admin@bluwave.org.uk or call 01527 759650.



BluWave Community Transport wants more drivers

Care home plans Enchanting Easter with fayre

MOUNT CROFT Care Home in Bromsgrove will be opening its doors from 12pm to 3pm on Wednesday, April 16, for an Enchanting Easter Fayre.

Opening the home to the community for the very first time, the event promises joy, laughter and togetherness for residents and visitors alike.

The fayre is being planned in collaboration with the

home's newest residents who have recently made Mount Croft their home.

The family fun-filled day for all ages will feature entertainment and activities.

There will be a storybook wonderland featuring much-loved characters, including Alice in Wonderland and Peter Rabbit, from the enchanting DoorStop Princesses.

Youngsters can take part

in an exciting Easter Egg Hunt, while families try their luck at the tombola which boasts some fantastic prizes. Visitors will be able to explore Mount Croft Care Home, meet the dedicated team, and experience the warm, welcoming environment first-hand.

Mount Croft's home manager Lisa Dews said: "At Mount Croft, we believe in

creating a home where residents feel part of a vibrant and supportive community.

"This Easter fayre is not just about fun and celebration - it's about opening our doors and inviting people to see what makes Mount Croft such a special place to live."

Local families, friends and neighbours are all welcome to come and celebrate Easter together.

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Pupils from Winterfold School celebrate regional arts festival. s

Students showcase their skills at festival

PUPILS at a Winterfold School in Chaddesley Corbett have celebrated an impressive haul of silverware after performances at a regional arts festival.

More than 30 pupils represented the school at the Dudley Competitive Arts Festival, an esteemed annual event celebrating young talent across music, drama, and speech.

The festival, held in a large and prestigious concert hall in Dudley, provides a challenging platform for performers from across the region to showcase their abilities in front of expert adjudicators and a live audience.

Students from Winterfold put in 'exceptional' performances, demonstrating confidence, musicality, and dedication.

Among the award winners from Winterfold were Harry H, Cecilia G, Freddie A, Meredith M, Sophia O, Isaac W, Harrison G, Dominic A and all members of the School's Festival Choir.

Each of these students impressed the adjudicators with their talent, poise, and hard work.

Sharing their goal to help Feed The Hungry

by **Sonny Rackham**
sonny.rackham@bullivantmedia.com

FOOTBALLERS from Kidderminster Harriers and students from South Bromsgrove High School have joined forces to pack more than 5,000 meals to be shipped to children in Zimbabwe as part of an international campaign.

Kidderminster Harriers FC players Seb Thompson, Riley Reynolds and Reiss McNally got together with the pupils to pack ingredients such as dried rice, soya, lentils and essential micronutrients to be sent to those in need abroad.

The efforts are led by Feed The Hungry UK as part of their Million Meal Miracle campaign.

The students were also joined by Kidderminster Harriers players, Seb Thompson, Riley Reynolds and Reiss McNally, who lent a hand to support the cause.

In addition, Coun Tracey Onslow, chair of Worcestershire County Council, was also in attendance to get stuck in and support the work.

Carl Arntzen, CEO of Worcester Bosch, also attended the event to see how the company's donation had made a difference.

The scheme, organised in partnership with The Rotary Club of Bromsgrove, followed on a few weeks after the students' visit to the charity headquarters in Coventry where they learned first hand

about the positive impact of their work abroad.

The day, which cost £2,000 to host, was paid through the schools own fundraising efforts, along with generous donations from Worcestershire Bosch and Bromsgrove Rotary Club.

Chris Smith, Rotarian and headteacher of South Bromsgrove High, said: "I am extremely proud of what the students in the school's charity group have achieved."

"This student-led group raised the necessary funding, planned the event and organised over 80 student volunteers."

"They enjoyed it so much they are already talking about making this an annual event."

Feed The Hungry UK is an international humanitarian organisation committed to fighting hunger due to poverty, war, famine and natural disasters.

The charity works to reduce world hunger by establishing feeding programmes in 28 different countries worldwide.

Through its Million Meal Miracle campaign, the charity aims to engage 200 schools in meal packing events with a target of packing 1million meals in the next two years for schoolchildren in Zimbabwe and Somaliland.

Leading the project for Feed The Hungry is Ian Siddall, who said: "The ultimate goal of the project is to nourish and empower school children in Zimbabwe and Somaliland."

"We want to address immediate nutritional needs and instill a sense of significance and value in these young lives - fostering a brighter future for them and



the communities they belong to.

Since 1987, with its partner organisations, Feed The Hungry has globally assisted in regularly feeding more than 625,000 children in 28 countries.

Feed The Hungry also provides disaster relief recovery programmes through its network of community programmes around the globe.

Visit: millionmealmiracle.co.uk/ and business.feedthehungry.org.uk for more information.

The charity is appealing for more local partners to support its campaign, including schools, churches and businesses.

80 Bromsgrove students were joined by Kidderminster Harriers players - Seb Thompson, Riley Reynolds and Reiss McNally - to pack over 5,000 nutritional meals for children in Zimbabwe. s



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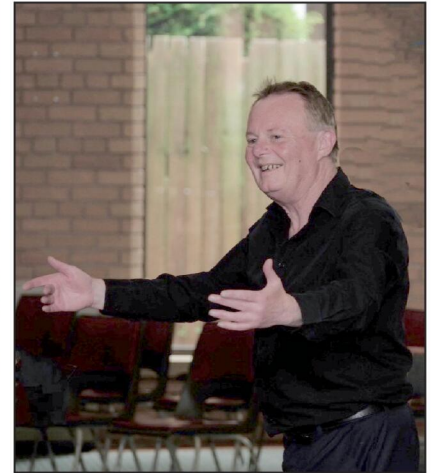
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Steve Cowperthwaite directed the programme. s

Hitting the right notes

Review

AMATEUR CHORAL MUSIC is thriving following the celebratory performance of Barnt Green Choral Society on Saturday at North Bromsgrove High School.

The society performed two pieces by Sir John Rutter: the much-loved 'Requiem' and the lesser known 'Magnificat', under the direction of Steve Cowperthwaite.

The choir showed why the Requiem had become such a firm favourite with its warmth, flowing melodies and accessibility.

The standout moment was the Pie Jesu with its wonderful soprano solo.

By contrast the Magnificat is a joyous and uplifting piece with a rich sound and strong rhythms.

Both of these pieces show Rutter's range, from gentle and serene sections to darker movements with more emotional depth.

Mr Cowperthwaite said: "Rutter's music is often very lyrical and easy to listen to but there are some fiendishly difficult sections for the choir to master.

"We've all enjoyed the technical challenges of these pieces as well as their beautiful harmonies and melodies."

The concert also saw the return of talented soprano soloist Jennifer Walker, who was once a pupil at North Bromsgrove High School.

She has since enjoyed an illustrious career as an

award-winning and exceptionally successful soloist.

She said: "I'm so pleased to be back in Bromsgrove.

"It's great to see the local music scene thriving."

The choir benefited from a small chamber ensemble which added real depth and colour to the pieces.

All the instrumentalists were excellent but there is a special mention for Molly Hartley, of the Birmingham Conservatoire, for her beautiful harp playing and to Joseph Roberts's remarkable cello playing.

For a local amateur choir to take on pieces of such intricacy and complexity and to achieve such a high standard of performance, is a real credit to Cowperthwaite's skill and all the singers and musicians.

Postal votes coming to your letterbox

POSTAL votes are being delivered to residents across Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough over the coming days for the Worcestershire County Council election on Thursday May 1.

Residents are advised to complete and return their votes as soon as possible by posting them in any Royal Mail post box.

Darren Whitney, the councils' electoral services manager, said: "The post box continues to be the best way to return your postal vote.

"You can pop your vote in any Royal Mail post box - it is quick and easy

to make sure your vote is counted.

"Simply follow the instructions on the vote when it arrives through your letter box and make sure you return it in good time."

The deadline to register to receive a postal vote is 5pm on Monday, April 14.

Anyone who has not applied for a postal vote and does not wish to register for one, can vote by attending a polling station on May 1.

Residents are reminded to bring photo ID with them in order to vote in any election.

Residents can apply for a

temporary Voter Authority Certificate by visiting: gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need if they do not have valid eligible photo ID.

For anyone not registered to vote, the deadline is today (Friday, April 11). Visit gov.uk/register-to-vote to register.

Visit gov.uk/how-to-vote/postal-voting to receive a postal vote.

And go online to bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/elections/current-elections-and-referendums/ or redditchbc.gov.uk/council/elections/current-elections-and-referendums/ for more information on the election.



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The scheme has already helped around 4,000 customers gain online skills and confidence during 2024-25.

Helping build those key skills

A WORCESTERSHIRE housing association has launched a new programme aimed at tackling digital exclusion among its customers.

Platform Housing Group has created a group of colleagues called Platform Digital Ninjas who can help residents who are struggling with digital access and offer support and signposting.

The scheme is part of the landlord's wider digital inclusion work – led by its Digital4Everyone team – which has already helped around 4,000 customers gain online skills and confidence during 2024-25.

The Digital Ninja training programme builds on this success by helping colleagues understand the real life impacts of digital exclusion and how they can help bridge the gap.

Co-delivered with pioneering UK charity

AbilityNet, the training introduces colleagues to the signs of digital exclusion, such as not being able to afford WiFi or lacking confidence in using websites or apps.

It also explores practical tools and resources that can support customers, including innovative assistive technology such as Be My Eyes and Seeing AI, which help blind or low vision users navigate the digital world.

Tim Marsh, digital empowerment officer at Platform Housing Group said: "Digital exclusion can be incredibly isolating; it can prevent people applying for jobs, managing their finances or even staying in touch with loved ones.

"Through Platform Digital Ninjas, we're making sure our colleagues feel confident to listen, empathise and refer customers to the support they need.

"They don't need to be tech savvy, just willing to help."



Lunchtime Specials and Under 60s Menu £9.25

Tuesday to Saturday
12 noon to 5pm

Golden Oldies Only £8.75

Golden Oldies also available
Tuesday to Saturday
12 noon - 5pm

Mid Week Roast on a Thursday £11.25

3 course Sunday Lunch £17.25 - Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

Full Main Menu Tuesday - Saturday 12 noon - 9pm, Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

Evesham Road, Astwood Bank, B96 6AX Tel: 01527 894213

Double Victory! Cofton Park Manor named Top 20 Care Home in the West Midlands for second year running

Cofton Park Manor Luxury Care Home is celebrating a remarkable achievement - being named one of the Top 20 Care Homes in the West Midlands for the second year in a row.

This prestigious accolade, awarded as part of the annual Carehome.co.uk Awards, reflects the heartfelt praise and glowing reviews shared by residents, families and friends across the region.

This back-to-back recognition is a testament to the exceptional, multi award-winning care delivered by the dedicated team at Cofton Park Manor.

The team pride themselves on providing a truly personalised approach, ensuring each resident enjoys not only support but also fulfilment, dignity and joy every single day.

More than just a care home, Cofton Park Manor in Cofton Hackett offers a hotel-style experience within a warm, welcoming community. Residents can enjoy an array of luxury amenities, including a private dining suite for special celebrations with loved ones, a serene wellbeing and beauty salon, a stylish bistro café serving



fresh refreshments, and a deluxe cinema for the latest films and timeless classics.

This summer, the lifestyle at Cofton Park Manor is set to be more vibrant than ever. Residents can look forward to a lively calendar of seasonal events and

outdoor experiences, including alfresco dining in the beautifully landscaped gardens, botanical workshops, and themed culinary masterclasses led by their in-house chefs.

The home's exceptional care and vibrant lifestyle are consistently highlighted in the heartfelt testimonials of families:

"A beautiful home with lots of activities for the residents. The garden is lovely too. My aunt feels very happy here. Would definitely recommend." – Nephew of a resident.

"A wonderful home filled with happiness and joy. My aunt and uncle had the best time here and were so happy to be part of the Cofton Park Manor community. The lovely staff helped make their stay such an enjoyable time." – Niece of a resident.

Whether you're seeking a permanent move or a short summer retreat, Cofton Park Manor offers a supportive, enriching environment where residents truly thrive.

To find out more about this award-winning care home, and to book a personal tour, you can contact the team on 0121 826 3214 or email enquiries@hamberleycarehomes.co.uk.



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Enjoy an exceptional, all-inclusive* package, within a warm and welcoming environment.

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Cofton Park Manor, 466 Lickey Road, Cofton Hackett B45 8UU

www.hamberleycarehomes.co.uk

*Terms and conditions apply.

County named burglary hotspot

by **Sonny Rackham**
sonny.rackham@bullivantmedia.com

WEST Mercia Police has recorded more than 1,800 home burglaries in the last year alone, with just five per cent resulting in a charge, a new investigation has revealed.

Data obtained by Legal Expert via Freedom of Information Requests has found that 7,875 residential break-ins have been recorded by West Mercia Police in the last three years.

Of the 1,812 burglaries logged last year, just 99 (five per cent) resulted in a person being charged.

While there will be cases still be under investigation, Legal Expert's CICA (Criminal Injury Compensation Authority) specialist, Ellie Lamey said charge rates were 'shockingly low.'

"Being the victim of a burglary can be extremely invasive and traumatic not to mention those instances of aggravated burglary where weapons are involved.

"Moreover the shockingly low charge rate gives victims



the impression that there is no support or justice following what can be in some cases, a life-altering event."

West Mercia Police also revealed the region's home burglary hotspots in 2024. North Worcestershire was revealed as the most targeted area for the crime with 552 offences recorded last year.

A total of 440 residential break-ins were also logged in South Worcestershire and a further 351 in Shropshire.

Out of the 32 UK police forces, (73 per cent) which responded to Legal Expert's Freedom of Information request within the deadline, West Mercia reported the ninth-highest number of

home burglaries over the last three years.

In 2024, there were 177,687 home burglaries reported across England and Wales - an average of 487 burglaries a day.

Ms Lamey said: "Throughout my legal career, I have worked with victims and families of burglaries and the impact can be long-lasting.

"Thankfully, I've been able to bring even a small comfort by securing them the compensation they deserve to help to start to rebuild their lives."

Visit: legalexpert.co.uk/ for more information.



HoW College's Open Event will shed light on adult and HE courses at the Redditch and Worcester campuses.

Explore higher education at HoW

HEART of Worcestershire (HoW) College is opening its doors for its Adult and Higher Education (HE) Open Event from 5pm to 8pm on May 1.

The event - at the Redditch and Worcester campuses - provides an opportunity for prospective students to explore a wide range of adult and HE courses, tour the college's state-of-the-art facilities and receive expert advice from industry-leading tutors.

The Open Event will help prospective students who are looking to upskill with short courses, change career paths, embark on a higher education journey or explore professional programmes, take the next step towards their future.

At both campuses, attendees can explore Adult courses in ESOL, Functional Skills and GCSE maths and English, digital and IT, cyber security, work ready pathways (including care, retail, and teaching assistant), and Preparing to Work in Schools.

The HE provision at Worcester includes access to HE, computing and IT, engineering, Health and Social Care, Early Years, Human Resources, leadership and management, marketing, sport, and teacher training.

In addition, HE courses available at Redditch include Access to HE, accounting and book-keeping, business and manage-

ment, games design and digital media, and sport. Prospective students can also explore professional courses including strategic management and leadership.

Adrian Price, HoW College's manager for higher education, said everyone was delighted to be welcoming prospective students to the event.

"At HoW College, we are committed to providing high-quality education and training opportunities that help individuals achieve their career and personal development goals.

"This event is the perfect chance to discover the many pathways available, speak with our dedicated tutors, and take the first step towards an exciting future."

Visitors can drop in at any time during the three-hour event and are encouraged to register their interest using the following links:

Go to: forms.office.com/e/eBjCaekrE for adult courses and visit: forms.office.com/e/5Hm5QwnTRp for HE courses.

Attendees will not receive a ticket or confirmation email upon registration - all necessary details will be emailed closer to the event date.

Go to: howcollege.ac.uk/about/open-events/adult-and-he-open-event/ for more on the adult and HE Open Event.

COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME

WIN A FAMILY TICKET TO HOP INTO EASTER FUN AT



West Midlands Safari Park is excited to announce the return of 'Easter Eggstravaganza' with a variety of fun-fuelled family activities and a new character.

Running from 12 to 27 April 2025, guests will be invited to take part in the celebrations, which include an interactive trail, competitions, a new show and a chance to get creative with some Easter arts and crafts.

This year, a brand-new character has 'hatched' called Chirpy Chick, who will be roaming the Safari Walk areas of the Park, meeting guests and taking pictures with them.

Also new for 2025 is 'Bramble Bunny's Hoppy Easter Show', a live, interactive performance bursting with fun, games, magic and dancing.

Children will be able to win chocolate or a sweet treat by taking part in the Eggsplorers' Trail, by following clues and answering questions at each point.

There is a photo competition, where guests can win a VIP Rhino Feed Experience if they find the missing egg and take a picture with it to post on the Park's Facebook page.

In the Discovery Trail, guests will find a huge egg, filled with smaller colourful eggs. If they can guess how many eggs it

contains, they can enter the competition to win a Safari Lodges stay of their choice. There is also the chance to see the Park's newest arrivals, the three Sumatran tiger cubs, at the new viewing 'peepholes' of their outdoor den.



For your chance to win a WMSP Family Ticket so you and your family can Hop into Easter Fun at West Midlands Safari Park, just answer the following question:

What is the name of the brand new character who has 'hatched' and will be roaming the Safari Walk Areas of the Park this Easter?

Simply email your answer, and your email contact details to:

Competitions@bullivantmedia.com
All entries must be in by noon on 16th April 2025

 **KIDDERMINSTER**
Standard
 Including **BEWDLEY & STOURPORT**

HAVE WE GOT
NEWS FOR YOU!



A brand new newspaper is being launched on **Friday 11th April 2025** for the townfolk of **Kidderminster, Stourport, Bewdley and the surrounding areas.**

The Kidderminster, Stourport & Bewdley Standard will be 'Hot off the Press', and delivered to all the major supermarkets and other outlets across Kidderminster, Stourport, Bewdley, and... the surrounding areas, for the very first time on **Friday 11th April**, and printed copies, can be picked up **'free of charge'** by the townfolk of **Kidderminster, Stourport & Bewdley every Friday, from the 11th April onwards.**

As well as the printed weekly newspaper, the **digital e-edition** will be available too (with no paywall) on

www.kidderminsterstandard.co.uk

www.kidderminsterstandard.co.uk

will be updating the local news as it breaks **24/7**. From Courts to Councils, Plays to Planning Applications, Business to Babies - if it's happening locally, we want to make sure it will be in **The Kidderminster Standard.**

There will be pages of **LOCAL news, sport, schools, pubs, churches, societies** as well as local businesses advertising their **'Sales and Services'**.

The Kidderminster, Stourport & Bewdley Standard will champion **LOCAL** news and **LOCAL** businesses.

The Kidderminster, Stourport & Bewdley Standard will be part of Observer Standard Media, a Group made up of 18 local newspaper titles, 12 websites and 33 social media platforms spanning Worcestershire, West Midlands and Warwickshire ; and will be combining high-quality journalism with exceptional opportunities for advertisers to connect locally with engaged audiences across these three amazing towns.

Local news to tell?

And...you would like to see it in **The Kidderminster Standard?**
 Call or email a member of our Editorial Team on

01562 541 506

or email editor@kidderminsterstandard.co.uk

Something to sell?

If you have a service locally to promote, or have items to sell locally - call **Duncan Shaw** on

01562 541 500

or email duncan.shaw@bullivantmedia.com

Our friendly staff are ready to help

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

EASY

6		8		9				2
	2		1	8	6			4
		9				1		6
3		7	5		2			8
1	5			7				3
8			6		4	7		1
		5		4		9		
	8		3		7		1	4
4								5

HARD

3		5		7				9
					9			8
	1		4					
				2		7	5	
4			8	7				6
1	2		9					
				8		4		
6			7					
	9			6	7			2

PATHFINDER

Beginning with the top highlighted letter, follow a continuous path of words associated with the given subject. The trail goes through each letter once, twisting up, down and sideways, but never diagonally.

Makeup bag contents

L S T T T B U T O U R E L U E
 I P I O O N D N O R C A G H S
 P K C C S B S S C S N M E L A
 O W S U E L U R R E A E Y O B
 E D S S E Y S E T W E D R A Y
 R T I H A E H Z E E L C M E R
 O K W O D R E P G L I S E S E
 H L T I N Z E I L O L H B R H
 R P A O O R R E L S O P L U S
 I N D N R B E Y I S N A I E S
 M U O F O U G E C N E O R Y E
 E R E R E L A L A S P W B E H
 A M N I R E E C N H C A L A S
 S R A L E Y N E O R U F S L E
 C A L I P L I R C L E R E E Y

Solutions opposite

CROSSWORD

1		2		3	4		5		6		7
				8							
9							10				
11											
											12
13		14				15					
					16						
	17									18	
19											
20					21						
22										23	

ACROSS

- Quote (4)
- Crusade (8)
- Harmful (7)
- Morning reception (5)
- Ingrained habit (6,6)
- Foreign (6)
- Anew (6)
- Irrational belief (12)
- Distort (5)
- Raise (7)
- Maim (8)
- Exceedingly (4)

DOWN

- Box (8)
- Poisonous (5)
- Agree (6)
- Lowest RAF commission (5-7)
- Upside down (7)
- Requirement (4)
- Agreeing by chance (12)
- Stormy (8)
- Eye-specialist (7)
- Declare (6)
- Angry (5)
- Separate particular (4)

Scribble pad

LADDER

Using the clues provided, fill in each step of the ladder with a new word, changing one letter at a time.

- Terrible
- Goad
- Time period
- Moderate
- Chew



NINER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 6347 gives a bird;
- 9728 gives a second bird;
- 651172 gives a third bird.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

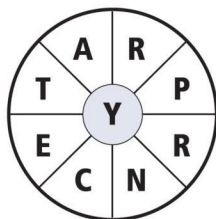
CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.

		23		26		11			16		10			
A														
B	20	25	16	14		20	12	24	20	15	23		15	
C														
D		25			8	23	3			22		24	18	18
E														
F		18			23		19	21	20	15		24		6
G														
H	13	11	18	5	11		14							25
I														
J		23			6	I	11	7	6	1	11	23	11	19
K														
L		11				12		22		23			23	
M	25	19	18	12	13	22	18	18	15				17	
N														
O	5						9		20	2	9	6	16	
P														
Q	6			21		12	18	25	21		9		1	
R														
S	25	16	14			22			20	22	23		23	
T	21													
U			16	8	9	22	23	8		4	6	19	25	
V														
W														
X	1	2	3	4	5		I	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Y														
Z	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

WORDWHEEL

You have 10 mins to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the hub letter and at least 3 others. Letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one 9-letter word to be found.

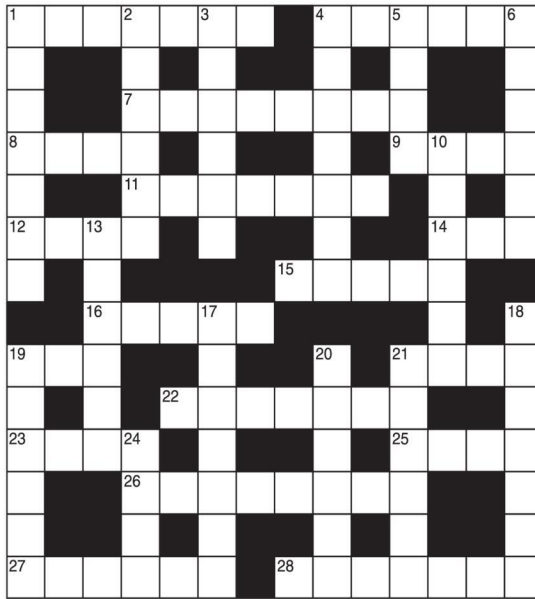


How you rate
 15 words: average 25 words: very good
 20 words: good 30 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 JRR ---, philologist and novelist whose works include *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* (7)
- 4, 19 & 8 Across Howard Spring novel published in 1940 (4,2,3,4)
- 7 Fee paid to a barrister, etc., for a right to their services if required (8)
- 8 See 4 Across
- 9 & 20 Down Author of the *Famous Five* and *Secret Seven* series (4,6)
- 11 Of Spain and Portugal as one country (7)
- 12 & 16 Across Constellation also known as the Great Bear (4,5)
- 14, 19 & 5 Down British statesman who refused to take the oath of supremacy to Henry VIII as head of the Church and was executed for high treason in 1535 (3,6,4)
- 15 Surname of the second president of the US (5)
- 16 See 12 Across
- 19 See 4 Across
- 21 In the Bible, the twin brother of Jacob (4)
- 22 Angela ---, Irish television presenter (7)
- 23 Inland departement in Normandy, noted for the powerful Percheron horses bred there (4)
- 25 King of the Greek gods (4)
- 26 An ornamental textile fabric made by passing coloured threads among fixed warp threads (8)
- 27 Short lyrical poem (6)
- 28 Short, devotional exercise in honour of the Incarnation, repeated three times daily (7)



DOWN

- 1 The duke of Athens in A Midsummer-Night's Dream (7)
- 2 Hardy shrub, with bright yellow flowers in spring (6)
- 3 Dish served at dinner between the chief courses, or as a substitute (6)
- 4 Republic in north-eastern Europe whose capital is Helsinki (7)
- 5 See 14 Across
- 6 In snooker, a rest with long legs, used to raise the cue above a ball (6)
- 10 In Greek mythology, a centaur who carried travellers across the Euenus for a small fee (6)
- 13 In Acts 13, a Christian teacher at Antioch 'called Niger' (6)
- 17 The back of the head or skull (7)
- 18 Edible bivalve molluscs found in clusters attached to rocks (7)
- 19 See 14 Across
- 20 See 9 Across
- 21 Any one of a large class of protein substances produced by living cells, which act as catalysts in chemical changes (6)
- 24 Town opposite Windsor, with an old public school (4)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Tolkien; 4 Fame Is; 7 Retainer; 8 Spur; 9 Enid; 11 Iberian; 12 Ursa; 14 Sir; 15 Adams; 16 Major; 19 The; 21 Esau; 22 Scanton; 23 Orme; 25 Zeus; 26 Tapestry; 27 Sonnet; 28 Angelus. DOWN: 1 Thebesus; 2 Kerria; 3 Entree; 4 Finland; 5 More; 6 Spider; 10 Nessus; 13 Simeon; 17 Occiput; 18 Muscels; 19 Thomas; 20 Byron; 21 Enzyme; 24 Eton.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Tolkien; 4 Fame Is; 7 Retainer; 8 Spur; 9 Enid; 11 Iberian; 12 Ursa; 14 Sir; 15 Adams; 16 Major; 19 The; 21 Esau; 22 Scanton; 23 Orme; 25 Zeus; 26 Tapestry; 27 Sonnet; 28 Angelus. DOWN: 1 Thebesus; 2 Kerria; 3 Entree; 4 Finland; 5 More; 6 Spider; 10 Nessus; 13 Simeon; 17 Occiput; 18 Muscels; 19 Thomas; 20 Byron; 21 Enzyme; 24 Eton.

Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Cite; 3 Campaign; 9 Noxious; 10 Leave; 11 Second nature; 13 Exotic; 15 Aftersh; 17 Supposition; 20 Twist; 21 Elevate; 22 Mutilate; 23 Very. DOWN: 1 Canister; 2 Toxic; 4 Assent; 5 Pilot-officer; 6 Inverse; 7 Need; 8 Coincidental; 12 Thunder; 14 Occultist; 16 Assent; 18 Rate; 19 Item.

Wordwheel Pathfinder

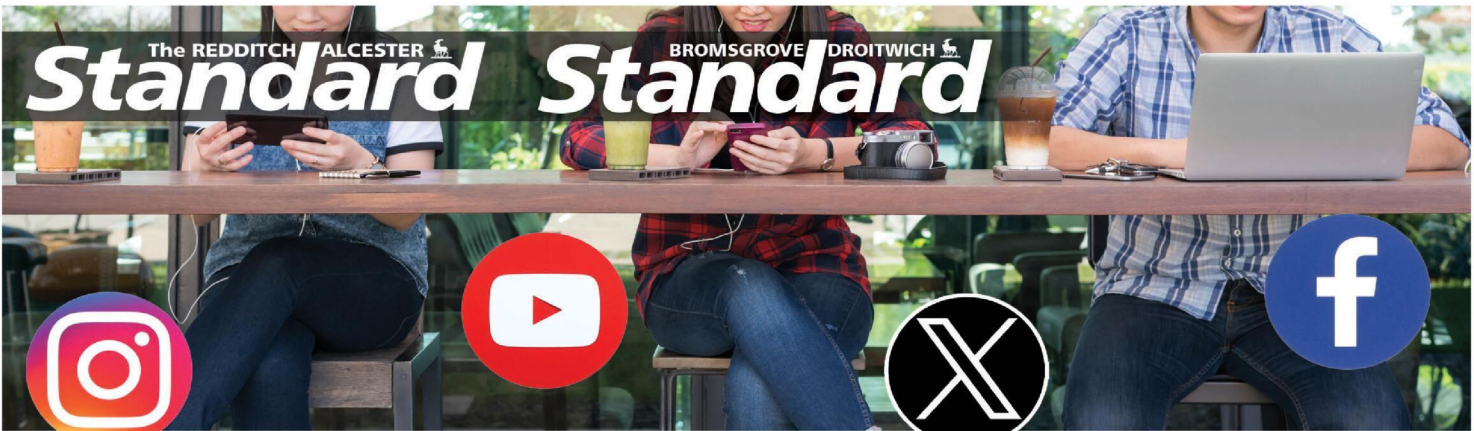
WORDWHEEL: Lipstick, powder, tissues, cotton buds, bushes, eyeshadow, Kohl, primer, mascara, lip liner, concealer, eye liner, foundation, rouge, bronzer, eyelash curler, false eyelashes, eyebrow pencil, lip gloss, NINE: cream, eyelash glue, PROVIDENT: nail polish, brushes, emery board, cleanser, tweezers, contour. CODOWORD: 1=G, 2=Q, 3=X, 4=F, 5=W, 6=L, 7=D, 8=L, 9=U, 10=L, 11=N, 12=C, 13=K, 14=Y, 15=M, 16=P, 17=Y, 18=O, 19=L, 20=E, 21=H, 22=R, 23=A, 24=Z, 25=S, 26=B.

8	9	4	1	6	5	7	3	2
6	3	2	7	9	4	8	5	1
5	7	1	2	3	8	6	4	9
1	2	7	9	5	6	4	8	3
4	5	3	8	1	7	9	2	6
9	6	8	3	4	2	1	7	5
2	1	9	4	8	3	5	6	7
7	4	6	5	2	9	3	1	8
3	8	5	6	7	1	2	9	4

Hard

4	7	1	2	6	9	8	3	5	
9	8	6	3	5	7	2	1	4	
2	3	5	8	4	1	9	6	7	
8	9	2	6	3	4	4	7	5	1
1	5	4	9	7	2	8	2	3	
3	6	7	5	1	2	4	6	9	8
5	4	9	7	2	3	1	8	6	
7	2	3	1	8	6	5	4	9	
6	1	8	4	9	5	3	7	2	

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IN MEMORIAM

James & Eileen Herlihy

Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts

*God Bless
Ken, Mary & Family*

DEATHS

BRYAN

Robert William 'Bob'

Sadly passed away on Saturday 29th March, 2025, aged 88 years. Beloved Husband to Sheila and a much loved Dad to Sue and Denise, and Grampy to Rebecca and William. A service to celebrate Bob's life will take place at Redditch Crematorium on Thursday 1st May, 2025 at 2.00 p.m.


Family flowers only please, donations if so desired to the Stroke Association may be sent to:

Thomas Brothers,
The Funeral Directors,
Birchfield House,
494 Evesham Road,
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DEATHS

TILLIRIDES

Sandra Mary

Aged 81

Sadly Passed away on Monday 10th March 2025 At Worcester Royal Hospital. Much loved mother of Anthony. Now reunited with her late husband Constantine Tillirides. Forever in the thoughts and hearts of family and friends.

DEATHS

PHELAN Jackie

11th September 1956 - 31st March 2025
Aged 68 years

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Jackie Phelan.

Beloved Wife to Ian, Devoted Mother to Sons Liam and Thomas, Daughter In Laws Katy and Hannah. Adored Grandma of Orla, Emilia, Jude and Etta.

Jackie will be greatly missed by family and friends.

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Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:
D5370 GUNNINGS ROAD SERVICE ROAD (GROVE PLACE) & D5369 GUNNINGS ROAD, ALCESTER
Order Effect: Roads closed to vehicular traffic as follows – Gunnings Road Service Road (Grove Place) closed in its entirety from its junction with Gunnings Road, Gunnings Road Closed between its junctions with St. Faiths Road and Kinwarton Road.
Reason for Order: Footway reconstruction and associated works, 08.00hrs-17.00hrs, weekdays only excluding Bank Holidays.
Order Commences: 14 April 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 25 April 2025.
Access & Diversion: There is no available diversion route for D5370 Gunnings Road Service Road (Grove Place). Diversion for D5369 Gunnings Road via St. Faiths Road, Crooks Lane, Kinwarton Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 0342 415 302.

For all of the above temporary orders, pedestrian access to and egress from properties and land situated adjacent to the length of road to be closed will be maintained at all times. Vehicular access will be maintained where possible.
To report any problems with these works or for further details of our current & planned roadworks visit our website warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap or call us 01926 412515.
S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance,
Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 11 Apr 2025

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, FPS = Footpath Setting, MAJ = Major Development.
25/00151/FUL FPS
Site: 1A College Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2NE
Proposal: Proposed side and rear extensions, alteration to roof form to facilitate increase in roof height to facilitate attic extensions, proposed rear dormers and dormer on the front elevation, render to facade, and double detached garage.
24/00931/FUL ADVSTD MAJ
Site: Lashbrooke House, 132 Callowbrook Lane, Rubery, Worcestershire B45 9JY
Proposal: Construction of 10 houses together with associated external works.
Application forms and plans may be inspected online <https://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications>
Comments can be submitted online, via email to newplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk or in writing Planning Services, Redditch Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch B98 8AH.
Comments should be made within 17 days of the date of this publication. The Council does not acknowledge comments but will make these available for inspection online.

STRATFORD on AVON DC LICENSING AUTHORITY LICENSING ACT 2003 PUBLIC NOTICE

VICTORIA CANEY is applying for the new grant of a Premises Licence for Caney's Cider, Unit 7, Victoria Works, Studley, Warwickshire, B80 7AS.
If granted the application will allow the following licensable activities to take place: **Sale of alcohol on the premises and sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises.**
Any person wishing to make representations in relation to this application may do so by writing to: Licensing Authority, Stratford on Avon DC, Elizabeth House, Church St, Stratford on Avon, CV367 6HX. Tel: 01789 260832, Fax: 01789 260809
A copy of the application for the grant of the above licence is kept by Licensing Authority at the above address. The application can be viewed Monday to Thursday 9am to 5pm and 9am to 4.30pm on Fridays, except bank holidays.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the standard scale.
1st April 2025

PLANNING PUBLICITY NOTICE
Proposed Development at land at Astwood Lane and Rockhill Lane, Astwood Bank, Redditch
Redditch Borough Council Reference: 23/01308/FUL

IBM Solar Projects 11 Ltd submitted a planning application on land at the above address to Redditch Borough Council (RBC) Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH on 23rd February 2023 (RBC ref: 23/01308/FUL). The application is for the laying of underground cables in association with the proposed Roundhill Solar Farm. The Roundhill Solar Farm is subject of a separate planning application (RBC ref: 23/00192/FUL and Wychavon District Council (WDC) ref: W/23/00270/FUL).

The application, subject of this notice, following submission is now accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES). A copy of the application for planning permission, any accompanying plan and other documents, and a copy of the ES is made available at Redditch Borough Council, Kingfisher Shopping Centre, 5 George Walk, Redditch, B97 4HB and available to view online at: <https://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications/> under RBC ref: 23/01308/FUL. If viewing a hard copy, please contact RBC Planning Department referencing '23/01308/FUL' so that arrangements can be made for you to view the documents at the above address. The documents may be inspected by members of the public at all reasonable hours for 30 days from the date of this notice (in person and online). Paper copies of this information may also be obtained from Pegasus Group, please email Cirencester@pegasusgroup.co.uk quoting reference 'P19-0753' for a cost of £550 for the full suite of documentation. Should any person wish to make a comment on this information, they may do so in writing within 30 days from the date of this notice to Redditch Borough Council online at <https://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications/> under RBC ref: 23/01308/FUL.
Date of Notice: 11.04.25.

PUBLIC NOTICE - LICENSING ACT 2003
APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE OR CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Name of applicant/club: **Social Sticks.**
Postal address of premises/club or description: **Unit 2, Station Street, Bromsgrove, B60 2BS.**
The applicant proposes to vary the following licensable activities or qualifying club activities on or from the above premises/club premises: **Change of business name and extension of licensable area for some outdoor tables & chairs**
Representations by interested parties or responsible authorities should be made in writing to Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Wyre Forestry House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF or enquiries to worcsregs@worcestershire.gov.uk by 07/05/2025.
The record of the application is available for inspection by appointment. Please call us on 01905 822799 for an appointment.
IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO AN UNLIMITED FINE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO KNOWINGLY OR RECKLESSLY MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN, OR IN CONNECTION WITH, AN APPLICATION.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, FPS = Footpath Setting.
25/00414/REM ADVSTD FPS
Site: Ipsley House, Ipsley Church Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 0AJ.
Proposal: Reserved Matters application for the erection of 61 dwellings (use class C3), open space and associated works pursuant to outline consent 24/00717/OUT.
Application forms and plans may be inspected online <https://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications>
Comments can be submitted online, via email to newplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk or in writing Planning Services, Redditch Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch B98 8AH.
Comments should be made within 17 days of the date of this publication. The Council does not acknowledge comments but will make these available for inspection online.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE COBHAM PENSION PLAN

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 27 OF THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925

Please read this notice carefully if you were employed by Cobham Limited or any other participating employer of the Cobham Pension Plan and were, or think you might have been, a member (or a dependant to a member) of the company pension scheme.

The Trustee believes that it has the names and contact details of everyone who has a right to a benefit under the Plan. However, the Trustee wishes to trace any persons who believe that they may have any right to benefits from the Plan and have not received correspondence by post from the Trustee regarding their benefits being insured with an insurer. The Trustee requests that:

- a) Any former employee of Cobham Limited or any other participating employer of the Cobham Pension Plan who believes that they may be entitled to benefits under the Plan, or if that person is deceased;
- b) The spouse, or dependent of that person, who in either case is (or thinks that they might be) entitled to benefits under the Scheme, or;
- c) Any other person who believes that they may have a claim against the Plan.

Please write to:

Alex Ratcliff
Trustees Secretary of the Cobham Pension Plan
Cobham Limited
41 - 43 Basepoint Business Centre,
Aviation Business Park, Enterprise Close,
Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 6NX, UK
alex.ratcliff@cobham.com

Please provide full details of your claim and any benefits that you think you are entitled to, and include your full name, address, date of birth and national insurance number, and either details of the dates that you were a member of the Plan or the details of the basis of your claim along with any other relevant information.

If you already receive a pension from the Plan, you do not need to write to the Trustee as it already has full details about your entitlements.

Your claim must arrive on or before 2 months from the date of this notice, at which time this notice shall expire. Claims arriving after 15 June 2025 will not be accepted and the Trustee shall not be liable to any person whose claim has not been notified to them by the expiry date of this notice. The Trustee will, in reliance on Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925, distribute any remaining assets and wind up the Scheme.

For and on behalf of the Trustee of the Cobham Pension Plan

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MISCELLANEOUS

RECLINER CHAIR electric rise & recline £169 Manual recline chair £60 High seated chair £40 Can deliver 07703 925662

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NURSING chair

£30 07719695685

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TRAVEL cot Rednight

Sleeptight £20 07813637593

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VGC £15 01527 66380

SKODA Fabia

Roomster wheel trim set good condition £15 07974822880

FREE to collector

Fire wood 01527 526898

TRAILER 4ft x 3ft

galvanized steel good condition £150 ono 07933245121

NURSING chair

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ANTIQUE Dresser

£75 07754540802

INDIAN prayer chair

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SET of 14 LH

Golf Clubs Bag / Accessories Good Condition Taylor Made, Gallaway, King Cobra £200 ono Tel: 07819015716

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SMART is once again redefining the premium electric SUV segment with its UK debut of the smart #5 BRABUS.

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Built on an 800-volt platform, the smart #5 BRABUS supports ultra-fast DC charging of up to 400kW, allowing the 100kW battery to charge from 10 per cent to 80 per cent (State of Charge) in just 18 minutes under optimal conditions. With a range of up to 335 miles (WLTP), it ensures exceptional long-distance capability. In addition, an exclusive BRABUS driving mode delivers simulated

engine sounds.

Visually, the smart #5 BRABUS stands out with its unmistakable 21-inch BRABUS Monoblock Z wheels, distinctive red brake calipers, and a refined, sporty exterior. BRABUS branding and design elements further highlight its performance DNA, underlining the heritage of the German luxury brand.

Dirk Adelmann, CEO of smart Europe, said: "The smart #5 BRABUS is the new flagship of our still young all-electric product portfolio. "This vehicle embodies our vision of electric performance and redefines what customers can expect from an electric SUV with powerful dynamics, top connectivity features and the finest interior craftsmanship for an unmatched driving experience."

"With its advanced technology, the smart #5 BRABUS sets new benchmarks across segments and shows our commitment to providing uncompromising electric mobility through a remarkable cooperation with our long-standing partner BRABUS."

Inside, the smart #5 BRABUS delivers premium comfort with high-quality microfibre seats featuring

DINAMICA accents.

Heated rear and ventilated front seats provide an enhanced experience, while the Alcantara steering wheel with illuminated BRABUS lettering adds to the luxury feel.

A panoramic halo roof, microfibre roof lining, sports pedals, BRABUS badges, and Ambient Light+ lighting with 256 colour options further elevate the interior's refined atmosphere.

Constantin Buschmann, CEO of BRABUS, said: "The world premiere of the smart #5 BRABUS is yet another exciting milestone in our partnership with smart, showcasing what is possible when two brands with clear, unique identities and shared values bring together the best of what they have to offer to create something extraordinary."

"As the most powerful electric SUV ever in our joint lineup, it is all about pushing our design and engineering to the absolute maximum, delivering an electrifying 'One-Second-Wow' effect that truly stands out."

The smart #5 BRABUS is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including an

intuitive infotainment system with dual 13-inch OLED displays for the driver and front passenger.

The Sennheiser Signature Sound System, comprising 20 high-performance speakers as well as a central lifting speaker, delivers an immersive audio experience. With up to 1,190 Watts of output and support for multiple formats, from stereo and surround to full 7.1.4 Dolby Atmos, the system delivers an adaptable and immersive listening experience on the road.

The smart #5 BRABUS will be available to order for UK customers starting from Q4 2025.



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Spa ready for trophy lift at home with title already secured

by **Aaron Sutcliffe**
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

FOOTBALL: DROITWICH Spa will receive the Hellenic League Division One trophy after their final game of the season against Tytherington Rocks this weekend.

Spa clinched the league title and a first-ever promotion to Step Five following victory against Shortwood United at the end of last month.

And Droitwich will get their hands on the trophy this weekend when they host Tytherington in their final game of the season at the King George Playing Fields.

Spa host Tytherington on Saturday, April 12 with kick-off at 3pm at King's.

The club are expecting a large crowd for the fixture and are selling tickets online in advance of the game to avoid any potential congestion before kick-off.

Anyone who holds a season ticket or sponsors ticket does not need to purchase a separate ticket for the fixture.

And depending on the number of tickets sold, fans can still pay at the gate on the day of the game.

Spa are expecting a few special guests to attend the fixture and will present some end-of-season awards

at full time following the league trophy presentation.

The club suffered their first away defeat of the season after losing 1-0 at Clanfield 85 last weekend.

A late penalty from Tyger Hall saw Spa's seven-game winning run in the league come to an end at Radcot Road.

And the Saltmen had substitute Jack Bighton sent off in injury time for an alleged stamp on Clanfield's Jordan Cavender.

The defeat also marked the first game Spa have failed to score in all season in any competition.

Droitwich have already sealed the league title and promotion as champions.

Clanfield went close early on as Jozef Fullerton's strike deflected wide before Woody Casciaro missed a glorious chance to break the deadlock from the resulting corner.

Andy Crowther's side responded with a chance of their own as Josh Hurdman chipped a shot over the crossbar.

Spa goalkeeper Dom Rogerson then produced a fine save to keep out Finn Baker's effort from close range.

A strong challenge on the halfway line forced the Saltmen into a change after just 25 minutes as James Lemon replaced an injured Perry Moss.

From the resulting free-kick, Lemon flicked the ball onto the head of Alex Dugmore who saw his effort come back off the post.

And Spa had another chance before the end of the first half as Cory Rudd fired a powerful shot from the edge of the penalty area well over the crossbar.

Droitwich went close again after the break as Josh Hurdman curled a free-kick the wrong side of the post.

And Clanfield goalkeeper Luke Haley then held Nathan Binner's attempted chip.

The home side responded with a couple of chances of their own as Hall fired wide before Rogerson reacted sharply to tip a low free-kick around the post.

Spa survived a flurry of corners before Hurdman almost scored on the counter attack only for Haley to make a save low down.

However, Clanfield eventually broke the deadlock on 81 minutes when Hall scored from the penalty spot after the referee penalised Jay Sauntson for a foul in the box.

The Saltmen went in search of a late equaliser as Hurdman forced Haley into a crucial stop with Lemon unable to force home the follow-up.

Tensions boiled over in injury time as Brighton saw red for an alleged stamp on Cavender as Spa lost an away league game for the first time since March last year.

Droitwich finish the season with a home game against Tytherington Rocks on Saturday, April 12 with kick-off at 3pm at the King George Playing Fields.



Team VERTU have revealed their new livery for the 2025 BTCC season. s

Team VERTU unveil livery ahead of new BTCC season

BTCC: TEAM VERTU have revealed a striking new look for the 2025 British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) season.

The Droitwich-based team revealed their new racing livery at a special event alongside the Birmingham City Football Club Foundation at the club's West Hills training ground.

Wast Hills hosts fixtures in the Vertu Primary Schools Cup - a competition for under-11 teams across the West Midlands.

The tournament will culminate in a Finals Day at Birmingham's St. Andrew's home.

Team VERTU took the wraps of their challenger for the 2025 BTCC title, revealing a teal livery with hints of orange, white and blue in a stand-out design.

The young players in attendance inspected the cars in the downtime between matches and also quizzed some of Team VERTU's drivers.

Team VERTU's driver line-up for 2025 comprises Tom Ingram, Tom Chilton, Adam Morgan and Michael Cress.

Ingram said: "The livery reveal is always one of the most exciting moments of the off-season as everything feels more real when you see the car in its colours for the first time - particularly when it looks as good as it does."

"As we go into a new season as Team VERTU, it was great to showcase the new livery for the first time with the kids competing in Vertu's Primary Schools Cup."

"Seeing them getting excited about the reveal was fantastic, and hopefully the experience has created some new fans who will cheer us on to success this season."

Team VERTU team owner, Justina Williams added: "Our relationship with the Vertu and Bristol Street Motors brands, part of the Vertu group, has gone from strength to strength. We are incredibly excited to enter the 2025 season as Team VERTU."

"In recent years, we have had one of the best-looking cars on the grid, but I feel the new livery is the greatest one yet, and will allow us to really stand out on track as we battle for the title."

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