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Praise for pantry as it makes volunteer plea

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

DROITWICH Community Pantry has received a High Sheriff's award for its outstanding contribution to the local community.

The scheme is staffed by a dedicated team of around 20 volunteers and trustees who receive up to 18 pallets of food which would otherwise be destined for landfill or incineration.

From this, food parcels are made up for people and families and the pantry helps other local food charities and five or six schools.

The impact is far-reaching with some travelling from as far afield as Evesham to collect parcels. The pantry also regularly helps Droitwich and Worcester Police with parcels for people who cannot afford to eat as this deters shoplifting.

The pantry currently helps more than 150 families every week and, at a time when so many are suffering food poverty, its maximum number was 224 parcels.

Easy access

The Community Pantry, contrary



to common misconceptions, is not a foodbank. Its aim is to help anyone in need and people do not need a referral - all they need to do is book a slot via the app (more details can be found on the Facebook page).

The pantry is open every Wednesday between midday and 6pm and everyone is welcome.

With the increased quantities of donated food and parcels now being

put together, the community pantry is in desperate need of a new van and new volunteers on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon and all-day Wednesday would be welcomed.

How it all began

Droitwich Community Pantry was set up by Ashlea Stone in 2018 and started in the Barn on Chawson.

Since then it has moved several times for operational reasons or situations beyond its control.

To increase capacity amidst a rising demand, everything has been brought together in a new unit on the Berry Hill Industrial Estate.

This enabled the project to be co-located with its large fridge and freezer and distribution can be done from the unit.

The majority of donations come from Dean Attwell at Oaklands, which the management and volunteers are very thankful for, but the pantry is always looking for other donations to allow it to help more people.

The pantry also had to undergo an EHO audit which it passed with flying colours, receiving a five-star rating.

The High Sheriff of Worcestershire, Charles Moyle JP, visited the pantry and presented three awards - one collective and two personal accolades.

He was surprised the scheme was self-funded and achieved such a professional set-up, helping so many people and charities in the area and

improving the lives of so many struggling families.

Darren Wheeley, trustee and pantry manager, thanked Charles for his visit.

He said: "It meant so much to everyone involved in with the project and made all of the efforts of volunteers and the management team worthwhile.

"I personally find it very rewarding helping so many people in need and putting something back into the community we all live in - something I believe has been lost over the years.

"It is a great honour to have taken the pantry forward to where we are at now and we are still continuing to look at growing the charity and help even more people."

Anyone interested in getting involved by volunteering or businesses with surplus food which could be redistributed should email:

darren@worcestershirehomelessappal.org for more information.

Droitwich Community Pantry has received recognition and awards from High Sheriff, Charles Moyle JP. Picture by Marcus Mingins 1425011MMR

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Fond final farewell to Wythall's Bletchley hero Betty Webb MBE

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

MORE THAN 100 people turned out for the funeral of Betty Webb MBE who carried out crucial work at Bletchley Park during the Second World War.

As the hearse pulled outside Redditch Crematorium on Tuesday, there were several standard bearers and uniformed personnel waiting to welcome the vehicle and a large crowd outside.

The Wythall resident's medals were proudly displayed in the car at the back of the coffin. In 2019 Betty was made an MBE for the role she played in ensuring Bletchley Park and the work done there was highlighted and remembered.

In 2021 she was presented with the Legion d'Honneur – France's highest award – for helping liberate our cross-Channel friends.

The service

The crematorium was full with all seats taken and others standing around the edge to provide a fond final farewell to the war hero.

As well as family and friends, among the guests were former servicemen and women, representatives from organisations, including

Royal British Legion, the Court Leet and the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC), the Bletchley Park Trust and others.

Also present were councillors, current Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas and former Bromsgrove MP and ex Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Sajid Javid and his wife Lady Javid.

The service was conducted by celebrant Judy Dyke during which Betty's incredible life story was told.

There were tributes from Babs Anderson and Col Ali Brown OBE from the WRAC and Iain Standen, CEO of the Bletchley Park Trust.

Two hymns were also sung - I Vow to Thee My Country and The Lord's My Shepherd.

Betty's life

Charlotte 'Betty' Webb joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service at the age of 18 and was stationed at Bletchley Park, the famous codebreaking arm of the British intelligence services.

As a German speaker, Mrs Webb was tasked with decoding and translating German 'Enigma' messages, handling some of the first intelligence messages on the Holocaust.

Upon joining the ATS – the women's branch of the military at the time – Betty signed the Official Secrets Act, which prevented her from talking about her work at Bletchley Park



Betty Webb MBE with her Legion D'Honneur.

until 1975.

After that she wrote a memoir, as well as receiving the MBE, for promoting Bletchley Park.

Betty also attended the Coronation of King Charles III in 2023.

She passed away at the age of 101 on March 31.

'Honoured to be there'

Jo Slade, who was among the many to attend the funeral, said: "I was honoured to represent the Court Leet, Friends of St John's and Bromsgrove Society at the funeral of a wonderful, one of a kind lady, who I'd been privileged to meet a number of times.

"All the tributes given were full of fondness and admiration for a strong, upstanding lady who was always encouraging of others, humble of her own contribution whilst being an inspiration, and friend, to everyone who met her.

"Betty's contribution to the country really was outstanding, not only during the war as a codebreaker at Bletchley Park and at the Pentagon, but as an active member of the local community and a representative for Bletchley Park, spreading the stories and increasing everyone's understanding of the important work which took place there. "She will always be remembered fondly and with gratitude."



MEMBERS of the South Birmingham Stroke Club stepped back in time on Wednesday for to celebrate VE Day 80.

The afternoon tea party featured drinks, sandwiches and, of course, cake.

Vintage singer Helen Pearson from Bromsgrove took to the stage and played a number of wartime classics and music from the 1940s.

Carole Lowe, the stroke group's secretary, said: "It was a fantastic afternoon - everyone who came along had a great time."

The South Birmingham Stoke Club meets from 10am to 12pm every Wednesday at Reaside Community Centre, Ormrod Road, Frankley.

Visit: northfieldstrokeclub.co.uk or visit: facebook.com/northfieldstrokeclub for more on the group.



Stroke club secretary Carole Lowe and chair Donna Belk with a cardboard cut-out of Sir Winston Churchill and vintage singer Helen Pearson. s

FAMILIES are invited to an 80th anniversary of VE Day in Rubery tomorrow (Saturday, May 10).

The 1940s style fun day runs at Deelands Hall, Deelands Road, from 3pm to 6pm and will feature a buffet and music and games from the era.

Fancy dress is encouraged but not essential and admission is free.

The event has been organised by Trident Reach in conjunction with the Northfield Community Partnership.

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'Grumpy' cat in need of a home



Could you offer 'grumpy' cat Pauline a new home? s

STAFF at the Blue Cross in Bromsgrove are looking for someone to offer a home to a cat who they believe has been overlooked by potential new owners because 'she looks too grumpy'.

Pauline, a four-year-old white cat, has now been at the centre in Catskill for more than 100 days.

She has received little interest from people and the team think it is due to the peevish demeanour she portrays in photos.

However looks can be deceiving, and the team at the centre think Pauline is just misunderstood.

Caroline Oram, Blue Cross Bromsgrove's admissions co-ordinator, said: "Pauline is still on the hunt for her

dream home, and despite her 'resting grump face', she's a sweet girl who loves to interact and play.

"Stress from her previous home has left her with a bit of hair loss, but as her confidence grows, so does her fur.

"She'd thrive in a calm, cosy home where she can be the centre of attention, complete with a garden for sunbathing and exploring."

Pauline is currently in one of the charity's volunteer foster homes while she waits for her new home, where she is said to be thriving.

Caroline added: "Pauline would benefit from a quiet home where she is the only pet, so she can have all the fuss to herself.

"She did live with dogs previously but was very worried by them."

Staff say she could live with older school-aged children who would offer her some time and space to settle into her new home.

And she will require outdoor access once she has settled, as she does like having a potter in the garden and a sunbathe in the nice weather.

The Blue Cross is on the look-out for more volunteer foster carers who can help care for more pets like Pauline across the country. Foster carers receive full training with all costs, including travel, covered by Blue Cross.

Anyone who feels they could give Pauline the new home she deserves or anyone interested in volunteering and fostering a pet for the charity should visit: bluecross.org.uk for more.

BROMSGROVE MP is urging residents to take part in the soon-to-be-closing consultation on the future of parking charges at Lickey Hills Country Park.

Bradley Thomas has warned there are just days left to oppose Birmingham City Council's plans to charge for parking at the popular nature spot.

The council's cabinet will be voting on its plans to introduce car parking charges at the much-loved country park on Tuesday (May 13).

The cabinet has been recommended to approve the car parking charges, despite 78 per cent of people who responded to the council's consultation opposing the plans.

To fight the introduction of car parking charges, Mr Thomas launched a petition last November to ensure the voices of local residents were heard.

And the MP is urging his constituents to continue to sign his petition against the charges.

He has also written to Birmingham City Council leader, Coun John Cotton.

In his letter, Mr Thomas set out the case as to why the cabinet should vote against the car parking charges plan.

He said: "We're quite literally paying the price for Birmingham City Council's financial mismanagement.

"Lickey Hills Country Park is loved by my constituents and the introduction of car parking charges is wrong.

"I fear it will deter visitors to the Lickey Hills and reduce people's access to nature and our beautiful green spaces.

"If parking charges are introduced, inevitably visitors to the country park will avoid paying for parking by finding side roads and residential areas to park on and residents who live in the area are right to be concerned about this.

"I would urge everyone who is opposed to the introduction of car parking charges to sign my petition."

Visit: bradleythomas.org.uk/campaigns to sign the petition.

Bradley Thomas is urging residents to oppose parking charges at the Lickey Hills Country Park before the consultation closes soon. s



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Drugs and alcohol training 'a boost'

WORCESTERSHIRE schools have received 'eye opening' drug and alcohol training from drug education charity Hope UK.

Teachers, youth workers and young people feel 'better equipped to have conversations around substance use' following the training courses.

Worcestershire County Council's Director of Public Health, Dr Lisa McNally, said: "We are delighted to be working with Hope UK.

"This fantastic training equips educators with the knowledge to recognise signs and symptoms of drug use, improve their own prac-

tice and gain a better understanding of the issues in an ever-changing drug use landscape.

"This awareness allows professionals to identify at-risk young people early and intervene appropriately.

"This may be through open and honest conversations, discussing dangers or providing alternatives and ultimately aims to reduce the likelihood of drug use."

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion added: "A key element of the focus on breaking the drugs trade in West Mercia, is cutting the demand. "That's why it's

important that we equip our young people with the skills and education they need to make informed choices that steer them away from substance misuse.

"Through the Safer Worcestershire project, partners are coming together to support the work of Hope UK that helps to reduce crime, stop harm, and ultimately build safer communities."

And Sarah Brighton, CEO of Hope UK, said: "We have been privileged to work with so many fantastic schools and youth organisations in Worcestershire and see the excellent work they are doing throughout the county.

"We hope that our training helps these groups equip their young people with the life skills they need to manage challenging drug-related situations.

"We are very grateful to Worcestershire County Council's Public Health Team and the Police and Crime Commissioner for funding this vital work."

Email: training@hopeuk.org or visit: hopeuk.org for more on the Hope UK charity.

Click through the link on our website for more on the Safer Worcestershire Partnership.

Hope UK CEO Sarah Brighton, assistant PCC Steve Mackay and Dr Lisa McNally at Birchensale Middle School. s



Bromsgrove's Evie Hodgetts, who was named Worcestershire's Young Poet Laureate for 2025-26. s

RIGHT LINES: WORCESTER SHIRE'S Young Poet Laureate for 2025/26 has been crowned.

Worcestershire County Council and Severn Arts announced Evie Hodgetts, from Bromsgrove, will take up the role.

This year's competition drew a record number of aspiring writers, with 148 poems submitted from across the county. A total of 12 finalists took to the stage at The Hive in Worcester and the talented entrants captivated the judges with their 'outstanding' performances.

Louisa Ackling, Worcestershire Library Service development and engagement manager, said: "The Young Poet Laureate event is a cherished annual celebration in our county, offering a stage for emerging young writers.

"This year's final was especially powerful, their words resonated with honesty, strength, and insight, leaving a lasting impact on everyone present."

Worcestershire's Young Poet Laureate competition has been running for 15 years and aims to encourage young people to express themselves through poetry.

It also provides a platform for young

poets to showcase their work and gain recognition for their talent.

Elaine Knight, arts director at Severn Arts added: "Well done to all our finalists and congratulations to our fantastic winners.

"This year we had our highest number of competition entries so just getting to the final was a huge achievement.

"The standard of entries was very high, and we would like to thank everyone for taking part this year."

She added the contest provided a platform for young poets to creatively express their thoughts and views and said she was looking forward to working with Evie over the coming year.

The 2025 Anthology will be released soon, showcasing a selection of poems from both finalists and other entries.

As Young Poet Laureate, Evie will act as an ambassador for creative writing, aiming to inspire other young people to explore poetry.

She will take part in various projects throughout the year, have her work published and perform at events and festivals.

Visit this story on our website to read Evie's winning poems 'Athena Nike' and 'Contra Mundum - Against Opposition'.



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MP opens doors with first Jobs Fair

MAJOR local and national employers will feature in Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas' inaugural Jobs Fair.

The event will take place at Bromsgrove School Sports Centre from 10am to 2pm on Friday, May 30.

Sponsored by Excool, the Jobs Fair will help residents explore new job opportunities with major local and national employers. There will also be a free CV writing workshop.

So far, 31 major local and national employers and organisations will be

at the fair. Among them are the Royal Marines, the NHS, West Mercia Police, Civil Service Careers, NFU Mutual, Kimal, GTAccess Ltd, Clarkson Controls Ltd, Russell and Co, Solicitors, Handelsbanken, Mount Croft Care Home, Heart of Worcestershire College and many more.

The Jobs Fair is free to attend and is open to residents of all ages, from teenagers about to leave school to anyone wanting to find a new job, change careers or learn new skills.

Mr Thomas said: "My inaugural Job Fair will be a great opportunity for residents to explore new job opportunities with major local and national employers and organisations.

"With unemployment rising as a result of the Government's economic policies, supporting people back into work is a top priority and I hope my Jobs Fair will play its part in this mission."

Visit bradleythomas.uk/events/jobs-fair-2025 for more information.



Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas will be holding his first Jobs Fair on May 30. s

SEADA earns award by royal appointment

A BROMSGROVE business is one of 197 organisations to receive a Kings Award for Enterprise.

SEADA Technology Ltd, an audio-visual equipment supplier in Stoke Prior, has been selected for the accolade in the latest round of recipients.

The awards celebrate the achievements of leading businesses from across the UK and Channel Islands, recognising their vital role in growing the economy to improve lives.

Overall, 116 businesses have been recognised for International Trade, 46 for Innovation, 27 for Sustainable Development and 10 for Promoting Opportunity Through Social Mobility.

SEADA Technology was recognised for its contributions to international trade.

Of the 197 winning businesses 176 (88 per cent) are SMEs and, of those, 27

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

(14 per cent) are micro-businesses with 10 employees or less.

The firm will be presented their award by the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Mrs Beatrice Grant later in the year.

One representative from each winning business will also be invited to a special Royal reception event.

Mrs Grant, said: "I'm delighted for SEADA Technology.

"Having received the QAE six years ago, they will truly appreciate the advantages of winning this prestigious award.

"I strongly encourage Worcestershire businesses to consider entering in the future, as it offers remarkable benefits such as global recognition, enhanced team morale, and significant growth opportunities."

The King's Awards for Enterprise were previously known as The Queen's Awards for Enterprise and were renamed two years ago to reflect His Majesty The King's desire to continue the legacy of HM Queen Elizabeth II by recognising outstanding UK businesses.

The awards programme, now in its 59th year, has recognised more than 8,000 companies since its inception in 1965.

Gareth Thomas, Minister for Services, Small Businesses and Exports added: "Congratulations to the recipients of this year's King's Awards for Enterprise, which all demonstrate the very best of British business talent. I wish them every success as they continue to grow, innovate and prosper, and commend the invaluable contributions they have already made to communities at home and abroad, helping to boost the UK economy."

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Election shock sent a message says Tory chief

THE WORCESTERSHIRE County Councillor elected as leader of the Conservative Group said last week's local elections sent a powerful political message in the area.

Coun Adam Kent, who represents Wythall on the authority, pledged to put the residents' needs ahead of national politics.

It comes after Reform UK swept the board across the county, taking 27 seats and leaving the once-leading Conservative Group on 12.

Coun Kent thanked everyone who voted for him to help him hold onto his seat and said he was honoured to be elected as group leader.

"This is a moment for clear, local leadership - grounded in the priorities of our communities. We heard the public loud and clear - many turned to Reform, frustrated with national politics.

"While those elections should have focused on local issues, we understand that people wanted to send a message."

Mapping out his vision, he said the Conservative Group would focus on collaborative working to deliver practical results.

Among his pledges were to 'protect Worcestershire's identity as One Worcestershire Council rather than splitting the county into two', taking real action on flood prevention and resilience and expanding public transport,

including the successful on-demand bus services.

He also vowed the party and council would maintain and improve roads and pavements across the county, back rural communities and support farmers and lead a cross-party drive to recruit more foster carers to improve children's lives and easing the financial burden on services.

He is calling on all councillors, regardless of party, to actively support fostering.

"Every councillor can help change a child's future. That's not only good for the child, it's good for the future sustainability of our services.

"Here in Worcestershire, what matters most is who will stand up for local residents. That's what we intend to do — be the

local champions our communities need and rebuild our Conservative Group on that firm foundation.

"People want to see continued focus on what matters to their everyday lives — protecting Worcestershire's identity, investing in roads and public transport, tackling flooding, supporting our rural areas, and standing up for children in care."



Keeping his cool - Coun Adam Kent has mapped out his vision after becoming Conservative Group Leader. s

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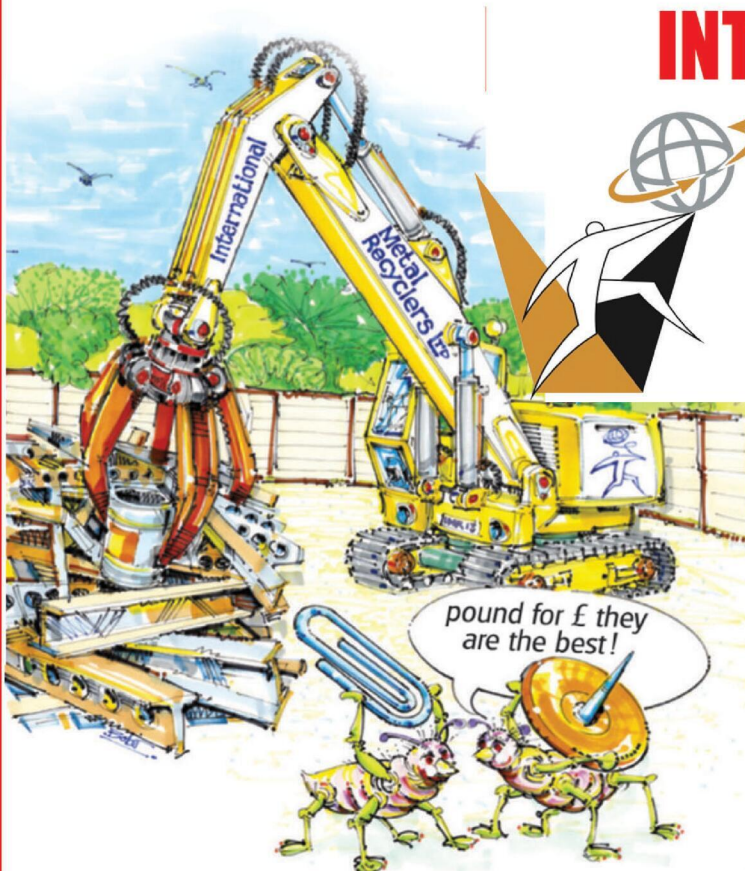
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Reform scores big in Bromsgrove while Tories stay strong in Spa

by Neil Gordon
news@bullivantmedia.com

THE BROMSGROVE divisions in the Worcestershire County Council elections were dominated by Reform UK which took four of nine seats, while in Droitwich, all four were held onto by the Conservatives.

In Bromsgrove, only two Conservatives - Coun Adam Kent and Coun Karen May - retained their places.

Of the others contested in Bromsgrove, the Liberal Democrats won two and one went to an independent.

In most of the divisions, turn-out was around 38 per cent, while it was 34.4 in Beacon, Woodvale was 33.2 per cent and Bromsgrove West was 32.1.

No overall control

The results meant the Conservatives lost control of Worcestershire County Council for the first time in decades.

Reform UK is now the largest party, with 27 seats on the new-look council, too short of overall control. The Conservatives have 12, the Green Party has eight councillors, the Liberal Democrats six, Labour two and there are two inde-

pendents.

Bromsgrove results

Alvechurch was won by independent Alan Bailes who polled 1,026 - 275 more than Local Conservative Danny Bromage in second. Reform UK's Lisa Creswell was third, Labour's Anthony Bridger fourth, John Ball (Green) fifth and Gillian Bell (Lib Dem) sixth.

Conservative Karen May held onto Clent Hills, notching up 1,501 - edging out independent Steven Colella who finished on 1,129. Reform UK's Donna Westwood was third, Labour's Laura Rollins finished fourth, Lib Dem Dr David Nicholl fifth, Stuart Davies (Green Party) sixth and independent Stan Francis seventh.

Sam Evans gained Bromsgrove East for the Liberal Democrats with 1,141 votes. Conservative Kit Taylor was second on 733, then Reform UK's Bob Waller, Labour's John Cochrane, Independent Charlie Hotham and Peter Harvey (Green Party) respectively.

The Liberal Democrats also held Bromsgrove Central as Josh Robinson polled 1,715. Chris Thomas (Reform UK) was second with 1,030 and Adrian Kriss (Conservative) third. In fourth was Labour's David Hopkins and in fifth was Peter Measham (Green Party).

Reform UK gained Bromsgrove south as Jean-Louis Gaynor polled



967. Sam Ammar (Lib Dem) was second, trailing by just 89 votes. Conservative Helen Jones was third, Labour's Ian Woodall was fourth, Norman Cook (Green Party) was fifth and independent Kyle Daisley sixth.

Mark Dunkley (Reform UK) won in Woodvale with 1,319 votes. Conservative Shirley Webb was second on 1,047. Third was Labour's Sheridan Bellingham, fourth was Martin German (Lib Dem) and fifth was Julian Gray (Green Party).

In Wythall, Adam Kent held onto the seat for the Conservatives, polling 1,832 - more than double Reform UK's Stephen Peters who finished second on 904.

Independent Sean Taylor was third, Adrian Lee (Labour) was fourth, Valerie Clarke (Lib Dem) was fifth and Amelia Quirk (Green Party) was sixth.

Peter Turner (Reform UK) took Beacon with 956 votes and Conservative Anita Dale was second. Peter McDonald (Labour) finished third, Jill Harvey (Green Party) was fifth and Lib Dem Sarah Woodhouse was sixth.

And in Bromsgrove West, Nik Price came first for Reform UK with 754 votes. Lib Dem James Clarke was second on 502. In third was Labour's Esther Gray, fourth was Conservative Rita Dent and John Smout (Green Party) was fifth.

Droitwich results

Daniel Birch (Conservative) won Droitwich East with 1,324 votes. Second was Reform UK's Christopher Edmondson, third was Nicola Morris (Green Party), fourth was Louis Allaway (Labour), fifth was Lib Dem Owen Ralph.

Conservative Richard Morris polled 1,276 to hold onto Droitwich West with Reform UK's Dom Mitchell in second on 765. In third was Labour's Gill Rawlings, fourth was Lib Dem Roy Harnsworth and fifth was Doug Hincks (Green Party).

Seb James (Conservative) won Bowbrook by polling 1,061 - 92 votes more than Reform UK's Peter Jewell in second. Lib Dem Margaret Rowley was third on 500 and tied in fourth was Stephen Squires (Green) and Mike Stafford (Labour).

And Tony Miller held onto the Ombersley seat for the Conservatives, receiving 1,259 votes with Reform UK's Gary Thompson a very close second on 1,215. Michael Stuart-Joy was third for the Liberal Democrats, David Chamberlain (Green Party) was fourth and Labour's Sachin Mathur was fifth.

The election count at North Bromsgrove High School. Picture Neil Gordon Media. s

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Performing at their best to bring home the cup

NEW 'rounders for all' sessions have launched this week. Sessions run every Thursday from 6pm, meeting at the field behind the Abbey Stadium. The first one took place last night.

'Rounders for all' is exactly as it says - the sessions are open to everyone, all ages and abilities.

People can go along as a group or on their own and the organisers say there are plenty of benefits to participating.

Redditch Borough Council's Sports Development Officer, Hayley Gwilliam, said: "Rounders is a sport that many people will have played and enjoyed whilst they were at school but haven't played since."

"Now is your chance. Rounders is a versatile sport, meaning it can be played by all, even entire families."

"The sessions are mixed and make for great fun over the spring/summer months, providing health benefits as well as general fun."

Email: hayley.gwilliam@bromsgrove-andredditch.gov.uk for more information.

NEW Walking Cricket sessions launched in Redditch this week.

Sessions run every Monday from 6pm to 7pm at the Terry Memorial Fields after starting on May 5.

Walking Cricket is a slower version of the game, but still includes a lot of benefits including improving heart health, strength and endurance and boosting mental health and wellbeing.

Redditch Borough Council Sports Development Officer, Hayley Gwilliam, said: "Cricket is a sport loved by many people, but it can require a high level of fitness to keep up with the running whilst fielding."

"Walking Cricket eliminates that with its unique set of rules, meaning that anyone can play, even if you aren't as mobile as you used to be."

Email: hayley.gwilliam@bromsgrove-andredditch.gov.uk for more information.



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

YOUNG footballers from Bromsgrove district are celebrating after winning the under-13s Mercian League Cup.

Pupils from Aston Fields, St John's, St Bede's and Alvechurch middle schools and Waseley Hills High School featured as Academy Kicks Wolves lifted the Mercian League Cup.

The Bromsgrove-based Wolves thrashed Oldbury Park Siberians 8-2 in the final at Pershore Town's Community Stadium.

Managers, Bryn Wigley and Greg Pinfield, said: "It was a thoroughly deserved win, even with a few nerves here and there, all of the players worked their socks off."

"We are incredibly proud of how hard the boys have worked throughout the season to reach the final and their commitment to training and the match itself."

Wolves lifted the trophy after Freddie Finn scored a hat-trick while man of the match Thom Mapp netted a brace.

And Harrison Broadhurst also scored twice while Theo Barr found the net to add some gloss to the scoreline.

The team, managers and families celebrated the victory at Ascott's Sports Bar in Aston Fields.

The cup will now be passed around between the players so they can each take it home in turn.



Academy Kicks Wolves lift the Mercian League Cup trophy before celebrating their success.

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Team Primrose's marathon effort

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

A GROUP of runners raised £20,157 for the Primrose Hospice after successfully completing the London Marathon.

Among them were Sarah Harrod, Sonia Stockwin, Kelly Wetherall, Laura Taylor and Becky Jackson.

Sarah said it was a lot hotter than expected for the 26.2 mile route around the capital but she 'dug deep, faced the enormity of the challenge ahead and got to the finish line'.

"People face huge challenges on a daily basis," she added. "Through the help of Primrose Hospice they find ways of coping."

"It was a good reminder on Sunday of how fortunate we are to have the services Primrose offers."

Sonia said: "Everyone told me running the London Marathon would be an experience I would never forget and they were not wrong. The whole day was amazing, the atmosphere was just electric, the crowds and the support all the way incredible. I was so emotional crossing that finish line."

She thanked everyone who supported the charity and said it



Left to right, Laura Taylor, Kelly Wetherall, Sonia Stockwin. s

was an honour to run for the Primrose.

Kelly, a fundraiser for the Primrose for three years, added: "Since I started, it was an ambition to run the marathon."

"I'm not a runner and find exercise horrific at the best of times but I wanted to do the hardest thing I could imagine doing knowing that it would only be a fraction of what our patients go through."

On the London Marathon, she said: "It was an overwhelming experience from start to finish but having my family and friends there cheering me on was just the most special memory."

"I must admit I don't really remember much after mile 23.

I'm very proud of myself for completing this challenge on behalf of Primrose. There is absolutely no one else that I'd put myself thought this for."

Laura said she found the London Marathon 'overwhelming, emotional and very hot'.

"It was a real bucket list moment for me," she explained. "The heat presented a number of challenges on the day and it definitely didn't go exactly to plan - but these things never do."

Laura finished in a time of four hours and 45mins.

"Given it was my first marathon, was a PB," she added.

"Crossing the finish line was very emotional. I would say I burst into tears, but that wouldn't



Becky Jackson ran in memory of her granddad. s

be entirely accurate as there were no actual tears given how dehydrated I was by that stage."

Becky ran in memory of her granddad Eddie who was a keen supporter of the Primrose.

She said: "If I had to describe the day in one word, it would be 'surreal'."

"I've watched the London Marathon on TV all my life, but being part of it was something else entirely."

"The support along the route was overwhelming—complete strangers cheering your name and willing you on."

"It felt like a wall of noise the whole way around."

"My dad was the inspiration behind my run—he completed the marathon when he was younger—so having him there made it even more special."



Sarah Harrod said it was a lot hotter than usual. s

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Going a long way to help raise funds for the hospice

AN ACCOUNTANTS director has taken on an extraordinary personal and physical challenge to raise funds for the Primrose Hospice.

Mike Toone, from Cutter and Co Chartered Accountants in Bromsgrove, completed the gruelling Etape Loch Ness cycle sportive - a 105km (66-mile) closed-road race circumnavigating the iconic Scottish loch. The tough course includes a demanding 1,155m (3,789ft) of elevation gain.

Mike's journey to the Highlands was nearly as epic as the ride itself. Mike travelled for nine hours by van to Inverness on the Saturday, spent just six hours there on the Sunday - including the cycle ride - and then made the nine-hour journey back home the same day.

Despite the whirlwind schedule, he beat his original five-hour target and completed the

course in four hours 23 minutes, finishing in the top third - in 1,897th place out of 6,200 riders.

Mike said: "I'm turning 40 this year and decided I needed to try something different to keep myself fit.

"As a result of this mini mid-life crisis, I became a 'midlife cyclist' and chose to raise money for a great cause while doing it.

"While the ride was incredible, I definitely learned that Inverness is a very long way to go for one night."

Cutter and Co is proud to support Primrose Hospice, which provides essential care and support to individuals with life-limiting illnesses and their families.

The firm extends its thanks to everyone who has donated so far.

Anyone wanting to boost the coffers further can visit: [justgiving.com/page/cutter-and-co-limited](https://www.justgiving.com/page/cutter-and-co-limited) for more information.



Mike Toone took on the demanding 105km gruelling cycle. The course, around Scotland's iconic loch, included a 3,789ft elevation gain. s

Chance to swap unwanted clothes

A FREE clothing swap event will be coming to Redditch, giving residents the opportunity to be more sustainable.

The event, called Clothing Swap Shop for the Community, allows people to exchange unwanted items for free.

Taking place on Saturday, June 7, from 1.30pm to 4pm, at the Windmill Community Centre, it offers residents an opportunity to refresh their wardrobes without spending any money.

Participants are encouraged to bring up to ten items of clothing, shoes, and accessories, including children's items, to exchange.






The event aims to promote sustainable fashion and reduce waste within the community, giving clothes a new home and offering the chance to find pre-loved pieces.

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Sex assaults see 'predator' jailed

A 'DANGEROUS and predatory sex offender' has been jailed for ten years for sexually assaulting two teenage boys in Northfield and Barnt Green, following a British Transport Police (BTP) investigation.

Damien Gloster, 40, of no fixed address, was found guilty by a jury of two counts of sexual assault on a male at Birmingham Crown Court on February 19.

And on Wednesday, he was sentenced to seven years in prison, which was extended by a further three years.

The court heard how, on two separate occasions last year Gloster sexually assaulted two teenage boys.

On the evening of Saturday, May 11, a 15-year-old boy was sexually assaulted by Gloster on board a train between Barnt Green and Selly Oak.

The second incident involved a 16-year-old boy who was targeted by Gloster while trainspotting at Northfield station on the evening of July 16.

Gloster enticed him into a woodland area where he sexually assaulted him.

In addition to his 10-year



British Transport Police logo and text: sentence he will have a life-long stay on the Sex Offenders Register.

In court the Judge described Gloster as a dangerous and predatory sex offender.

BTP Det Con Karl Byrne said: "Gloster is a callous predator who deliberately targeted and exploited young boys for his own sexual gratification.

"The two boys were so brave with their support to the investigation and I really hope they, and their families, can take some reassurance knowing he'll be locked up

for the foreseeable future.

"There is zero-tolerance for sexual offences on the rail network and we will do everything in our power to bring offenders like Gloster to justice.

"I'd encourage everyone to save 61016 in their phones and let us know if you ever witness or experience sexual offending.

"We will always act and we will always take you seriously."

Damien Gloster was sentenced this week to seven years in prison. s



From left to right: Dave Wycherley, Michelle Cotton (treasurer), Sue Harris (secretary) and Geoff Mycock (chairman). Picture courtesy of Stoke Prior Crown Green Bowling Club.

Try your hand at bowls in Stoke Prior

STOKE Prior Crown Green Bowling Club is holding an open day this weekend.

The club is opening up its green to the local community.

Stoke Prior play at the Sports and Country Club on Westonhall Road.

And the open day takes place from 12pm to 3pm on Sunday, May 11.

Everyone is welcome, both experienced players and beginners to the sport.

Members will be on hand to offer bowling

advice.

The event is open to all ages.

Anyone who wishes to attend the event should contact club secretary, Dennis Harris, on 07747 873460

Club members can use the bowling green at any time for social use or can play competitively for one of the club's teams.

The club bar will be open for refreshments.

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New emergency services hub secures award

THE STATE-OF-THE-ART Redditch Police and Fire Hub has won a top award at this year's Constructing Excellence Midlands West Awards.

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) John Campion said the building, which won the 'Delivering Value Award', reiterated his commitment to reform the police estate whilst delivering greater value for taxpayers' money.

The nomination showcased how consideration was not only made about cost, but also how the project would unlock societal benefits, with it delivering £8.78million in 'social value' for the local community – more than double its target.

'Social value' measures how a project positively impacts on people, relationships and communities.

Nominated by building contractors, Speller Metcalfe, the £18.3million project



The Police and Fire Hub, which opened in January, has won the 'Delivering Value Award'.

communities and deliver greater efficiencies.

Mr Campion said: "In 2023, I set out my ambition to deliver a new police base in the town, and I am delighted its opening has proven to be such a success, not only for the officers and staff who work within it but also for local communities.

"The project wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of the people on the ground who have made it happen and I'm grateful for support from West Mercia Police and HWFRS at every step of the way.

"It's therefore brilliant to see they have all received the recognition they deserve for the integral role they have played in delivering a once in a generation project in Redditch."

The project was also short-listed for the Building Project of the Year Award.

was overseen by the PCC's estates team in partnership with West Mercia Police and Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service (HWFRS).

Other key stakeholders on the project included Bond Bryan Architects, PAGABO, Curtins, and Walker Cotter.

The Redditch Police and Fire Hub opened in January this year. Providing a base for both emergency services, it enables police officers and fire crews to tackle the modern-day challenges they face, meet the needs of local

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Couple's anniversary day goes with a bang

A STOURPORT couple chose a unique way to mark their wedding anniversary this year – by trying something completely new at the first-ever Silver Shots clay shooting session.

Paul and Jane Stokes celebrated an impressive 46 years of marriage at the event, hosted by Shooting 4 Fun (S4F) on April 23.

The pair decided it was the perfect opportunity to tick something off their bucket list.

The Silver Shots event, specially designed for the over-65s, was a resounding success, with sessions fully booked throughout the day

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

at S4F's Oaklands Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Hanbury.

A mix of attendees came along to try their hand at clay shooting, including individuals who had never handled a shotgun before, as well as those revisiting a long-lost passion. Among them was a man who had loved clay shooting in his younger years but had given it up when family and other commitments took over. After a slightly rusty start, it was clear that his previous experience hadn't left him - he was soon confidently break-

ing clays, and left delighted to have rekindled a hobby he once loved.

Mark Treverton, owner of S4F, was on hand throughout the event to expertly guide participants, ensuring everyone felt confident and comfortable.

Recognising that agility, mobility, and strength can vary, Mark carefully selected lighter-weight shotguns with reduced recoil for those attendees who would struggle with the physical demands of standard shooting equipment.

This thoughtful approach made the sport accessible, even to those with age-related ailments, mobility challenges or smaller frames.

With complimentary tea and coffee, a welcoming atmosphere, and a spirit of fun and encouragement, many attendees stayed beyond their allotted session time to chat, swap stories and make new friendships.

Anyone thinking of giving clay shooting a go - whether they are celebrating a special occasion or simply wanting to tick something off their bucket list - is urged to consider the Shooting 4 Fun sessions.

They offer a fantastic opportunity for beginners and enthusiasts alike.

Visit shooting4fun.co.uk or call Mark Treverton on 01527 575141 for more information or to book places.



Paul and Jane Stokes celebrated their anniversary with some Silver Shots.



Renowned pianist Peter Bradley-Fulgoni will be performing at Hartlebury Castle.

A classic way to raise funds for castle trust at concert

A FUNDRAISING musical evening will take place at Hartlebury Castle this evening (Friday, May 9).

Award-winning pianist Peter Bradley-Fulgoni will be performing a breathtaking classical concert at 7pm in the Medieval Great Hall, with all proceeds going to Hartlebury Castle Trust, the charity which owns and manages the Hartlebury Castle Estate.

Peter has performed throughout Europe and Asia and studied at

prestigious institutions including the Royal College of Music.

Hartlebury Castle Trust director Steve Bagnall said: "This is an exciting fundraising event for the trust."

"All ticket sales will go towards transforming the castle's future - giving visitors a glimpse into the past while inviting them to reflect on life today."

"We're thrilled to have Peter supporting this vision with what

promises to be a brilliant performance."

Peter added: "I'm looking forward to performing at this beautiful venue to help raise money for this wonderful charity."

"It is also an amazing opportunity to play this historic Bluthner piano. It has a warm, rich sound - a unique voice all of its own."

Classical pieces will feature household names including Debussy, Chopin and Beethoven,

as well as modern composers.

Peter added: "I hope that my programme of personal favourite pieces will take the audience on a classical journey."

Tickets for Support Hartlebury Castle: An Evening of Piano Music cost £20 (including a complimentary glass of wine or non-alcoholic alternative. There is a \$1.50 booking fee per transaction.

Visit hartleburycastle.com for more information and tickets.

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Keys to be handed over for new flats scheme

AN AFFORDABLE homes scheme is set for full occupation with the keys soon to be handed over to 49 new apartments situated near Redditch town centre.

The development, known as Victoria Works, has been built by the in-house construction team at GreenSquareAccord (GSA).

Paced over two phases, the Victoria Works scheme will deliver a total of 75 homes for social rent comprising 26 town houses and 49 flats on Edward Street.

The first phase of construction at Victoria Works provided 20 two-bedroom and six three-bedroom houses which are now occupied.

by **Ashleigh Osborne**
ashleigh.osborne
@bullivantmedia.com

The second stage will deliver 30 two-bedroom apartments and 19 one-bedroom flats.

Tom Wragg, senior regeneration officer at GSA, said: "We are proud to present our new homes at Victoria Works."

"The town houses are completed to a high standard and have an energy performance certificate of B achieved, in part, through working with advanced offsite housing manufacturer LoCaL Homes."

"Construction is now complete on the apartments and we are looking forward to welcoming our customers to their new homes at Victoria Works. "As well as meeting a variety

of housing needs, our Victoria Works scheme forms part of a of \$35million regeneration plan which is transforming ex-industrial sites into a new thriving community in the heart of Redditch."

The redevelopment of Edward Street, Britten Street and a site in Winayates is being led by GSA and will see 200 high quality affordable homes built.

So far, the regeneration project has delivered 40 apartments for social rent at Passingham Place and 12 innovative virtually plastic-free homes at CHARM building.

Redditch Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Housing, Coun Bill Hartnett, said: "I welcome the arrival of these much-needed social rented

homes to Redditch, we need more social rented properties.

"What's more, it's a great development, done to a good standard and in a very accessible location near to the town centre and bus and railway stations."

"It has transformed the area and will make a real difference to many families across our communities."

All the homes at Victoria Works will be managed by Pioneer Cooperative Housing.

Pioneer Housing Co-operative's areas of operation mainly covers the Batchley and Central wards within Redditch Borough Council.

A housing cooperative is run for and by its tenant members who are drawn from the local community.



Tom Wragg, Fran Nash, Coun Bill Hartnett, and Coun Jane Spilsbury outside Victoria Works.

Full steam ahead for special train excursions

by **Neil Gordon**

TWO STEAM-HAULED excursions are set to call at Barnt Green and Worcestershire Parkway when heading to Somerset and south Wales, delighting passengers and enthusiasts alike.

Vintage Train's 'Whistling Ghost' is set to visit Minehead later this month, while the

'Cathedrals Express' goes to Swansea in July to mark the 175th anniversary of the line opening between Chepstow and Swansea.

The 'Whistling Ghost' tour on Saturday, May 31, also includes a trip on the preserved West Somerset Railway with leisure time in Minehead. Provisional times are 8.40am pick-up and 10.36pm set-down



at Barnt Green and 9.08am pick-up and 9.12pm set-down at Worcestershire Parkway, with the locomotive working

the tour to be confirmed.

Meanwhile, Castle class steam locomotive 45596 'Bahamas', pictured, will be hauling the 'Cathedrals Express' on Saturday, July 5, as part of Railway 200, a year-long nationwide campaign to celebrate 200 years of modern train travel in 2025.

Visit vintagetrains.co.uk for more details.

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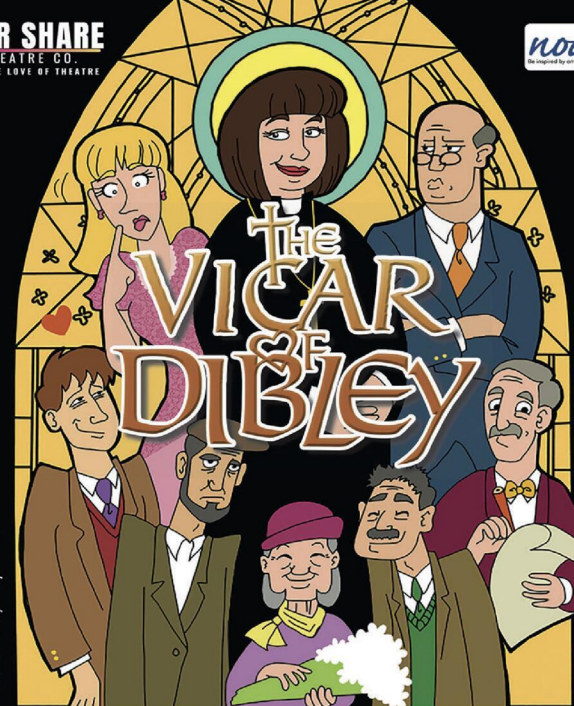


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Perfect for fans and for those discovering it for the first time

THERE ARE always positives and negatives when staging an iconic piece of theatre or in this case, TV turned stage theatre.

On the one hand, you know you have a great proven script to work with but on the other, the cast are following in very big footsteps. And you have to make sure you do the writing justice and deliver a show that lives up to it.

The talented cast at Droitwich's Norbury Theatre did just that with *Black Adder II*.

Sterling performers

Joanna Edwards was solid in both her roles – as the Young Crone and Guard one.

Also playing more than one role was James Dean. He played three exuberant characters excellently. These included Walter Raleigh, Prince Ludwig (he captured the German accent with aplomb) and the legendary Flashheart (played in the TV show by Droitwich's own equally legendary Rik Mayall).

Christopher De Val Gaunt did well playing two different roles too - Doctor Leech, the Torturer and the crazy (and literally) legless Captain Rum and his comedic rowing boat.

Alisha James was wonderful as aspirational Kate/Bob and Colin Potter complemented her well as

her peasant-like father.

Michael Treagust excelled as the Stephen Fry's subtle clergyman Lord Melchiett and Ellie Higginson made for a brilliant brow-beaten Baldrick.

Christopher Newbould had over-excitable Lord Percy down to a tee.

Vicky Moloney made the role of child-like and brash Queen Elizabeth I her own and Jan Miller-Weir enjoyed plenty of laugh-out-loud moments as the over-sharing and outrageous Nursie. The pair bounced off each other brilliantly on their side-byside throne and chair.

Miller-Weir also doubled up well as the Wisewoman.

While it was hard to pick out a stand-out performance, Zach Price epitomised Lord Edmund Blackadder. He had the voice, intonation mannerisms and facial expressions and must have studied hours of the sitcom to get it that accurate.

Versatile set

The set was versatile and needed to be as with TV adaptations, there are always more set changes needed than when pieces are originally written for stage. The scenery moved well between the Palace, Blackadder's home, a ship

and other settings.

Medieval music – from classical pieces to modern pop songs – were cleverly used to make the scene changes smoother and more audience friendly.

The tracks could almost have come from an album called 'Now That's What I call the ye olde lute'.

The show itself was three episodes from *Black Adder II* – one-and-a-half either side of an interval.

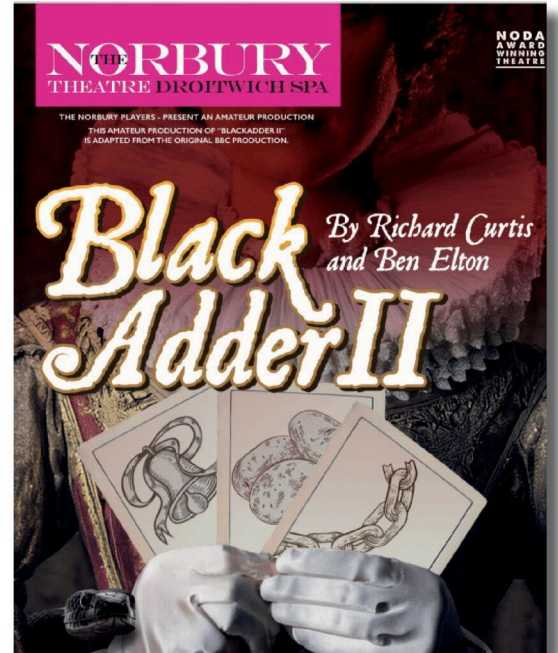
And, such was the quality of this performance, it made you want to go home and revisit the TV show with a binge-watching session.

Black Adder II will be enjoyed by die-hard fans and younger viewers discovering this masterpiece for the first time. Shows run at the Norbury until tomorrow (Saturday, May 10). The final performances are at 7.30pm tonight and at 2.30pm and 7.30pm tomorrow (Saturday).

Visit: norburytheatre.co.uk or call 01905 770154 to book tickets and for more information.

Tristan Harris

Black Adder II runs at Droitwich's Norbury Theatre until tomorrow (Saturday, May 10). s



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Calls for more to be done to combat ambulance staff abuse

by Andy Morris
andy.morris@bullivantmedia.com

AMBULANCE staff across the Midlands are subjected to around nine incidents of physical abuse, verbal abuse or aggression every day - prompting a new awareness campaign.

West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) has launched the 'How We Treat Each Other Matters' campaign to encourage members of the public to be respectful to ambulance staff.

Staff from WMAS' frontline, control rooms and Patient Transport Services are coming together on social media to encourage respect and safety for all staff.

The campaign launches as the number of violent incidents against UK ambulance staff reached an all-time high in the last 12 months.

A nationwide issue

Across the UK's 14 ambulance services, 22,536 cases were recorded - up 15 per cent on the previous year - 3,370 of which were in the West Midlands.

The WMAS Trust said it did not tolerate abuse and violence directed towards its workforce, with legal action always being pursued.

Chief Executive Officer Anthony Marsh said: "For many staff, this



sort of abuse can have a profound impact on their lives with some staff never recovering and actually leaving the service altogether.

"While it is a minority of people who commit these offences, we need the public to support us to make such abuse something that is unacceptable."

WMAS Head of Security and Safety Dan Knight added: "Everyone deserves to come to work without fear of abuse, aggression or vio-

lence from the public - whether that be our staff on the frontline, Patient Transport Services staff or those who work in our control rooms.

"The message is simple, abuse will not be tolerated and appropriate actions will be taken when these incidents occur - 3,370 incidents of abuse and violence is 3,370 too many."

"We hope with the launch of this campaign, it will be an important reminder to the public that showing

respect to our staff, who are ultimately only trying to help people, should be a given."

'Shocking figures'

Following the release of the new figures, Chair of the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE), Jason Killens, has written to ministers responsible for ambulance services in the UK to explore what further national policy

interventions can be developed to help combat the growing number of violent assaults against ambulance workers in the UK.

He said: "These figures are truly shocking and reflect a pattern of increased violence, aggression and abuse directed at hard-working ambulance people who are there to help people in their times of greatest need."

"Frontline staff as well as call handlers are affected by this horrendous abuse and this unacceptable behaviour has a major long-term impact on the health and wellbeing of ambulance people who are simply trying to do their jobs and help save lives."

"This situation is now so serious that we are seeking to engage with UK health ministers at the highest level to explore new interventions that could help deter potential perpetrators of these attacks."

"We would also underline again that it is vital that the judiciary uses all available legislation to ensure appropriate sentences are handed out consistently to those found guilty of committing these horrific crimes against our workforce."

West Midlands Ambulance Service has launched the 'How We Treat Each Other Matters' campaign to encourage members of the public to be respectful to ambulance staff.



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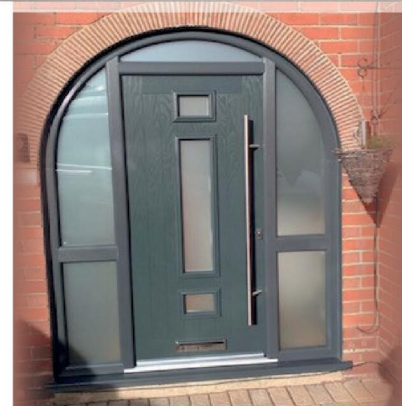
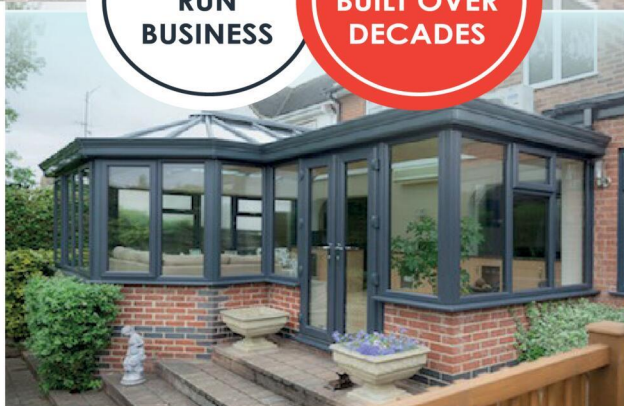


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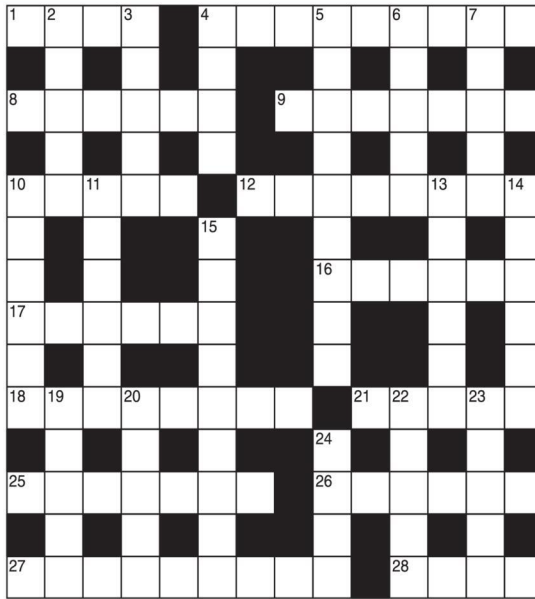
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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 & 4 Down Hero of a famous hunting song (4,4)
- 4 Spiny rodent (9)
- 8 Surname of the writer famous for Peter Pan (6)
- 9 Disease-causing bacterium (7)
- 10 Any levy of one-tenth (5)
- 12 Greek Cynic philosopher (8)
- 16 In Wagner's opera, lover of Tristan (6)
- 17 Jean ---, director of such films as La Bete Humaine (6)
- 18 & 14 Down British architect of works including Coventry Cathedral (3,5,6)
- 21 12th part of a pound troy (5)
- 25 & 13 Down Viscount and naval hero born in 1758 (7,6)
- 26 Day of the week named after the goddess Freya (6)
- 27 Putting together of elements to make up a complex whole (9)
- 28 Greek letter i (4)



DOWN

- 2 African ruminant mammal (5)
- 3 Oliver, US soldier who resigned over the Iran-Contra affair (5)
- 4 See 1 Across
- 5 Hooped petticoat used to expand the skirt of a dress (9)
- 6 Pulp of cooked vegetable or fruit (5)
- 7 Person of exalted rank (5)
- 10 Sign of the zodiac (6)
- 11 Slang for a sixpence (6)
- 13 See 25 Across
- 14 See 18 Across
- 15 Former English county which was once divided into Ridings (9)
- 19 & 23 Down Republic officially known as Cote D'Ivoire (5,5)
- 20 Leaf that bears a flower in its axil (5)
- 22 Stanley 'found' Livingstone here in 1871 (5)
- 23 See 19 Down
- 24 Another name for newts (4)

SOLUTIONS

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1 John; 4 Forcupine; 8 Barrie; 9 Microbe; 10 Tithe; 12 Diogenes; 16 Isolde; 17 Renai; 18 Sir Basil; 21 Ounce; 25 Horatio; 26 Friday; 27 Synthesis; 28 Iota.
 DOWN: 2 Okapi; 3 North; 4 Peel; 5 Crinoline; 6 Pure; 7 Noble; 10 Taurus; 11 Tanager; 13 Nelson; 14 Spence; 15 Yorkshire; 19 Ivory; 20 Bract; 22 Ujiji; 23 Coast; 24 Efts.

Crossword

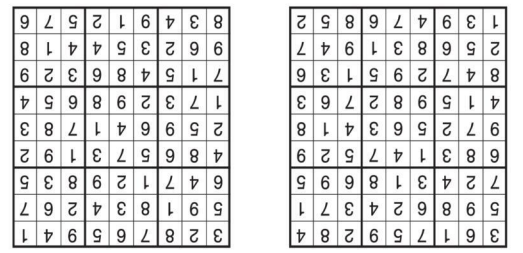
ACROSS: 1 Reminiscence; 7 Dear; 8 Incur; 9 Eve; 10 Sacrilege; 11 Assent; 12 Tamff; 15 Elucidate; 17 Ash; 18 House; 19 Abuse; 21 Clothes-horse; Down: 1 Rio de Janeiro; 2 Nee; 3 Strict; 4 Eliminate; 5 Cache; 6 Free of charge; 7 Dregs; 10 Sentiment; 13 Inane; 14 Vocate; 16 Usual; 20 Ugh.

Wordwheel Pathfinder

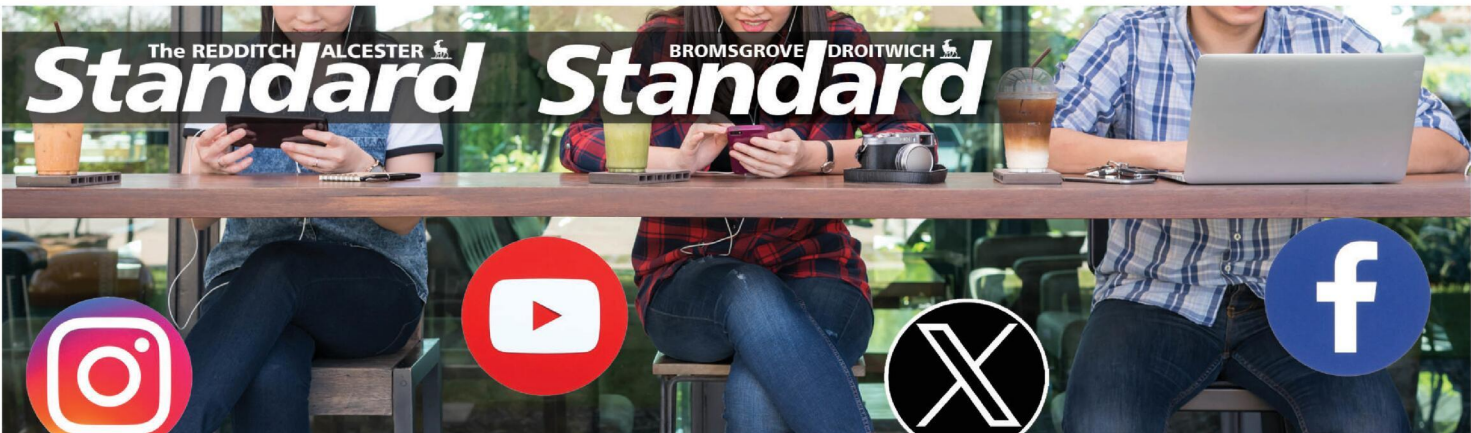
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 Kerplunk, Perfection, Pictionary, Boggle, Subotop, Operation, Buckaroo, Cleudo, Pie Face, Twister.

Codeword

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



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DEATHS

Henry Pawlowski

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Henry Pawlowski, aged 98 years.

He lived in Redditch for over 70 years and was a member of many social clubs including Lodge Park and Studley Road and South Redditch.

A funeral service to celebrate his life will be held at Redditch crematorium on Tuesday 13th May at 3.30 pm.

All that knew him are welcome to attend.

SHELTON Linda Doreen

Sadly passed away on Monday 28th April 2025, aged 74 years. A devoted Wife to Ed, a loving Mum to Wayne and Tracey, and Nanny to her Grandchildren.

A service to celebrate Linda's life will take place at Redditch Crematorium on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 10.15am.

(Please wear something colourful) Family flowers only please, donations if so desired to Cancer Research UK may be sent to:

Thomas Brothers The Funeral Directors, Birchfield House, 494 Evesham Road, Redditch, B97 5JF
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Thank you



EDWARD (TED) STEARN
Passed away on
Friday 2nd May 2025

Today our Dear Daddy received his angel wings. Finally, he gets to be with his one true love "Mummy". He struggled without her the last few years but now he has finally found peace back in her arms.

Emma and I took great comfort being with him in his final hours and we know he did too.

We have no doubt our mummy wrapped him in her beautiful angel wings and took him to a better place! Enjoy the Golf, skiing, walking, running, and riding again Daddy. Our hearts are breaking but finally you are at Peace and together with our Mamma.
So proud to call you our Daddy.

We love you
Charlotte (Pinfield) and Emma (Strong) and families

A funeral service, followed by cremation, will take place at 9.30 a.m. on Friday 23rd May at Redditch Crematorium
(A touch of yellow for dress code if possible)

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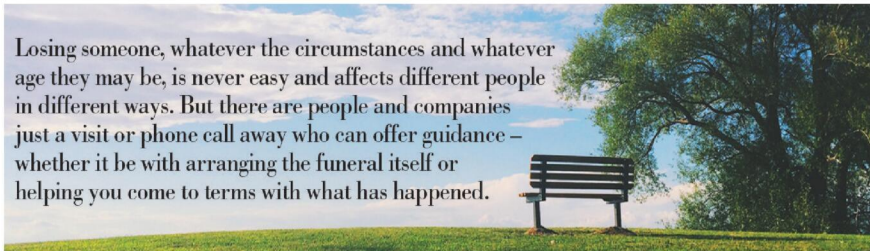
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

D5354 COUGHTON FIELDS LANE, COUGHTON/KINWARTON

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic between its junctions with the A435 Birmingham Road, Coughton and the B4089 Captain's Hill/School Road, Kinwarton.

Reason for Order: Carriageway patching, 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.

Order Commences: 16 May 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 16 May 2025.

Access & Diversion: A435 Birmingham Road, Arden Road, Tything Road West, Kinwarton Farm Road, Kinwarton Road, Captains Hill and vice versa.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

D52090 PERRYMILL LANE, SAMBOURNE

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from its junction with Sambourne Lane.

Reason for Order: Drainage works, 08.00hrs-15.00hrs.

Order Commences: 12 May 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 16 May 2025.

Access & Diversion: There is no available diversion route.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

HIGH STREET, STUDLEY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: Works to renew water pipe.

Order Commences: 10 May 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 10 May 2025.

Access & Diversion: No diversion available.

Contractor: Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

Warwickshire County Council proposes to make the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

D5495 DUNNINGTON ROAD & C103 BROOM LANE, DUNNINGTON

Order Effect: Roads closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: Footway reconstruction and associated works, weekdays only 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.

Order Commences: 27 May 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 2 June 2025.

Access & Diversion: For Dunnington Road - B4088

Salford Road, Dunnington Road and vice versa. For Broom Lane - C214 Dunnington Road, Wixford Road, Ryknild Street, Bidford Road, High Street, Broom Lane and vice versa.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 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/roadworks or call us 01926 412515.

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 9 May 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, HOUAPP = Household Application, CA = Conservation Area, FP = Affects Footpath.

25/00402/PIP ADVSTD CA PIP

Site: Land Adjacent New Cottage, Hewell Close, Tardibigge, Worcestershire B97 5SP.

Proposal: Erection of four dwellings.

25/00440/LBC LB

Site: Weatheroak Farm, Icknield Street, Weatheroak Hill, Worcestershire B48 7EH.

Proposal: Remove existing roofing tiles/replace to match existing with reclaimed plain clay tiles.

25/00197/FUL ADVSTD FP

Site: 28 Dodford Road, Bournheath, Worcestershire B61 9JR.

Proposal: Erection of 1 no. self-build, 2-bed bungalow.

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, Water Street 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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

JOYCE MAUREEN WILCOX (otherwise Joyce Maureen Price) (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 17 Tessa Close, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 0TB, who died on 02/12/2023, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 08/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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ANNA CHRISTINA BUTCHER Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of The Old Bakery, Stock Green, Redditch, B96 6TA, who died on 24/10/2024, must send written particulars to the address below by 10/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests notified.

Skalford March and Edwards, 8 Sansome Walk, Worcester, WR1 1LW. Ref:AC/PIB02899-1

PUBLIC NOTICES

COLIN ERNEST JOSEPH CORNELIUS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 503 Bevelly Hill, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 8HX, who died on 19/02/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 10/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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THIS Autumn, as Suzuki gets ready to launch the Vitara, it's very first electric vehicle, it's well worth reflecting on where it all began for Suzuki Motor Corporation 70 years ago.

Back in the Autumn of 1955, Michio Suzuki personally delivered a Suzulight, his very first production car to a local doctor who had previously been conducting his house calls on a bicycle.

Although Michio Suzuki had first started in business much earlier than that in March 1920 with the manufacture of textile looms. These became more advanced in design and very popular right through to the early 1950's when there was a global decline in the cotton industry; Suzuki then decided to diversify into motorised transport with introduction of its first motorcycle in 1953 and the first car followed two years later.

Initial research and development of Suzulight began as far back as 1937 although this had to be shelved later with the outbreak of the second World War. This development finally resumed in 1954 when Suzuki Motor Co Limited was formed.

Using Suzuki's 'Yaramaika' spirit, (translated as 'Let's do it') which was deep in the root of the Enshu region where Suzuki originated together with his determination to drive forward, Michio Suzuki quickly began researching vehicles produced overseas and gained a wealth of knowledge.

Suzulight was a compact vehicle measuring less than three metres in length and weighing

just over 500kg. It was powered by a 360cc, 15PS two cylinder, two-stroke engine which was the first of its type to ever be fitted to a car.

It was also the first car in Japan to feature a Front Wheel Drive / Front engine layout and was way ahead of its time with its independent coil spring suspension and rack and pinion steering.

Suzulight easily met the Japanese 'Keijidosha' or Kei light car legislation and Suzuki and his team quickly began their first development road testing of it.

As a prototype, its most memorable early drive was a 300km trip across the Hakone mountainous region between Hamamatsu and Tokyo which proved very challenging on roads that had not yet been paved.

Although arriving very late in the evening, the team arrived to present the car to the President of 'Yanase Auto' Japan's leading authority on Automobiles.

The President had stayed on late to greet the team and made his way out to thoroughly test the car.

Several hours later he returned very impressed and immediately gave Suzuki full approval to put the Suzulight into production.

Production commenced in October 1955 with initial production of 3-4 cars per month but by early 1956 monthly volume had climbed to 30 units.

70 years on, Suzuki Motor Corporation remains globally renowned as the 'small

car experts' and produces well over three million units per year with a projection of four million units annually by 2030.

Michio Suzuki's original strategy of design and production of light-weight vehicles lives on with platforms including 'Heartect' used in Swift, Vitara and S-Cross models and 'Heartect-e' which was specifically designed for the Vitara.



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Smith stars with ball for Spa in fine home victory against Burghill

by Aaron Sutcliffe
 aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

CRICKET: SAM Smith took seven wickets as Droitwich Spa CC claimed an emphatic 125-run victory against Burghill, Tillington and Weobley.

Smith returned figures of 7-46 with the ball as Droitwich bowled the visitors out for 148 at St Peter's Playing Fields.

That came after Droitwich scored 273-8 from their 50 overs as Lincoln Kellett (75) and Harry Butler (55) hit half-centuries.

The result means Spa sit fifth in the Worcestershire County League Division One table.

Burghill won the toss and elected to field but were punished by Spa openers Martyn Davies (37) and Butler (55).

The pair put on 106 runs for Droitwich's first wicket but fell in quick succession.

However, Jonathan Miles (20) and Xavier Ariam Thuraiappah (22) added some useful runs

before Kellett came to the crease.

Kellett smashed 75 runs from 71 deliveries including 11 boundaries to propel Droitwich to 273-8 at the end of their innings.

For Burghill, Khalid (3-40) starred with the ball while Will Friday, John Lewis, Kayle Russell, Ranjit William and Dashawn Norville all took a wicket apiece.

Spa's bowlers took a flurry of early wickets to leave Burghill in trouble on 34-6 in their reply.

Smith ripped through Burghill's top order with only Sabil Sarmad (52), William (29), Khalid (17) and Tyler Garrard (13) reaching double figures.

And a stunning over from Davies saw the Droitwich captain take two wickets for the loss of just one run with Burghill all out for 148 in the 40th over.

Droitwich are next in action against Netherton on Saturday, May 10 with the game to begin at 12.30pm at St Peter's Playing Fields.

Elsewhere, the club's second team suffered a 98-run defeat against Martley at Jewry Field.

Martley posed 248-7 from their 50 overs.

Droitwich slipped to 12-3 in reply and found themselves in trouble on 104-7.

Martley eventually bowled the visitors out for 150 in the 34th over.

The club's third XI secured a seven-wicket win at Worcester 3rds.

Worcester closed on 170-8 from their 45 overs and Droitwich needed just 30.3 overs to reach 171-3 and claim victory.

Droitwich's fourth team claimed a dominant 143-run success against Harvington 2nds.

Spa posted 287-7 from their 45 overs and bowled Harvington out for 144 in 38 overs.

Lastly, the club's fifth XI lost by 54 runs against Kidderminster 4ths.

Kidderminster reached 298-5 at the end of their innings and bowled Spa out for 244 in the penultimate over of the match.



Picture courtesy of Steelbacks TV/YouTube.

Rapids Women crash out of ECB Knockout Cup

WORCESTERSHIRE Rapids Women exited the newly-formed ECB Knockout Cup in the first round following a five-wicket defeat against Northamptonshire Steelbacks.

The Rapids won the toss and elected to bat but struggled to build any momentum, finishing on 96-8 at the end of their 20 overs at Wantage Road.

Only captain Chloe Hill (18) and Clare Boycott (16 not out) made any headway as Lenny Sims (2-12), Ella Phillips (2-15) and Bethan Robinson (2-16) restricted Worcestershire's progress.

The Rapids took wickets at regular intervals to keep the tie alive only for quickfire contributions from Gemma Marriott (24), Amelia Kemp (23), and Sims (10 not out) to guide the Steelbacks to victory.

Worcestershire captain Hill said: "Obviously [we're] very gutted with that performance.

"To be out in the first round, especially when 20-over cricket has been such a strong format for us in previous seasons, it's really disappointing.

"Ultimately, not enough runs on the board. Poor executions and wrong decisions, I guess, from us collectively.

"I think it's just all about being a bit more disciplined and a bit more mature.

"The pitch didn't play how we expected, it had uneven bounce, and when you're three down in the powerplay, it puts you under pressure straight away.

"Our bowlers did bowl really well. But we've got to be more disciplined in the field and with the ball for longer periods."

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