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First glimpse of how new water park will shape up

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

THIS IMAGE released this week reveals what Droitwich Spa's new water play area will look like when it is completed in the summer.

Work began on the 'Saltwich Splash' play area, located in the town's Lido Park, last month.

It is due to open to the public at the start of August.

New and exciting features include water sprays and arches, a tipper bucket, an area of boulders and a water run with different levels to fire children's imagination.

Plenty of seating has also been added to ensure the design is most accessible so everyone can enjoy the fun.

The \$550,000 project will see the water play moved from its current location by the Lido, to the space next to the tennis courts.

This will allow the Lido to be extended as part of Wychavon District Council's multi-million-pound investment in leisure and wellbeing in Droitwich Spa.

It is the final one of Wychavon's water plays to be upgraded, following the opening of new water plays in Pershore last year and Evesham



How the new Droitwich Spa water play in Lido Park will look. s

in 2023. The old water play areas were outdated and increasingly expensive to maintain.

Tim Lewis, Wychavon District Council's head of client services, said: "We are really excited about this new water play for Lido Park."

"Saltwich Splash has been designed with families and fun in

mind and offers a modern interactive experience for people of all ages to enjoy together.

"It's part of our commitment to making our parks great places for everyone to spend time in."

"We can't wait for people to try it out."

The current water play in Lido

Park will be switched on at the end of May and remain in use until the Saltwich Splash is ready to take over.

Water plays in Evesham and Pershore are already up and running and will be open from 10am to 6pm daily until mid-to-late September.

Trio of officers praised

THREE West Mercia Police officers have received recognition this week for life-saving actions in Droitwich.

Sgt Kully Singh and PC Stacey Hegenbarth risked their own lives in July to stop a car driving the wrong way down the M5.

After winning a West Mercia Police award, they have now been nominated for a national Police Bravery Award.

Another officer praised this week was PC Maria Francolini who performed CPR on Peter Prendiville when he suffered a cardiac arrest whilst playing hockey at Droitwich Leisure Centre.

She has been recognised with a Royal Humane Society resuscitation award.

Turn to pages three and five for the full stories.

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VE Day 80



On Thursday there was a short parade from the gates of the Plymouth Road War Memorial to the Cenotaph. 2025010MMR6



Mayor of Redditch, Juma Begum, and the town's MP Chris Bloore attended the service on Thursday. 2025010MMR2



Coun Sharon Harvey, Redditch Borough Council leader, was among those laying a wreath. 2025010MMR1



Rev Paul Lawlor led the service at Plymouth Road. 2025010MMR5



The Union flag and Redditch Royal British Legion Standard were paraded at Plymouth Road. 2025010MMR3

Parades, prayers and a party to mark anniversary

RESIDENTS across Redditch borough attended a multitude of events to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

Last Thursday morning, a flag-raising took place at Redditch Town Hall organised by the borough council.

A VE Day 80 service was then held at the Plymouth Road War Memorial.

Cadets, from Trinity High School and Bromsgrove School, walked through the Kingfisher Centre en route to taking part in the service at Plymouth Road.

A parade went from the gates to the cenotaph where there was a wreath-laying service, led by Rev Paul Lawlor. This included the Kohima Epitath, Exhortation, Last Post, Reveille and a two-minute silence.

Afterwards, crosses were laid at the graves of an RAF pilot from Redditch who died in the Second World War and a six-year-old boy whose life was ended in an air raid.

Then on the Saturday, residents line the streets to pay their respects at a parade from the Palace Theatre to St Stephen's Memorial. At the memorial, there was a short wreath-laying service by Rev Canon Lawlor and a silence to remember the fallen.

Other events taking place on the Thursday included open church at St Peter's Church along with bell-ringing, a quarter peal at St John the Baptist Church in Feckenham and a Bring and Share Supper at St Philip's Church Community Hall organised by the Ladies Circle. There was also an outdoor prayer station by the First World War and Second World War commemoration plaques for private prayer and

interaction. There was also a VE Day 80 party at Redditch Rugby Club on Saturday night.

Gerry Marsden, from Redditch Royal British Legion, said: "It was a very good turn-out on Thursday, considering it was a working day for many, and the numbers who attended on the Saturday were even bigger – it was absolutely fantastic."

"We held the Saturday event so more cadets could take part and we

had the Navy, Army and Air Force Cadets in the parade.

"On behalf of the RBL I would like to thank Rev Paul Lawlor and Fr Jason Mahoney, James Shotbolt who organised the party at the rugby club and everyone who took part in what were very memorable occasions."

The VE Day Wake, which took place throughout the week, raised £2,588 for Redditch Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

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See page **30**



Sgt Kully Singh and PC Stacey Hegenbarth have been nominated for a national Police Bravery Award.

Police officers on shortlist for bravery award

TWO COURAGEOUS West Mercia officers who risked their lives to stop a car driving the wrong way down the M5 motorway have spoken of their pride after being nominated for a national Police Bravery Award.

After receiving an internal West Mercia Police award earlier this year for their heroic actions, Sgt Kully Singh and PC Stacey Hegenbarth are now set for wider recognition in the summer.

The traffic officers were on patrol last July when they were diverted to respond to reports of a vehicle travelling the wrong way along the southbound carriageway.

More than 20 calls had come into the control room and it was clear lives were at risk.

Sgt Singh said: "I could hear the concern in the voice of the intelligence officer as she gave details of what she had seen."

Racing to the scene, the pair helped implement a rolling road closure just after Junction 5 (Droitwich), while fellow officers moved ahead into the sterile area created to try to intercept the vehicle. But the car, being driven recklessly at speed, made it past the front line of offic-

by **Sonny Rackham**
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ers, putting Sgt Singh and PC Hegenbarth in the direct path as the final barrier.

PC Hegenbarth said: "I remember that feeling of sickness in my stomach as we waited, knowing what we had to do."

Thinking on his feet, Sgt Singh moved the patrol car horizontally across the carriageway.

He said: "I just had to stay focused on what I would do when the suspect arrived."

"I just had to do - not think."

"There was public traffic just a few metres behind us and I knew, if I thought rather than did, people would get hurt."

The impact was near head-on, targeted towards the driver's side in a calculated manoeuvre to disable the vehicle by 'taking out one of the driving wheels'.

PC Hegenbarth said: "I think I lost consciousness for a few seconds, and by the time I came around, Kully had already left our car."

"By the time I got out, the offender was in handcuffs."

Both officers were taken to Worcestershire Royal Hospital, where PC Hegenbarth was treated for

concussion, severe whiplash, and abdominal bruising.

Sgt Singh also sustained severe whiplash and later received further treatment at Flint House.

Thankfully, both have since made a full recovery.

Reflecting on the event, PC Hegenbarth said she felt 'really proud of the job they had done'.

Sgt Singh added: "It was something I just had to do - I knew someone could have died if I hadn't - and I would do the same again without a second's thought, if I had to."

Their actions were formally recognised at the force's Quality Policing Awards in January where they received the bravery award sponsored by West Mercia Police Federation.

The pair described the award recognition as 'very special' and 'a privilege'.

Now, the courageous duo say it will be an honour to represent West Mercia Police at the national Police Bravery Awards later this year in London.

Speaking on behalf of the Federation, Steve Butler was full of praise for the officers.

He said: "I think I speak for everyone when I say I am still completely amazed by what Kully and Stacey did last summer."

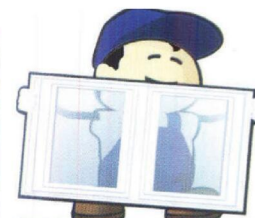
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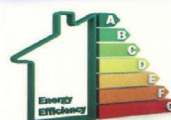
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VE Day 80



FAR LEFT: More than 300 people attended the VE Day 80 parade and service. s

LEFT: Veterans went to pay tribute to their former comrades. s

RIGHT: Armed forces representatives attended. s



Sacrifices will not be forgotten



Wreaths were laid as part of the service. s

MORE THAN 300 people turned out to a parade and service in Bromsgrove to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

The ceremony took place at the war monument in Crown Close.

It began with a parade led by standards to the monument where Bromsgrove Town Crier Kevin Ward performed a special VE Day 80 cry.

The service was led by Rev Ray Khan, vicar of St John's and the Bromsgrove Royal British Legion Chaplain.

Wreaths were laid by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant

of Worcestershire Fiona Charny JP DL, Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas, the Bromsgrove District Council chairman and leader Coun Sam Ammar, along with Armed Services representatives – the Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, among others.

There was also the Kohima Epitaph, Exhortation, Last Post and Reveille, along with a two-minute silence.

Rev Khan said: "It was a really good turn-out, especially for an event in the middle of the week when a lot of people are at work.

"We remember those who sacrificed so much and, as well as the 300 gathered

here, others from across Bromsgrove District who could not make it will be remembering in their own way."

Mr Thomas added: "It was poignant. Freedom is hard fought for but easily lost and we must remember that.

"A lot of people made a lot of sacrifices for our freedom and it is important that we do not forget that.

"Days like this show they and what they fought for would never be forgotten.

"Bromsgrove is always good on these occasions. It epitomises the service and recognition of the armed forces."



Bromsgrove Town Crier Kevin Ward performed a special VE80 Day cry. s

**WORDS: TRISTAN HARRIS
PICTURES: MARTIN ATTEWELL**

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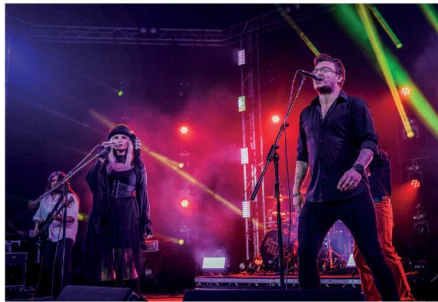
FANS OF Fleetwood Mac can experience a concert of a lifetime when a top tribute act comes to Bromsgrove's Artrix next month.

Fleetwood Shack, which was founded in 2021 by six musicians who all shared a soft spot for the band, will perform at the venue at 7.30pm on June 8.

They set out to give the fans an enjoyable and enchanting experience through performing

the music from the iconic group with classics, such as 'Everywhere' and 'The Chain', among the hits they will be performing. This concert will shine a spotlight on the band while giving the fans an immersive concert with music, emotion and love.

Call 01527 361324, visit artrixbromsgrove.co.uk or email boxoffice@artrixbromsgrove.co.uk for more information and to book tickets.



Fleetwood Shack will be at Bromsgrove's Artrix on June 8. Picture by Dan Boyington. s

Vinyl & CD fair at hotel

MUSIC fans can get plenty of bargains at the first Bromsgrove Vinyl Record and CD Fair of the year.

The event takes place between 9am and 3pm on Sunday, May 18, at the Bromsgrove Hotel and Spa.

There will be a selection of more than 20 traders and over 50 tables selling thousands of records, catering for all budgets with both

new and used vinyl. Among the genres are 90s Brit Pop, rock, punk, 00s collectables, 80s pop, reggae, hip-hop, dance, soul, and rock 'n' roll.

Parking is free when registering inside the hotel and there is a cafe and restaurant.

Call Ben on 07832 247109 or 01527 873014 or visit the website at midlandsrecordfairs.co.uk for more.

PC praised for saving man's life with CPR

A DROITWICH police officer is among those recognised for their life-saving actions after performing CPR on a man.

Peter Prendville was playing hockey at Droitwich Leisure Centre on November 30 last year when he suffered a cardiac arrest.

PC Maria Francolini, along with other trained members of the public and staff at the centre, was instrumental in providing quality CPR to Peter at the scene.

This month, all those involved have been recognised with a Royal Humane Society resuscitation award.

PC Francolini's Inspector Pete Frankish praised her actions and said: "The early use of a defibrillator provided by the football club at the rear of the leisure centre was key in this incident."

"Early quality CPR and use of a defibrillator within minutes of Peter's collapse also



Peter Prendville and PC Francolini when they reunited. Picture by West Mercia Police. s

gave him the best chance of survival."

Peter regained consciousness after Maria continued CPR for 20 minutes while shocks were delivered from the defibrillator.

He was treated by ambulance staff en route to the Worcestershire Royal Hospital where he was rushed to the operating theatre.

Peter said: "I am recovering well and feel extremely lucky to be alive."

"My family and I are so grateful to all those people who saved my life without hesitation."

"After a phased return to work, I am living my life to the full, with only small adjustments to diet."

"The best takeaway is that learning CPR to the song 'Stayin' Alive' has so much more significance now."

In Britain, 30,000 people suffer a cardiac arrest every year outside of hospital environments.

British Heart Foundation figures show only one in 10 victims survive.

Insp Frankish added: "There are a couple of reasons for this figure - namely the lack of education and training."

"This shows just how big a difference defibrillators (AEDs), alongside effective CPR, make in the survival rate of victims during this critical time, and the steps people are taking to raise awareness of the issue."

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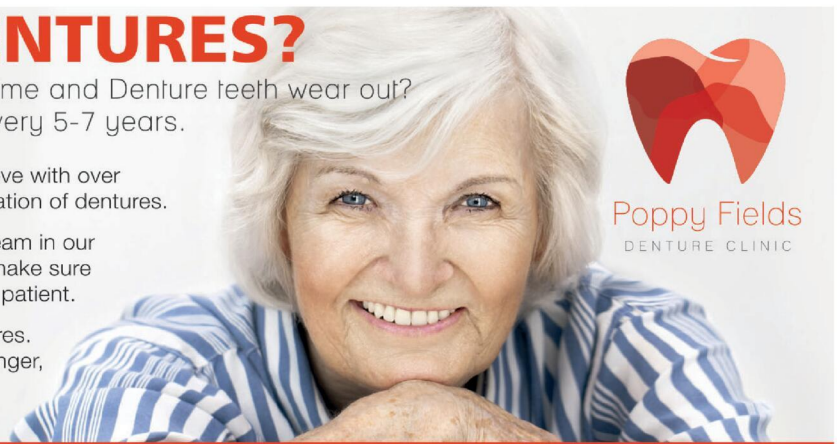
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RIGHT: The day was celebratory and poignant as the community toasted VE Day 80. 2025011MMR2

BELOW: The community came together for the Ploughman's Lunch at The Ark in Alvechurch. Pictures by Marcus Mings 2025011MMR



Joining together for lunch

A PLOUGHMAN'S Lunch event was held at St Laurence Church in Alvechurch last Thursday to mark VE Day 80.

The community came together for the event, sharing food and singing wartime classics in a good old-fashioned morale-boosting sing-along.

Two of the people who attended were alive for the original celebrations to toast Victory in Europe. One was eight at the time and the other was 11. They helped bring the day 80 years ago to life on its anniversary.

Rev Gail Rogers, the vicar of St Laurence, Alvechurch, said: "It was a lovely afternoon and very emotional too - a day of mixed emotions."

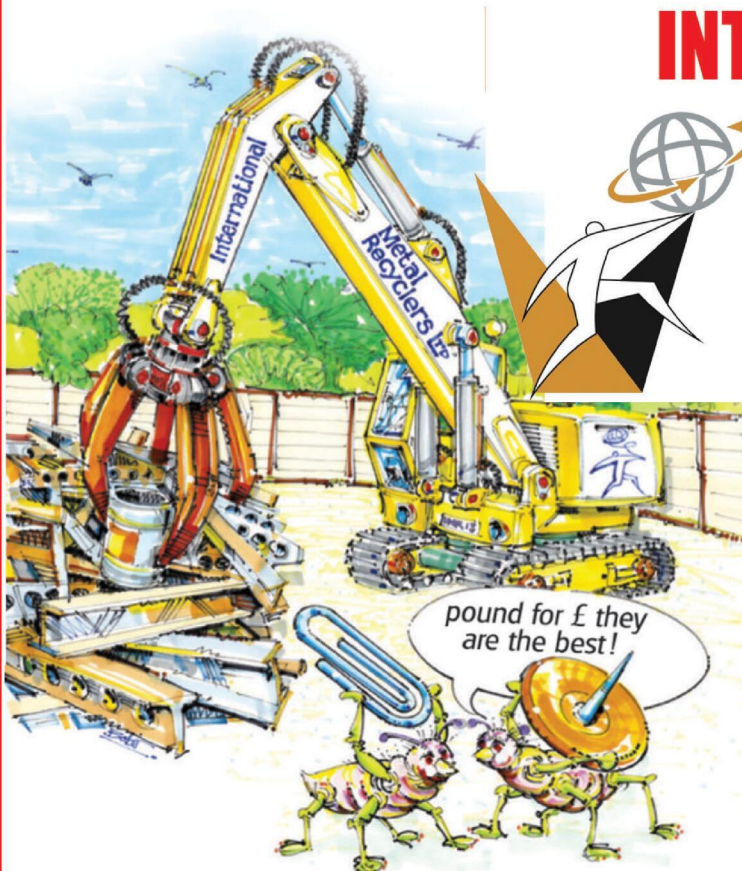
"On the one hand we were remembering those who had lost their lives and on the other we were celebrating the Victory in Europe anniversary which brought happiness."

St Laurence Church holds four lunches each year which feature a raffle. Proceeds for that go towards



a free community Christmas Day lunch for members of the community who may be struggling or lonely, having their first Christmas alone because of the death of a partner. Rev Rogers added: "It made sense

to hold this one on VE Day 80." The bells also rang out at St Laurence Church at 6.30pm to mark the occasion and there was a community event at the cricket club on the night.



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'Fees will be detrimental'

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

BROMSGROVE MP Bradley Thomas has slammed Birmingham City Council's decision to implement car parking charges at the Lickey Hills Country Park.

Councillors voted in favour of imposing the fees at the much-loved beauty spot at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

The issue of whether to begin charging visitors for using the car park on the hills has been a consideration for the council for several years with many consultations taking place to canvass residents' views.

Now, with a decision made, visitors will soon have to pay £1 per hour up to four hours or £5 all day between 9am and 6pm, 365 days a year. Annual passes can be purchased for £52.

This comes despite more than 600 residents signing Mr Thomas' opposing petition and 78 per cent of people who responded to the council's own consultation believing access to the park should remain free.

Mr Thomas' petition and efforts to write to city council leader, councillor John Cotton to postpone the charges proved unfruitful.

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 imposing of car parking charges is wrong.

"I fear these will deter visitors and reduce people's access to nature and our beautiful green spaces.

"I'm also concerned visitors will avoid paying for parking by finding side roads and residential areas to park on and residents in the area are right to be worried about this.

"Together we put up a good fight, but clearly the city council just didn't want to listen."

Council report

In a council report detailing the decision and consultation findings, it acknowledged the opposition to the proposed charges.

The report said: "The introduction of parking charges is often controversial and unpopular."

The council justified its decision by stating the revenue generated would still fall short of covering its financial obligations to maintain the park.

"Therefore it is deemed reasonable to ask park users to contribute financially to the upkeep and maintenance of these parks," the report added.



Pupils from St Peter's CofE Academy in Droitwich love having the therapy guinea pigs in school. **5**

FURY FRIENDS: CHILDREN'S mental health and wellbeing is being boosted by four-legged, squeaky pets at St Peters Droitwich CofE Academy.

Two guinea pigs, Munchy and Crunchy, were adopted by the academy from a local rescue centre after they noticed some students with additional needs should be supported more.

The best way deemed to do that was through animal care.

Therapy animals, such as guinea pigs, can have positive and calming impact on the children's mental health and learning.

The animals provide comfort, reduce anxiety, improve engagement in learning and most, importantly, show children the importance of responsibility in pet care.

In the week, the animals spend their time with all year groups, sharing comfort while they get cared for by the pupils.

During the weekend and holidays, they go home with a teaching assistant who loves and caters for them with hutches and indoor and outdoor runs so

the animals can run freely after a week of supervision from the children.

One pupil, Oliver, said: "They cheer you up when you're sad."

Another, William, added: "I like having them because they help us to be calm after lunchtime."

"Thursdays are the best in year four because that's the day we get to have Munchy and Crunchy."

Martha said: "I love having them as a part of our St Peter's family."

And Teddy added: "When I feel scared to come into school, going to spend time with Munchy and Crunchy helps calm me before I go into class."

"If I complete some of my work, I get to chop up food for them and I love using the Hoover to clean up at the end of the day."

Reacher, Caroline Simms, said: "Munchy and Crunchy are great therapy for the children and our staff."

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A massive thank you from Bromsgrove Reform UK

The Bromsgrove branch of Reform UK wish to thank all voters who turned out in their thousands to support the newly created branch, and the nine fielded candidates, aka, "The Bromsgrove 9".

Although the branch was only established at the end of January this year, it was essential to hit the ground running in preparation for the fast-approaching election campaign on May 1st.

The measure of the success we achieved in such a short space of time would not have been possible without the selfless dedication and hard work of our candidates, members and volunteers. Although on this occasion not all of our candidates achieved their seats, it is very important to mention that across the Bromsgrove region, Reform UK had the highest number of votes, with 8,094. This

pushed the Conservatives into second place, with 7,885 votes, in what has historically been a Conservative stronghold for decades. However, this is just the beginning. We know that there remains a lot of hard work to be done. As our four elected members join the further 23 newly elected Reform UK councillors at Worcestershire County Council, our sights are now set on the next general election in which we aim to achieve a Member of Parliament for Bromsgrove. Our statistics show that this is now a realistic possibility.

If you want to be a part of our exciting journey, the next branch meeting, which will be open to non-members on this occasion, is on 22nd May at the Ladybird Inn, Aston Fields, B60 2DZ, at 7.15pm.



LEFT: Town Crier Edgar Harwood at the flag-raising ceremony. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2025007MMR5. MIDDLE: Droitwich Mayor Alex Sinton holding the special VE Day 80 flag. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2025007MMR1. RIGHT: Rev Laura Handy, Coun Christine Bowden, Droitwich Mayor Alex Sinton with his wife Eleanor and Town Crier Edgar Harwood. Picture by Paul Jones. s BELOW RIGHT: Droitwich Salvation Army Band performed at St Augustine's before the beacon was lit. Picture by Tristan Harris. Copyright Bullivant Media Group Ltd.

Remembering VE Day

THE 80TH anniversary of VE Day in Droitwich Spa began with a flag-raising at St Richard's House.

A special VE Day 80 flag was raised in a ceremony attended by the Mayor of Droitwich, Coun Alex Sinton, Town Crier Edgar Harwood and the Vice Lord Lieutenant, Dr The Hon Gilbert Greenall CBE.

A short service was led by Rev Laura Handy.

There was also a service at the war memorial in Victoria Square with the Royal British Legion.

Then in the afternoon and evening, there was a traditional 1940s Punch and Judy show at the Heritage and Information

Centre, the Droitwich Air Cadets paraded and a singer performed classic wartime songs.

In the evening there was a beacon lighting.

The Droitwich Salvation Army Brass Band performed before the beacon was lit and prayers were said by Rev Handy.

Droitwich MP, Nigel Huddleston, who attended the beacon lighting, said: "It was a really nice, poignant event in very picturesque surroundings."

"It is also a beautifully designed beacon.

"VE Day 80 has brought people together on such an important occasion and shows we will never forget."

He added that he had been

impressed with shop window displays that, as well as the usual Union Flags, also incorporated personal elements about relatives who had fought for their country.

"The Second World War touched all our families in different ways and these displays show that.

Rev Laura Handy added: "It was really moving - Droitwich is really good at making these occasions special.

"It was wonderful to see so many people of different ages and backgrounds come together and the Salvation Army Band perfectly captured the moment and emotion of the day."

Droitwich Spa deputy town

clerk Katy Prew said it was great to see the community come together to mark 80 years of peace.

"It was special to be joined by the Vice Lord Lieutenant, followed by the Memorial Service in Victoria Square.

"As always, a huge thank you to the community groups for donating their time, such as the (Droitwich) Squadron Air Cadets, the Droitwich Salvation Army Band, and the Droitwich Troop ACF (Army Cadets Force).

"Thank you for joining us on such an important and poignant day, we hope that you enjoyed the 1940s entertainment and the Droitwich at War exhibition."



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- Do you need to pay inheritance tax and do you understand how to fill in the forms for H M Revenue & Customs.

- Do you know how to value the assets in the estate?
- Do you know how to deal with the deceased persons tax up to the date of their death and do you understand how to deal with the tax due during the administration period.
- Do you understand how to provide an account to beneficiaries and what they are entitled to see.

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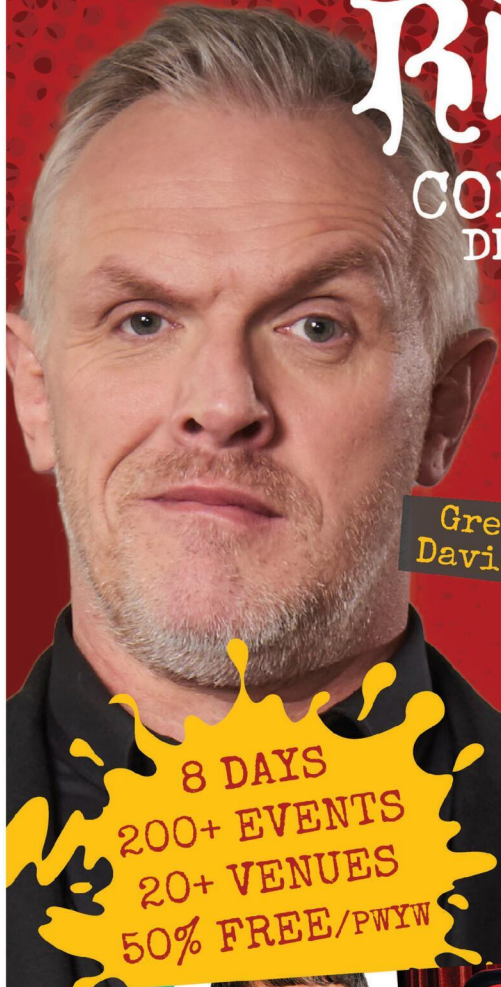


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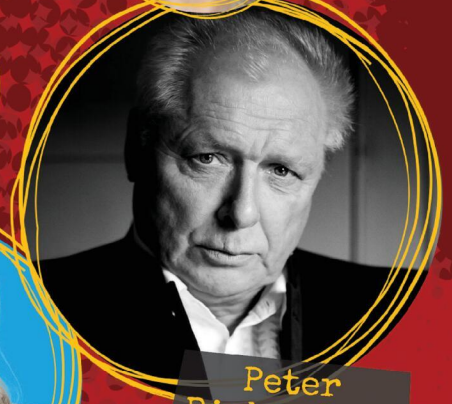
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RIGHT: The children enjoyed a traditional picnic lunch. s BELOW: The children watched an interview with a war veteran on BBC Newsround. s



Learning about VE Day

PUPILS from Millfields First School in Bromsgrove stepped back in time for a special Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

The school hosted a range of learning activities to help children understand the significance of the important moment in British and world history.

Throughout the week, children explored the events which led to the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Through storytelling, art and music, pupils developed a deeper appreciation of the experiences of those who lived through the conflict and the relief and joy which swept the nation on May 8, 1945.

The commemorations culminated in a traditional picnic lunch and children and staff dressed in red, white and blue and enjoyed classic wartime songs and treats. The atmosphere was one of community, remembrance, and celebration.

Headteacher Lisa Montandon said: "It's so important that our children understand the sacrifices made by earlier generations and why VE Day remains such a significant date in our national story. This event helped bring history to life in a way that



was meaningful, fun, and respectful."

Parents, carers, and members of the local community praised the school for the event which educated pupils and celebrated peace and unity.

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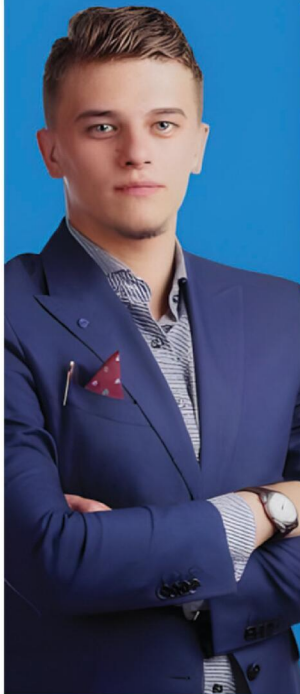
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The Second World War 82nd Airborne Alliance were among the attractions. 2125001MMR3



Indigo Arts sing songs which were popular 80 years ago. Pictures by Marcus Mingins 2125001MMR1



Maddie, six, in one of the vintage vehicles. 2125001MMR2

Ray the Spiv introduces himself to borough council leader Coun Sharon Harvey and Mayor Coun Juma Begum. 2125001MMR4



Alan, Teresa, Helen, Wendy and Derek fly the flag and enjoy some tea. 2125001MMR6

VISITORS went back 80 years on Saturday and Sunday as Redditch's Forge Mill Museum enjoyed its biggest 1940s weekend ever.

Ahead of the event and the 80th anniversary of VE Day, people were asked to donate red, white and blue items.

Individuals, groups and schools all duly obliged and the venue was decked out.

VE Day-inspired refreshments were on sale, including Spam and cheese toasties and scones with jam and cream. And



Matthew Busby takes aim with a Vickers machine gun. 2125001MMR7

there was a special display of photographs, thanks to the Redditch Local History Museum, depicting the original VE Day celebrations in the town and surrounding area from 1945.

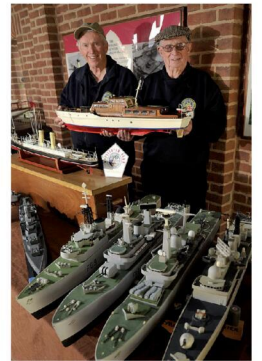
Debbie Lakeman, the

museum's learning and access officer, said: "It was definitely our busiest 1940s weekend ever."

"The people really enjoyed seeing the displays and vehicles and got a real feel for what life was like back then."

"They especially loved the live music - The Violets on the Saturday, vintage singer Helen Pearson on the Sunday and Indigo Arts also performed."

"It was a very nostalgic atmosphere on both days and the sun shining down really helped."



Martin Grant and John Newey, from Little Radford Model Boat Club, with some battleships. 2125001MMR5

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1940s party to mark VE Day 80

FAMILIES attended a special event at Deelands Hall in Rubery on Saturday to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

The 1940s family fun day featured a 1940s-themed buffet with ham, jam and cheese sandwiches, pork pie, tea and cakes.

The event was officially opened by Coun Adrian Delaney and the building was decorated in red, white and blue bunting and Union Flags.

Plenty of people wore fancy dress for the bash which was organised by Trident Reach in conjunction with the Northfield Community Partnership.

Gary Clarke, the Trident Reach general manager, and Connor Carpenter gave volunteered their time and pro-



vided the music for the day.

Jane Winson, from the Rubery Wombles, also prepared the community garden so children and families could take food out there for a traditional picnic.

There were also traditional games and activities, such as hula-hooping, skipping ropes and beanbags.

Bernie McFall, from Trident

Reach, said: "We had a steady flow of people throughout the day and everyone got into the spirit."

The party was the brainchild of Mark Birkenshaw who came up with it when the year's events for the hall were being discussed.

Visit this story at: bromsgrovestandard.co.uk for more pictures of the day.



Droitwich Heritage and Information Centre manager Catherine Finn and David Davidson with the exhibition. Picture by Marcus Mingsins 2025008MMR

Wartime exhibition proves popular

THE TEMPORARY exhibition at Droitwich's Heritage and Information Centre attracted more than 350 visitors.

Droitwich in War featured personal letters, photographs and local artefacts - all which told a story of resilience, sacrifice and everyday life during extraordinary times.

The display was part of the VE Day 80 celebrations in Droitwich which took place last Thursday and it ran for a week.

Heritage manager Rebecca Butler said: "The events and the exhibition were all well-attended by the local community."

"Curating this exhibition wasn't just about

assembling objects, it was about connecting with people.

"The exhibition would not have been possible without the help of David Davidson and Peter Kennedy whose own research and personal memories have really bought the stories to life.

"It's on days like this that remind me how important it is to keep history alive - not just through facts, but through connection and community.

"We would like to say a huge thank you to the people of Droitwich Spa for attending the celebrations."

A MAN and a woman were taken to hospital after a car crashed into a tree in Barnt Green in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The collision on Bittell Farm Road involved a white BMW X5 and happened around 12.20am.

The pair - who were both in their 20s - sustained serious injuries and were taken to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

A 24-year-old man was arrested on sus-

picion of causing serious injury by dangerous driving and on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. He is now on bail.

Police have launched an appeal and have urged witnesses or anyone with information or dash cam footage around the time of the crash to email PC Daniel Harper at: daniel.harper@westmercia.police.uk or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



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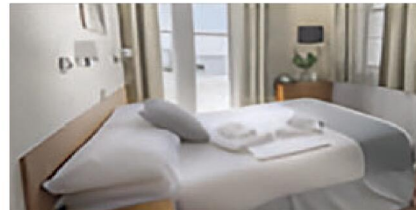


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FLEETWOOD SHACK

Enjoy a cuppa with hospice's first tea party

by Phoebe Mitchell

PEOPLE can head to Tardebigge next month for an afternoon of tea, treats and company and raise funds for the Primrose Hospice at the same time.

The Primrose Tea Party takes place between 11am and 3pm on June 14, at Tardebigge Community Hall.

Visitors will be able to browse a range of pre-loved clothes and other homeware items which will be for sale in the pop-up shops to raise cash for the hospice and support centre.

Admission is £6 per person, which includes a drink and a delicious cake.

There is no need to book for the event – people can just turn up. Every penny raised at the event will go towards the hospice to support the families and the patients who are living with life-limiting illnesses.

The event also forms part of the charity's Go Yellow campaign, which will be rais-

Volunteers Shelia Bates and Jessica Fletcher are urging people to join Primrose Hospice's first tea party. s



ing cash for the hospice. Anyone who cannot make it to the afternoon can hold their own tea party or fund-raising event.

Primrose fundraiser, Gabrielle Grubb, said: "We would love for as many people as possible to join us for our very first tea party."

"We hope that Primrose Tea Parties become a tradition as part of our Go Yellow campaign, not just hosting, but with our community coming together to create their

own tea parties and raising vital awareness and funds for Primrose Hospice."

Keen bakers interested in creating a cake for the tea party can email fundraising@primrosehospice.org or call 01527 889796 for more information.

Visit primrosehospice.org for further details regarding hosting a tea party. Email Sarah at sarahm@primrosehospice.org or call 01527 871051 for more on the 'Go Yellow' campaign.

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10 ways to turn your existing house into your dream home

In a property market marked by high interest rates, rising moving costs, and competitive housing stock, more and more UK homeowners are choosing to stay put – and upgrade.

The “don’t move, improve” movement isn’t just about saving money; it’s about reimagining your existing space to suit your evolving lifestyle, tastes and needs.

From garden upgrades to major extensions, here are 10 smart,

impactful ways to transform your house into your dream home without the stress of relocating.

1. Open It Up: Create an Open-Plan Kitchen/Diner

Knocking down a wall to create

a flowing, open-plan kitchen and dining space is one of the most transformative home improvements you can make. This layout is ideal for modern family life – more sociable, more spacious and filled with natural light. It also enhances resale value.

Removing internal walls is usually a straightforward process, though you’ll need a structural engineer if the wall is load-bearing. Add in bi-fold doors or skylights, and you’ve suddenly got the bright, functional heart of your home.





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2. Add Space With an Extension

If your home is bursting at the seams, consider adding more square footage. Whether it's a single-storey rear extension to enlarge a kitchen or a double-storey side return for an extra bedroom, extensions are a top-tier investment. Costs vary depending on size and finish, but typical single-storey extensions start from around £1,500-£2,500 per square metre. While planning permission may be needed, many modest extensions fall under permitted development rights, making the process simpler.

3. Lighten Up With New Doors and Windows

Replacing old windows and doors has both aesthetic and practical benefits. Modern double- or triple-glazed units improve energy efficiency, security, and soundproofing. But they also make a huge visual impact – think sleek aluminium frames or traditional timber sash replacements. Adding French or bi-fold doors leading onto the garden can blur the lines between indoors and out, ideal for summer entertaining.



4. Upgrade the Kitchen – The Heart of the Home

A kitchen renovation remains one of the most desirable and value-adding improvements

you can make. Whether you're opting for a full overhaul or just replacing worktops and cabinet fronts, there's plenty of scope for creativity. Current trends include large

kitchen islands, bold colour palettes, open shelving, and statement lighting. Don't forget integrated appliances and smart storage to enhance both style and function.



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01.06.2024



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5. Boost Curb Appeal With a New Front Door

First impressions count, and a

new front door is a relatively low-cost way to elevate your home's exterior. Composite doors are durable, secure, and come in a

wide range of colours and styles – from traditional Victorian to ultra-modern. Pair your new door with fresh

paintwork, updated house numbers and good lighting, and you'll give your home a welcoming new face.



6. Create a Year-Round Conservatory or Garden Room

Unlike the draughty conservatories of old, modern garden rooms and orangeries are stylish, thermally efficient and designed for year-round use. Whether you use yours as a home office, gym, or snug lounge, these light-filled spaces add lifestyle value and character. If you're tight on budget, a prefabricated garden pod can offer similar benefits at a lower cost and with minimal disruption.

7. Reimagine the Garden

Your outdoor space is an extension of your home – and deserves just as much attention. Improving the garden can mean adding low-maintenance landscaping, installing decking or a patio, or creating distinct zones for dining, relaxing and playing. Consider garden lighting, built-in seating, or even an outdoor kitchen to create a space that's usable in all seasons. You don't need acres – even a small garden can be made to feel like a sanctuary.



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Don't Move - **IMPROVE**

8. Loft Conversion: Add a Bedroom or Office Upstairs

A well-designed loft conversion can add both space and value – typically increasing your home's value by up to 20%, according to industry estimates. Whether you need a guest bedroom, home

office or main suite with en suite bathroom, the loft is often the most underutilised area of the home. Most loft conversions fall under permitted development, but always check with your local authority. Dormers, skylights, and structural adjustments may require approval.



9. New Flooring for a Fresh Feel

Never underestimate the impact of new flooring. Swapping tired carpets for fresh ones or replacing worn-out vinyl with wood or LVT can transform the feel of a room. Underfloor heating is also a worthwhile consideration during a flooring upgrade – especially in bathrooms, kitchens or chilly downstairs rooms.

10. Redecorate and Refresh the Finishing Touches

If your budget won't stretch to major renovations, you can

still make a big difference with smaller updates. A fresh coat of paint, new light fixtures, modern taps and handles, or upgraded curtains and blinds can all breathe new life into your home.

Feature walls using wallpaper, panelling or textured paint add a touch of style without major expense. Don't forget energy-efficient lighting – both cost-saving and eco-friendly.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Staying put doesn't mean staying static. With thoughtful investment and a bit of creativity, you can transform your existing property into a home that fits your lifestyle – without the upheaval of moving.

Not only can improvements save money compared to buying a larger property, they can also be tailored exactly to your taste. From minor tweaks to major builds, there's no shortage of ways to fall in love with your home all over again.

So before calling the estate agent, ask yourself: could your current house become your forever home with a little imagination and investment?

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Counting the clothing cost

This column is brought to you by Bromsgrove Climate Action.

WERE you aware 30 per cent of clothing made is never sold.

It makes you wonder why manufacturers produce so much excess and what happens to it. Does it end up in landfill or is it just dumped?

Chinese manufacturers Shein and Temu are flooding the market with cheap clothes. These clothes are so inexpensive we are developing a culture of wear it once and then bin it, then buy another cheap item.

Denim is one of the most polluting fabrics produced. Growing the cotton used on an industrial scales can deplete the soil and lead to the loss of ecological diversity with the amount of pesticides used. A single pair of Levi jeans requires 3,781 litres of water to produce during the various processes.

What can we as consumers do? Well, we can change our buying habits.

'Unfolded' only make the clothes ordered after the order is made and paid for, avoiding waste garments being produced.

Garments work out roughly 35 per cent cheaper than usual high street brands.

It provides an income for the women who sew to order and supports children in India to read and write.

'Gambol by Gob' - when you send previously purchased garments back



Eco Action



you receive 25 per cent off the next purchase and the company either pass it to charity or responsibly recycle it.

H&M operates a similar scheme. In 2024, 89 per cent of materials used by H&M was recycled or sustainably resourced.

We can buy quality clothes from various charity shops in town and donate the ones we no longer want.

We can buy and sell second hand on online sites like Vinted. I know it is a favourite with the younger generation.

Member Janet said: "I went to the fashionable Chester Race Day wearing a ten-year-old dress and a 50-year-old jacket (third hand)."

"I had so many compliments."

People can get clothes repaired at Bromsgrove's Repair Cafe every first Saturday of the month - from 2.30pm to 5pm at All Saints Hall, plus an extra one in Charford at 2pm this Saturday (May 17) at St Andrew's Hal. Members of Bromsgrove Climate Action volunteer here.

Please 'think before you buy' about the impact the item has on the environment.

Visit the Bromsgrove Climate Action Facebook page for more.



Cavapoo Leo has not been seen since May 2.

Plea for help to find missing Leo?

THE OWNER of a Cavapoo who has gone missing from Rowney Green has made an emotional plea for help in finding her beloved pet.

Leo, who is 15 years old, was last seen in the garden of Sonia Singh's home at 5.27pm on May 2 - the Friday before the bank holiday Monday.

Since then, there have been no sightings despite posters being put up in the local area, social media appeals, extensive searches, drones being used and even sniffer dogs being brought in.

Sonia said: "We are completely baffled as to what has happened to him - there has been no sign of where he could have got to."

"At his age, he is of now monetary value so could not be sold."

"Because of his age, we are concerned for his welfare and we just want him home where he belongs."

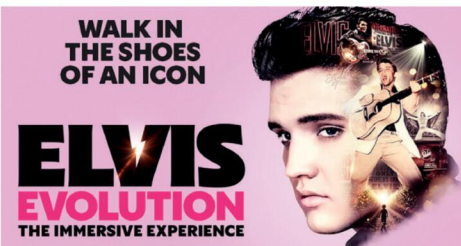
"Any help finding him would be welcome." Anyone who sees Leo (pictured) is urged to call Sonia on 07869 130668.

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Departing Sun 20 Jul '25, Sun 28 Sep '25

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HAMPTON COURT PALACE FLOWER SHOW & RHS WISLEY

Departing Wed 2 Jul '25

Calling all those with green fingers! Join us for a unique breakaway with visits to some of the UK's leading gardens that are sure to get your inspiration sprouting, as we discover RHS Wisley and the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

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- ✓ Excursion to RHS Garden Wisley

2 Days by Coach only £199

Single Supplement £50



THE GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

Departing Wed 9 Jul '25

Taking place every summer, The Great Yorkshire Show is known as one of the very best agricultural events in the country. Expect everything from show jumping and sheep shearing to forestry and flower displays, there's even a goat-milking competition!

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Bromsgrove
- ✓ Overnight stay at a selected hotel (JG3 or JG4 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Admission to The Great Yorkshire Show, with coach transfer
- ✓ En-route visit to Skipton Market

2 Days by Coach only £179

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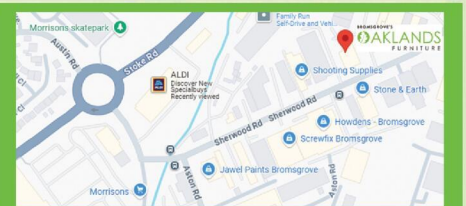
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Audi to launch new electric GT

AUDI is launching an additional version of the e-tron GT that offers an attractive new entry point to the range.

The e-tron GT quattro can call on up to 584PS to deliver impressive performance, while also covering up to 384 miles when its battery is fully charged.

The new entry level Grand Tourer is available to order in the UK from June 24 priced from £88,555 (OTR), and deliveries are due to begin in August.

Audi UK Director Jose Miguel Aparicio said: "Just by looking at the car, it's easy to see why it strikes a chord with our customers. "When you also factor in the versatility it offers in terms of range and charging capability, and its exceptional blend of performance, practicality and comfort.

"The sheer depth of its appeal really becomes clear.

"This new version carries all those strengths through to a new price point that is sure to make

this beautiful Grand Tourer an even more attractive proposition."

The Audi e-tron GT quattro rounds off the existing GT family, which comprises the S e-tron GT, RS e-tron GT and RS e-tron GT performance.

Performance stats

It has a system output of 503PS (584PS with Launch Control). Thanks to a gross battery capacity of 105kWh (net 97kWh) and a range of up to 384 miles.

It can very capably fulfil the Grand Tourer role but is equally at home in city traffic.

The newcomer also features an impressive charging capacity of up to 320kW.

This means that only short charging stops are needed, as around 177 miles of range can be regained in just 10 minutes.

The Audi Gran Turismo features large wheels, a sleek coupe-like silhouette, and an extended wheelbase contribute to the vehicle's sporty proportions.

At the front, a black mask accentuates the inverted body-colour Singleframe, while at the rear, an elegantly designed diffuser with vertical fins makes for a powerful finish.

Characteristics such as the low drag coefficient of 0.25 and the controllable air intakes help to deliver impressive efficiency and interior acoustics.

Innovative design

Located in the underbody, the high-voltage battery features strategically placed recesses in the battery pack that serve as footwells and provide generous seating comfort for all passengers.

The driver and front passenger travel in luxury on eight-way adjustable sport seats with integrated headrests.

The rear seat backrest can be partially or completely folded down so that sporting equipment can be stowed in the 405 litre luggage compartment.

There is also a front compartment

with a volume of 77 litres.

Working with the standard adaptive air suspension, the intelligent quattro system distributes the drive torque between the front and rear axles rapidly and fully variably, ensuring optimum traction in a wide range of driving conditions.

To perform that task, the system analyses the driving situation and adjusts the power distribution accordingly in just a few milliseconds.

The Audi e-tron GT quattro weighs around 30kg less than the S model, benefiting dynamics and efficiency in equal measure.

Release date

In the UK it is available as the e-tron GT quattro or the e-tron GT quattro Vorsprung, which adds features such as all-wheel steering, a head-up display, Fine Nappa Leather upholstery and Bang & Olufsen audio to the already extensive equipment list.

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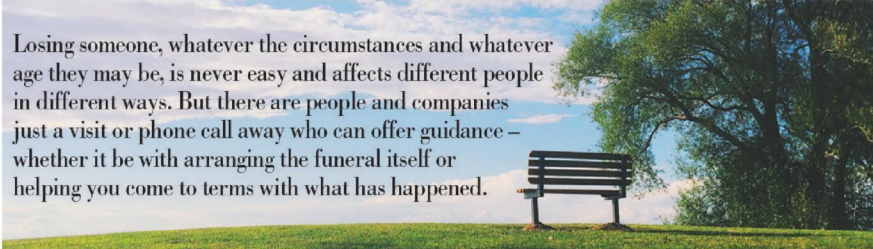
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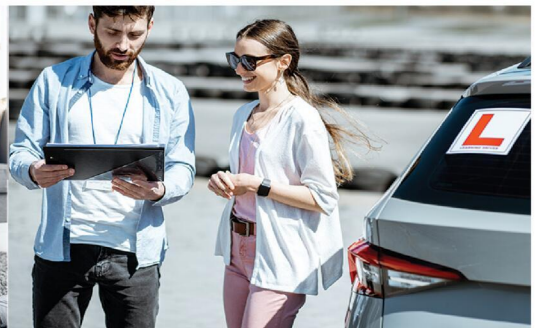


Losing someone, whatever the circumstances and whatever age they may be, is never easy and affects different people in different ways. But there are people and companies just a visit or phone call away who can offer guidance – whether it be with arranging the funeral itself or helping you come to terms with what has happened.



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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:
COVENTRY HIGHWAY, MAPPLEBOROUGH GREEN
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from the slip road junction with Redditch Eastern Gateway onto A435.
Reason for Order: To enable cabling works, overnight 20.00hrs-06.00hrs.
Order Commences: 22 May 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 23 May 2025.
Access & Diversion: Coventry Highway, Alcester Road, Birmingham Road and vice versa.
Contractor: OCU Group, Tel: 02039 274 618.
D51690 HIGHFIELD ROAD, STUDELY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Station Road to Stapleton Road.
Reason for Order: Drainage work, 08.00hrs-17.00hrs.
Order Commences: 19 May 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 23 May 2025.
Access & Diversion: Lansdowne Road, Hilmoreton Drive, A448, Station Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.
EVESHAM ROAD, SALFORD PRIORS
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable works to install a new water connection.
Order Commences: 19 May 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 23 May 2025.
Access & Diversion: Evesham Road, School Road, Salford Road, Norton Road, Alcester Road, Hartington Lane, Abbots Salford Road, Anchor Lane, Crest Hill and vice versa.
Contractor: RNR Traffic Management, Tel: 07852 380 338.
 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 16 May 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, HOUAPP = Householder Application, CA = Conservation Area, CAS = Conservation Area Setting DEP = Departure, EA = Environmental Impact Assessment, FP = Affects Footpath, FPS = Footpath Setting, LB = Listed Building, LBS = Listed Building Setting, MAJ = Major Development, OBJDEC = Informing Objectors of decision
25/000481/FUL ADVSTD MAJ
Site: Easemore House, 103 Easemore Road, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 8EY.
Proposat: Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a residential development of up to 13no. new dwellings.
25/000475/FUL MAJ
Site: Land Adjacent, Ravens Bank Drive, Redditch Worcestershire.
Proposat: Development comprising Units for Class B2, B8 and E(g) (iii) purposes and a Unit for Class B8 purposes, associated parking, landscaping and infrastructure.
25/00527/PIP LBS ADVSTD
Site: Alders Court, Green Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 5PJ.
Proposat: Permission in Principle for the redevelopment of an existing building and land for up to two Residential Dwellings (C3).
 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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, FPS = Footpath Setting, LB = Listed Building, MAJ = Major Development.
25/00500/CUPRIO ADVSTD FPS
Site: Badgers Farm, Woodgate Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 4HG.
Proposat: Proposed change of use of barn to dwelling house. The siting and location of the building as in drawing no: 25-05-20 Block plan.
25/00394/FUL FPS
Site: Land At, Fieldhouse Lane, Romsley Worcestershire.
Proposat: Conversion of former Agricultural Barn into 5bed Dwelling and demolition of detached carport and store and erection of new Carport and Store.
25/00521/LBC LB
Site: Lock 58 Tardelbigge Flight Worcester and Birmingham Canal, New Wharf Tardelbigge, Worcestershire.
Proposat: Reinstatement of the wall, on the tow path side, at Lock 58, following the Section 9 urgent works.
25/00529/S73 ADVSTD MAJ
Site: Land At Whitford Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.
Proposat: Variation of condition 25 of planning permission APP/P1805/W/20/3245111 allowed on appeal 09/02/2021 (LPA 16/1132).
 FROM: No part of the development shall be occupied until the junction of Fox Lane/Rock Hill has been altered in accordance with the scheme for a roundabout shown on the plan Fox Lane/Rock Hill schematic ref 7033-SK-005 revision F AMEND TO. No more than 49 dwellings (of which, no more than 30 shall be for private sale and no more than 19 shall be for affordable housing) shall be occupied until the junction of Fox Lane/Rock Hill has been altered in accordance with the scheme for a roundabout shown on the plan Fox Lane/Rock Hill schematic scheme ref 7033-SK-005 revision G and ancillary drawings 7033-S278-701 rev C02, 2015804 AGE-ZZ-XK-DR-X-0002, 0003, 0004, 0005, 0006 REV C02.
 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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE - LICENSING ACT 2003

Application for a premises licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003
 Name of applicant: Mr Kalpesh Dilipkumar Jayswal Postal address of premises: Sever Road And Wine, 28 Outcotes Street West, Droitwich Spa WR9 8JZ. The applicant proposes to carry out the following licensable activities for the above premises: Retail Sale Of Alcohol (Off Sales): Monday - Thursday: 08:00 - 24:00, Friday - Saturday: 08:00 - 04:00, Sunday: 09:00 - 22:30. Representations by interested parties or responsible authorities should be made in writing to Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Wire Forest House, Fincoats Way, Kidderminster DY11 7WF or enquiries@worcestershire.gov.uk by: 09/06/2025. The record of the application is available for inspection by appointment. Please call us on 01905 82799 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

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Gymnast heads to Germany to compete in Masters World Cup

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

GYMNASTICS: FELICITY Harper, from Droitwich, will represent Great Britain at the Masters Adult Gymnastics World Cup at the start of next month in Leipzig, Germany.

The masters athlete only took up the sport at the age of 40 and previously won gold at the British Championships in 2019 in the over-45 novice category.

Harper will compete on all four apparatus - floor, vault, beam and bars - in the adult open individual competition in Germany.

The 60-year-old will also compete on bars in the team event.

Harper said: "I was pretty amazed [by the call-up], I went to a training session and people were talking about doing it and I thought 'no I don't want to do it'.

"In the end I thought I'd put a video in and I was not expecting to get in, so I was really excited when I found out.

"The nerves are building up a bit, because it's a team thing and you feel like you don't want to let the team down.

"Moves that I've been able to do in the past I'm currently struggling with but that's just nerves and knowing that I haven't got much time left now.

"I want to not fall off the bar - there's one skill I've been working on that I particularly want not to fall off on.

"I just want to go and enjoy it and see what it's like."



Felicity Harper will represent Great Britain at the Masters World Cup in Germany. s

And five countries are competing in the women's competition - United States of America, Canada, Japan, Germany and Great Britain and Ireland.

British Gymnastics national judges selected the team based on video submissions for each apparatus.

The women's team consists of nine gymnasts with two athletes to compete in

each age category with one wildcard.

Harper trains three times a week at either Dudley Gymnastics Club, Revolution Gymnastics in Birmingham or Wyre Forest Gymnastics Club.

The Masters Adult Gymnastics World Cup takes place on Sunday, June 1 at the end of the International German Gymnastics Festival.

Spa lose at home against Netherton

CRICKET: DROITWICH Spa CC suffered a 92-run defeat against Netherton to lose at home for the first time this season.

Spa lost the toss and fielded first as Netherton opener Arslan Iqbal (50) scored a half-century from just 27 balls.

And inspired middle order knocks from Imran Sharif (92 not out) and Ashish Ashish (74) saw Netherton end their innings on 284-7.

Max Young (3-59) and Martyn Davies (2-34) did the most damage with the ball.

In reply, Spa slipped to 25-3 as Davies (15), Harry Butler (3) and Jonathan Miles (3) all fell early in the innings.

A quickfire knock from Xavier Ariam Thuriappah (40) gave Spa hope while Jez Hanson (37) also chipped in with useful runs.

However, despite a spirited fight from Spa's lower order, Netherton bowled the home side out for 192 at St Peter's Playing Fields. Shahab Ur Rehman (4-38) impressed with the ball while Touqeer Azhar (2-19) and Sakandar Farooq (2-29) took a couple of wickets apiece.

Droitwich are next in action against Hagley on Saturday, May 17 with the game to begin at 12.30pm at Hagley Park.

Elsewhere, the club's second XI lost by 189 runs away at Five Ways Old Edwardians.

The home side posted a mammoth 444-7 from their 50 overs which included two centuries.

Both Hammad Mushtaq (165) and Abdul Azam (123 not out) passed the 100-run mark.

Droitwich started well in reply as Michael Young (58) and Kaz Singh (66) put on 149 runs for Spa's second wicket.

However, the visitors could not score runs at a quick enough rate as Droitwich finished on 255-6.

The club's third XI claimed a five-wicket win against Chaddesley Corbett 2nds.

Droitwich bowled the away side out for 213 as Chaddesley recovered from 47-4 to pass the 200-run mark.

However, all bar one of Spa's batters scored double figures to reach the required total for the loss of five wickets in 39.2 overs.

Droitwich's fourth XI skilted opponents Pershore 4ths for just 56 to claim a comprehensive 200-run success.

Spa posted 256-7 from their 45 overs as Dave Watson (72) top scored.

However, Droitwich's bowlers stole the show to skittle Pershore for 56.

Nick Sankey (3-7), Josh Sutton (2-10), Thomas Gregory (2-20) and Molly Ayers (1-15) took the wickets.

Lastly, the club's fifth XI claimed a 97-run victory against Belbroughton.

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