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Police should have spoken to Alfie says case review

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

AT NO POINT during West Mercia Police's 20 welfare visits to the home of Droitwich's late Alfie Steele did an officer take the boy aside to speak to him alone, a police watchdog investigation has revealed.

Nine-year-old Alfie died at his home in Droitwich, in February 2021 after being repeatedly abused by his mother and her partner who were jailed two years later.

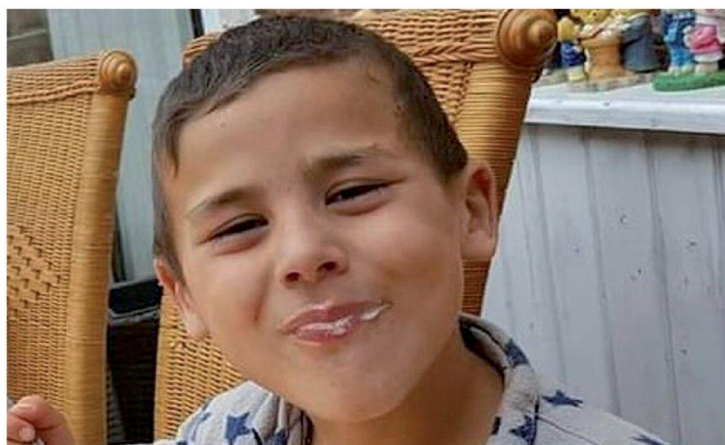
Flying high

A FLAG raising will take place in Droitwich tomorrow (Saturday) for Armed Forces Day.

People should assemble outside St Richard's House at 10.45am ready for the flag to be raised at 11am.

Coun Richard Morris will preside over the ceremony, deputising on behalf of the Mayor to represent Droitwich Spa Town Council

Armed Forces Day takes place on the last Saturday of June each year.



His mother Carla Scott, 35, was sentenced to a minimum of 17 years for manslaughter and her partner, Dirk Howell, 41, was jailed for murder with a minimum 32-year sentence.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) reviewed 20 cases where the force had contact with Alfie and the couple between March

2018 and February 2021 and concluded there was 'no indication of misconduct' by any officer.

The IOPC's investigation did however establish the force did not sufficiently train frontline officers to identify child abuse.

Although every call made to the force in relation to Alfie was responded to, a different officer

West Mercia Police's officers have been cleared of any wrongdoing by an independent watchdog in relation to their handling of visits to the home of Droitwich boy Alfie Steele, who was murdered in 2021.s

lacked professional curiosity and could have undertaken further enquiries."

Investigators learnt social services had told police Alfie was subject to a care plan and that Howell posed a threat to the boy and should not have been in the property with him. There was, however, no order enforcing Howell's removal from the home.

During the pair's trial, the jury heard Alfie was repeatedly beaten and 'dunked' in cold baths and had more than 50 injuries on his body at the time of his death.

Following the investigation, the IOPC recommended a host of police constables and community support officers took reflective practice on their handling of interactions with Alfie.

The watchdog also recommended the force puts warning markers down on its command and control logs to highlight when a child is subject to a Child Protection Plan.

And the force was asked to review policies regarding referrals to children's services. Both recommendations have been accepted and acted on by the force.

West Mercia Police has trained hundreds more officers in relation to ensuring children have a voice when reports questioning a child's welfare are received.

attended on each occasion and he was never spoken to by any officer on his own.

IOPC Director Derrick Campbell said: "In our view, when called to the home, officers should have found a way to speak to Alfie without other adults being present, in line with best practice.

"On some occasions officers

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Police plea as the hand grenade search heads into second week

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

THE SEARCH is still on for five hand grenades which were found in Hopwood last Friday.

Seven grenades were discovered in total by a magnet fisherman who was fishing in the canal by Lea End Lane.

Police were alerted around 6pm about the grenades.

Two were left on the bank which - once a 100m cordon was put in place - were safely detonated by army explosive experts.

West Mercia Police put out a



Insp Rich Field at the scene of where the grenades were found. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2625007MMR

description of the fisherman who was around 50 years old with grey hair. At the time of the discovery he was wearing green trousers.

Police believe he could be a frequent magnet fisher in the area and asked anyone who may know of people in this community to contact police as soon as possible by calling 999.

The force then released a picture of the two before they were detonated to show the public how they could go unnoticed in the undergrowth.

Extensive searches and CCTV enquiries were carried out in a bid to find the grenades and repeat appeals were run on West Mercia Police's website and social media pages, our website and social media pages and on Midlands TV but still the grenades were not found.

Ch Supt Damian Pettit said: "Our priority is the safety of our communities, and it is vital the person who may have these devices does not move them and contacts the police immediately."

"I am appealing to both the man directly and anyone who may have information that would help identify him, to contact us.

"It is imperative that these devices are found and the potential threat they could pose to the public is removed.

"My priority is to avoid harm to that person or anyone who may come within proximity to the grenades knowingly or unknowingly.

"Please do not fear any consequences of contacting the police."

Anyone with information that could help police locate the grenades is urged to call 999 immediately.

Alternatively, information can be shared anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



The grenades have now been missing for a week. s

Licensing Act 2003 Public Notice
APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE TO BE GRANTED UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003 Name of applicant/club: **Majed Haider Salem** Postal address of premises/club premises or description: **Mini Market, 239 Mount Pleasant, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4JG** The applicant proposes to carry out the following licensable activities or qualifying club activities on or from the above premises/club premises: Sale of alcohol - Mon-Sun 06:00-22:00 Representations by interested parties or responsible authorities should be made in writing to Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Wyre Forest House, Pinepoint Way, Kidderminster DY11 7WF or enquiries@worcestershire.gov.uk By 16/07/2025 The record of the application is available for inspection by appointment. Please call us on 01905 82739 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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There was plenty of fun for all, including the Families On Track at Sunday's Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run. Picture courtesy of Worcestershire County Council. s

THIS YEAR'S Wythall Fun Run has been hailed a great success after hundreds of runners participated in the 5k and 10k races and the event raised more than £2,000 for Acorns Children's Hospice.

The event took part in Wythall Park and some international GB athletes turned up to cheer everyone on.

As well as the 5k and 10k races, there was also the Families on Track 5k relay and a multitude of other activities and a fun day for people to enjoy.

Sue Baxter, Chair of the Wythall Community Association, said: "This fun run reflects the incredible spirit of our community, bringing people of all ages and abilities together."

"It's a true celebration of everything that makes Wythall and Hollywood special."

Turn to page 25 for our four-page feature detailing the winners of the races and the full results.

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See page **36**

Councils owed £7m in tax arrears

BROMSGROVE District and Wychavon District Councils are each owed more than £7million in council tax arrears, new data has revealed.

Residents in Bromsgrove owe the council a combined total of more than £7.3million in unpaid council tax bills.

And the figure for Wychavon – Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore – is £7.087million, according to figures released by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

This forms part of a national total which has now hit £6.6billion.

Charity National Debtline suggests as council budgets have become more stretched,

they are increasingly reliant on council tax revenue to fund essential services, including social care, local schools and rubbish collections.

However, it believes this has also led to higher bills overall, creating a vicious cycle for many people already struggling to pay.

Recent Money Advice Trust research also reveals as of March 2025, 2.2million people in England (five per cent) were behind on their council tax bill, suggesting many more people could be struggling with council tax arrears who had not yet sought help.

National Debtline is now calling for improved collection practices, as well as greater investment in council tax

support schemes to prevent people falling behind to begin with.

A quarter of people who call National Debtline for advice have council tax debt, averaging £1,958 per person, making it one of the top three most common debts its advisers hear about.

Steve Vaid, chief executive at Money Advice Trust, which runs the National Debtline, said: "Unwaveringly high arrears levels in Bromsgrove, Wychavon and across England underline the need for urgent action."

"Councils have a vital role in helping residents with unmanageable bills and to ensure council tax – crucial to funding local services – is collected

in a way that is fair and affordable."

Current rules mean households can become liable for their full annual council tax bill if they miss one payment, which often results in a quick escalation to bailiff action.

Last week, the Government set out proposals to extend this period, so people had more time to engage and seek support – something National Debtline has welcomed, after

years of campaigning for this change.

Earlier this month, the Ministry of Justice also announced plans to consult on giving the Enforcement Conduct Board legal powers to regulate the bailiff industry, with millions of council tax debts passed to bailiffs every year.

National Debtline strongly welcomes these developments after a decade of campaigning

for independent bailiff regulation and for 'changes to the archaic council tax collection process'.

The charity says progress in this area will help reduce financial hardship, bring down arrears and make a big difference to households struggling to keep up with their bills.

Visit nationaldebtline.org or call 0808 808 4000 for free, independent, expert debt advice.

Flag flies for armed forces

A FLAG-RAISING in Bromsgrove showed support and solidarity to the armed forces community this week.

The Armed Forces Day flag was raised during a ceremony at the town's War Memorial on Crown Green on Monday.

Bromsgrove District Council chairman, Coun Sam Evans, was joined by members of the Bromsgrove Royal British Legion and community groups as he raised the flag.

Coun Evans said: "With this flag we officially mark the week leading up to Armed Forces Day and, as a community, once again show our appreciation to all our servicemen and women, past, present and future."

Armed Forces Day itself falls tomorrow (Saturday).



Town Crier Kevin Ward and Rev Ray Khan of St John's Church, who conducted the service, joined Cllr Evans, the Legion, and others as the flag was raised. s

Man arrested over suspected fuel theft

A MAN was arrested on suspicion of theft after members of the public reported a vehicle suspected of stealing fuel.

The van was spotted travelling on the motorway through Bromsgrove

and was brought to a stop by West Mercia Police's Operational Policing Unit teams at Frankley Services.

Inside, officers discovered an unsecured load of fuel, estimated to be worth £5,000, and believed to

have been stolen from multiple locations across the county. The driver had no licence and no insurance.

The man was arrested for theft, and both the cloned vehicle and fuel have been seized.

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Man hit by train

A MAN was taken to hospital with serious injuries after he was struck by a train in Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, on Sunday.

West Midlands Ambulance were called to the incident near the tracks at 10.39am.

It sent one ambulance, a paramedic officer, the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART), a MERIT trauma doctor and critical care paramedic and a Critical Care Car from Midlands Air Ambulance to the scene.

Upon arrival, the crews found a man with serious injuries.

He received advanced trauma care from ambulance staff at the scene before being conveyed to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital for further treatment.

The line between Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Worcester was shut for three hours while the emergency services dealt with the scene.

It was reopened just after 1.30pm.



Coun Sue Baxter, Robin Heap, Zest CEO and Coun Karen May with the new chargers in Aston Fields. Pictures by Marcus Mingins 2625006MR



Coun Jen Snape, Redditch Borough Council's Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Mayor Coun Joanna Kane and Keith Day, the chief marketing officer at Zest, with the new Astwood Bank chargers. 2625005MMR

New electric chargers to keep more cars on the go

BROMSGROVE and Redditch town centres are about to get greener as new electric charging spaces have been installed.

The two councils have partnered with Zest to bring 120 chargers across the two towns, making it easier for drivers without chargers to conveniently recharge their vehicles close to home or on the go.

The deployment is part of a £2.1million investment which will mean Zest provide, operate, and maintain the chargers, with no costs

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

for the councils, over the next 15 to 20 years.

In Bromsgrove, the chargers are based in Stoke Road, Aston Fields and in Redditch they are at the car park in Astwood Bank.

Bromsgrove District Council leader, Coun Karen May, said: "It is one of our goals to make the town as accessible to as many people as possible, providing an increased number of electric vehicle chargers is part

of this. Bromsgrove has so much to offer – being able to charge your car at a reasonable cost is another thing to add to the list.

"We're pleased to have partnered with Zest to unlock these facilities for our residents."

Coun Sharon Harvey, leader of Redditch Borough Council, added: "We take our climate goals seriously. Providing an increased number of electric vehicle chargers is an important step towards making our goals achievable."

CEO at Zest, Robin Heap, said:

"Expanding charging networks ahead of demand is key to accelerating the transition to electric vehicles.

"Zest is proud to partner with Bromsgrove District Council in its mission to cut carbon emissions across all modes of transport.

"With the first Zest charging spaces now in operation, we're making reliable public EV charging more accessible for the whole community."

Visit the Redditch Borough Council or Bromsgrove District Council's Facebook or Instagram pages for more information.

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Scouting out a leader accolade

A YOUNG Scout in Bromsgrove has achieved one of the top awards available within Scouting for someone of his age.

Charlie Harris, a young leader at Lickey and Blackwell Scouts, has completed a host of tasks, challenges and training to earn himself the prestigious accolade.

The young scout leader, who started as a Beaver Scout in May 2013 has progressed through the ranks from Cub Scout and Scout to Explorer Scout.

As an Explorer Scout, aged

14, he began volunteering as a young leader, supporting Cub Scouts aged eight to 11.

As a Young Leader at Lickey and Blackwell, Charlie has completed the volunteering sections for various Duke of Edinburgh Awards, as well as 11 modules of training and four Young Leader Missions.

These include running a game, running an activity, contributing to programme planning and taking responsibility for organising and running part of a section programme.

Leader volunteer for Lickey and Blackwell Scout

Group, Matthew Fox, said: "Congratulations Charlie, the Young Leader Belt is one of the Top Awards a young person can achieve in Scouting".

He was recently presented with his Young Leader Award by Cub Scout Team Lead, Heather Mace.

Lickey and Blackwell Scout Group is one of the largest local Scout Groups.

Anyone interested in supporting Scouting at Lickey and Blackwell or any local Scout Group visit: scoutshw.org.uk/join for more information.



Charlie Harris receiving his Young Leader Award from Cub Scout Team Lead, Heather Mace.



SHOW TIME: MEMBERS of Jigsaw Players Theatre Company delighted audiences at Lickey End Social Club with their three fantastic performances of Hi De Hi.

The adaptation of the original TV series by Jimmy Perry and David Croft set in a holiday camp was written by Paul Carpenter and Ian Gower.

The performance, a huge hit, was by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd and Concord Theatricals Company.

Jigsaws said it received fantastic feed-

back from audiences and laughter filled the venue.

The characters stayed true to the original TV series, making it a big favourite with the crowd, who loved every minute of the entertaining show.

While packed with comedy, the show also featured great music and singing from the 1950s, with a live band under the direction of Chris Corcoran.

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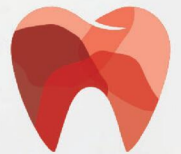
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The group who took on the 'Snowdon at Sunrise' trek to raise funds for Primrose Hospice.

Fundraising group scales the heights

A GROUP of fundraisers have reached the peak of fitness by taking on a mountain challenge to raise funds for the Primrose Hospice.

The group rose in the early hours of the morning last month to start their trek up Mount Snowdon or Yr Wyddfa.

They supported each other every step of the way and together raised £2,348 for Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre.

A team from MFM IT Support, which climbed to the summit, said: "We had an amazing time taking on this

challenge together. There were lots of laughs, shared memories and a sunrise we'll never forget.

"We want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, supported, and took part in this memorable experience.

"Your generosity will go a long way in helping the Primrose continue their incredible work supporting families.

"Here's to teamwork, fresh mountain air, and giving back to those who give so much."

The Primrose Hospice would like to thank all the participants for taking on this challenge and raising

vital funds for the hospice so it can continue the services it offers for free.

The charity also wants to thank Paul from Sky Blue Adventures and Steve, their mountain leader on the day.

The hospice will be offering this fantastic fundraising challenge in 2026.

Anyone wanting to take on the mountain challenge is urged to get their name on the list early and contact the fundraising team.

Anyone wanting to find out more information or register for the challenge should call 01527 889796 or email fundraising@primrosehospice.org for further details.

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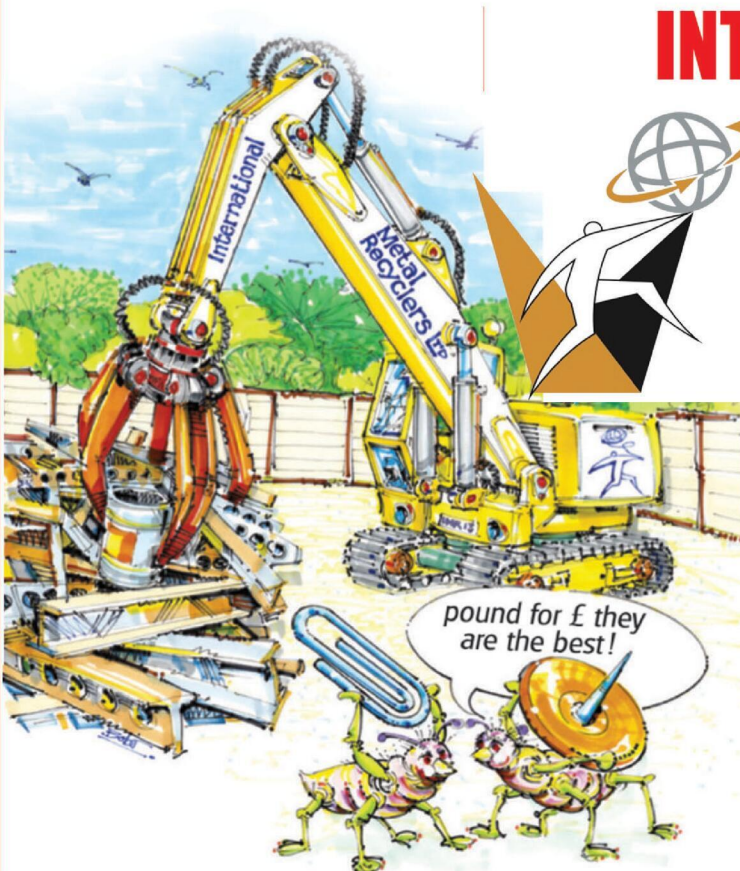
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Have your say on planning blueprint for next 15 years

PEOPLE across Bromsgrove are set to have their say on local development plans in a bid to create a blueprint for the area for future generations.

Last Thursday, Bromsgrove District councillors voted to send a draft Development Strategy to control long-term growth in the area out to public consultation.

The strategy sets out how a local plan could handle Government-set requirements up to 2043 which include the need for around 9,000 new homes and the infrastructure to support them.

The Local Plan process started with the council putting out a call to landowners who had plots which could potentially be developed for homes and other infrastructure. The authority received 400 pieces of land submitted for consideration.

Council officers analysed each one, using the evidence available, and the draft strategy was compiled, including suggestions as to where the properties should go. This was based on what officers considered the most viable, taking the evidence into account.

But, the officers' suggestions are

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

not the 'be all and end all' - some of these parcels of land may be unsuitable and some of the others among the 400 may be more suitable.

Other pieces of land not submitted for development may also be viable and there is nothing to stop these being suggested as part of the process working towards a Local Plan.

Some councillors - including the Liberal Democrats and some independents - criticised the strategy and suggested rather than have just one option with put forward, there should have been more - three seemed to be the most popular.

It was stated there were six options following the steering group meetings and discussions - from the 9,000 homes in one option put forward to one which suggested sites for 32,000 homes.

This is the third of five stages of consultation for Bromsgrove District's next Local Plan.

The two previous stages gathered information and two more will follow - with a 'preferred options' consultation in 2026 and an actual plan in 2028.

Local plans make it much harder for developments outside the plan to get planning permission.

Planning authorities must adopt them by going through various stages of drafting and consultation, and then a final government inspection.

Every council in England needs a Local Plan which could be used as a blueprint for where development should go and what type of homes and other infrastructure should go there.

It was also stated, as well as a Local Plan for the next 15 years (which is when Bromsgrove must build its 9,000 homes by), each council needs a five-year land supply for home-building.

The council's monitoring officer said Bromsgrove District Council had neither.

By not having a Local Plan, it was stated Bromsgrove district could be left open to unscrupulous and hostile development.

Developers could come forward with applications for any land they owned or parcels they could buy in whatever area of the district and they would have to be considered.

With a Local Plan, the council would have the option of saying



From Monday, June 30, residents can have their say on the Draft Strategy which will work towards creating a Local Plan. Picture by Tristan Harris. © Bullivant Media Ltd.

'as the land is not designated for local housing, it should not be built there'. It basically gives authorities the chance to have more say on where development should go.

Bromsgrove district is 89 per cent greenbelt (among the highest if not the highest in the UK). Some of that will have to be sacrificed as part of the Local Plan - meeting the demand for housing and the Government's targets.

A 12-week consultation to gather more information from the community will start on Monday, June 30, and run until September 22. It will include public events at dates and locations to be confirmed.

Residents and stakeholders such as the NHS and education, util-

ity and transport providers, will be able to respond to the planning issues, such as the locations of development and needs for sufficient services, facilities, and infrastructure.

From Monday, residents will be able to access consultation materials here and at Alvechurch, Bromsgrove, Catshill, Hagley, Rubery, and Wythall libraries. News on information events across the district to follow.

People can visit bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan for more and to have their say - from Monday.

Visit bromsgrovestandard.co.uk for more on the Local Plan and how the process works and to watch last Thursday's meeting.



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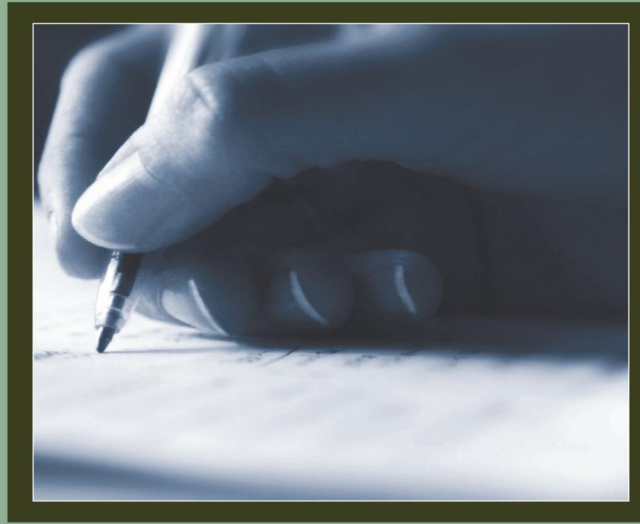
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Refugee trio pass on their skills to say thank you

THREE Ukrainian women have marked Refugee Week 2025 by thanking Redditch communities for their welcome and support.

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

The refugee trio has also set up a cultural company called Creative Carousel to use their professional skills to teach art and dance to youngsters in the town.

Tetiana Volikova, Yana Tishyna and Sveta Vasylieva all sought sanctuary in the town to protect their children from the life-threatening war in their home country.

They have been supported by the charity Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcome Refugees (BRWR).

Yana, who has twin 10-year-old sons, said: "It's the most important for us that we escape only because we want to give our kids a safe and happy childhood."

But her parents are still living in Kyiv.

"They are bombed every day," she added.

"Every couple of hours we have alarms and every couple of hours in

school, kids have to go to the bomb shelter, all the people have to hide somewhere underground.

"They are very scared but they're used to it now. It's just horrible."

Sveta who has her two boys in Redditch but a husband back in Ukraine, said the trio could not be more grateful for the welcome and support they have received.

She said: "I met many wonderful people here. I met many friends here. I have a big support in Redditch. I'm really happy to be here."

"My only wish is the war in Ukraine can stop - this is my only wish."

The trio are now combining their talents to give back to the community with their company Creative Carousel.

Back in Ukraine, Yana was a professional choreographer and Sveta a professional artist.

Now they're passing on their



Left to right: Yana Tishyna, Tetiana Volikova and Sveta Vasylieva surrounded by Creative Carousel youngsters with their latest artwork. s

skills to a cohort of youngsters, under the management of club organiser Tetiana, who is also a qualified voice coach.

She said: "We want people to know about us; to understand we can be useful. For us, we want to get professional recognition."

"We can help all our children in the community to try something new because no Ukrainians previously did something like that here, so it's like a new sparkle of something you can try, and we're sure you will like it."

Refugee Week 2025 has the theme 'Community as a Superpower' and Tetiana says the club is a good example.

"I understand that being a refugee is also like feeling a bit isolated from community," she added.

The club, which already includes children from many national backgrounds, also aims to promote integration.

Tetiana said: "We are happy to see children from that background in our small community because we are sure children will enjoy it and

have a lot of smiles and fun time being with us.

"And the parents - they never knew each other before, but now they are joined by us, by our children."

"It always gives you more power because you are not alone."

The club, which is based in Headless Cross, is supported by Redditch Borough Council and Rotary Redditch Kingfisher, as well as BRWR.

Visit creativecarousel.co.uk or brwr.uk for more information.

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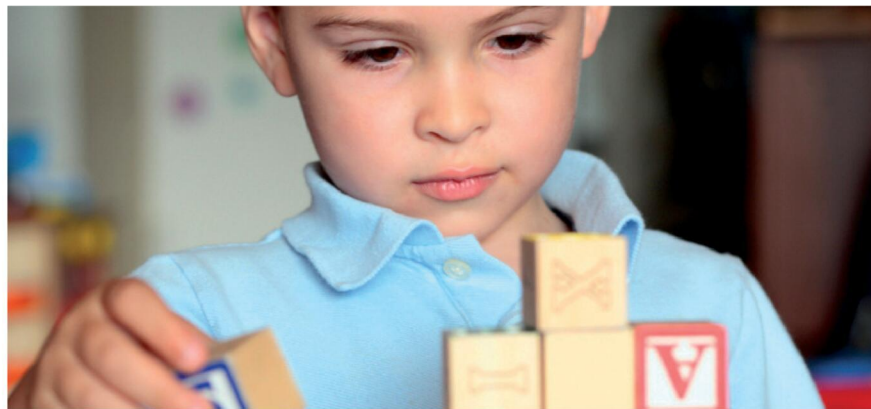


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Changes in structure should help boost SEND services for youngsters



The Council has been making changes throughout June and July, with the new structure fully in place from September 1 2025.

WORCESTERSHIRE County Council is implementing a new structure for its Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Services, designed to improve the experience of children, young people and their families as they navigate the Education, Health and Care (EHC) process.

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

Recent feedback from parent carers has highlighted several areas where change was needed.

Common concerns include difficulties contacting casework officers – EHC Needs Assessments and Annual Reviews not being completed

quickly enough and concerns about the overall quality of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) not being good enough.

'Improving access'

In response, the council is making several structural changes, aimed at delivering more timely, accessible, and effective support. These changes are not about cutting costs – they are focused on service improvement.

Key changes include an increase

in staff recruited, with four additional EHCP co-ordinators, one team manager, one senior EHCP co-ordinator, two initial screening and contact officers (ISCOs) and a second complaints officer.

The creation of new Pre-14 and Post-14 teams in different areas of the county – so children and young people will be allocated to a team and EHCP co-ordinator based on how old they are and where they live.

This means EHCP co-ordinators can focus on the specific needs of these educational phases and make sure EHCPs, and Annual Reviews include the right support for that stage of life.

The introduction of a Postcode Finder Tool, helping families identify their allocated team. Each team will have its own phone number and email address to make contact

easier, even when individual EHCP Co-ordinators are unavailable.

Casework officers are now going to be called 'EHCP co-ordinators' as families reported that they did not like children being referred to as a 'case'.

Timeframe

The council has been making changes throughout June and July, with the new structure fully in place from September 1, 2025, in time for the next academic year.

Worcestershire County Council has advised families could continue to contact their current EHCP co-ordinator and the SEND Services Team via the usual channels and will be updated as and when things change.

The number of children and young people with EHCPs con-

tinues to rise – from 6,530 in September 2024 to 7,339 in April 2025.

Coun Dr Stephen Foster, cabinet member with responsibility for education and SEND, said: "We know that families have not always had the experience they should expect when it comes to EHCPs and SEND support.

"These changes reflect a first step to doing better.

"We've made sure that teams are properly resourced, more accessible, and better structured to meet rising demand.

"The progress made in timeliness is encouraging - however, there is much more to do.

"We are fully committed to engaging with families and listening to their experiences as further improvements are developed in the months ahead."

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LEFT: Coun. Sharon Harvey celebrates the market award with traders Layla Glenn, Craig Hodges, Sadie Jukes, Brenda Morrison and Darran Harris. Pictures by Marcus Mingson 2625008MMR



RIGHT: Coun Karen May and Bromsgrove Market manager Jonathan Smith celebrate the LYLM recognition. 2625004MMR

In the market for a celebration

REDDITCH and Bromsgrove are celebrating after the towns' respective outdoor markets gained 'champion' status following the councils' recent campaign to celebrate its traders and customers alike.

The recognition comes from the National Association of British Markets (NABMA) after a successful 'Love Your Local Market' (LYLM) campaign.

Redditch and Bromsgrove Markets were highlighted as being among the winners of eight 'LYLM Champions' accolades as part of the 2025 campaign.

Redditch Borough Council leader and portfolio holder for regeneration and environmental services, Coun Sharon Harvey, said: "The fact we have showcased our market, which really is in its infancy, and it has been recognised nationally is truly amazing and down to the support from customers and traders.

"I hope the support so far continues, footfall increases and that Redditch Market can continue to flourish."

This included putting on community events alongside the market and filling the council's social media channels with footage from these, as

well as stories from the traders. NABMA judges said: "Redditch ran an energetic campaign with a strong youth focus.

"Their LYLM days included live music and children's entertainers.

"Trader spotlights showcased regulars, each sharing heartfelt stories and reasons they love market life.

"The campaign also featured themed events like a School Holiday Fun Day with DJ sets and face painting, plus exclusive pitch offers for new traders.

"The campaign was supported by active social media from Redditch Borough Council and its Instagram

channel, bringing consistent visibility and community connection to every post."

Redditch's Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Recreation, Coun Juliet Barker Smith, added: "This is great news for Redditch, our market, and for our traders and customers who are key to making this a success.

"In just three months since we relaunched the market in Redditch, we have received national recognition. With continued support from our community and traders we can make Redditch Market even bigger and better going forward."

NABMA judges said Bromsgrove's

campaign was 'full of heart' and stated: "The tone was authentic and upbeat."

Bromsgrove District Council leader, Coun Karen May, said: "Bromsgrove Market being lauded on a national scale is fabulous for the town."

She said it showed how the community still loved and supported the market, adding to have it praised nationally was a proud moment for everyone involved.

Bromsgrove Market runs from 8am to 4pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and Redditch Market runs from 9am until 4pm Thursday and Saturday.



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Fair Day was attended by a number of dignitaries, including Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas and district council chairman, COUN Sam Evans. s



The Somers Cup for the best-dressed stall was won by Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcomes Refugees. s



The Court Leet parade left Housman Hall and journeyed to the town centre. Pictures by Geoff Hawkesworth. s

Fair Day passes court test

THE CROWDS turned out and the rain held off for the Bromsgrove Court Leet Fair Day and Street Market on Saturday.

The parade, led by Shirley Pipe Band and containing the Bailiff and members of the Bromsgrove Court Leet, councillors and other dignitaries, journeyed from Housman Hall to the town centre.

Once there, it processed down the High Street and back to the Housman statue for the proclamation and assize of goods, including ale, bread, meat and leather.

Proceedings at the Housman statue began with an introduction from Bromsgrove Town Crier and Court Bellman Kevin Ward.

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

A prayer was given by Rev Ray Khan and then the historic charter – granted to the town in 1199 by King John – was read by the Bailiff, Mark Robinson.

The charter gave permission for an annual Midsummer's Day Fair every year in the Parish of St John.

After that, the ale tasters, bread weigher and members of the court responsible for leather and meat gave their verdicts on the goods on sale in the town.

Readers will be pleased to hear everything was deemed 'fit for the people of Bromsgrove'.

The Court's brook-looker declared that the town's water-

ways were 'on the dry side' after the prolonged hot spell and heatwave. But, with a drop of rain, he was confident they would return to normal levels soon.

Among those with stalls in the Elizabethan Market were The Friends of St John, the Bromsgrove Lions, Bromsgrove Blood Cancer UK, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Avoncroft Museum and the Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcomes Refugees.

The Somers Cup – for the best dressed stall – was awarded to the Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcomes Refugees and three Ukrainians who were on the stall and had benefited from the group's good work gave a moving speech.

They thanked the people of Bromsgrove for being so welcoming and everything that had been done for them since their arrival.

Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas enjoyed his first Fair Day as the town's Member of Parliament.

He said: "Today is a very important day in Bromsgrove's calendar as it celebrates our history and heritage and brings people together."

"There was a fantastic atmosphere in town and it is good to see the theatrics behind the proud history of the town."

Visit this story online at bromsgrovestandard.co.uk for more pictures of the day and the Facebook and Instagram pages for videos of the parade.



The Bailiff Mark Robinson read the charter granted by King John in 1199, giving Bromsgrove permission to hold a fair on – or close to – Midsummer's Day. s



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Reaching out to find new friends

PUPILS from Moon's Moat First School are preparing to take to the stage as they celebrate a new international friendship with Singino School in Mtwara, Tanzania.

The partnership is one of the long-standing Redditch One World Link's schemes, which the group have been running for the past 40 years.

Children from the school will showcase their talents by singing at a special celebration event at The Boat House at Arrow Valley Park next Saturday, July 5.

There, schools, community groups, and supporters of the Redditch and Mtwara Twinning will gather to honour four decades of global connection.

There will be African art activities for all ages throughout the day and a professional African drumming group from Birmingham performing.

Headteacher Karen Crawford said: "We are absolutely delighted our children will be performing at such a meaningful event."

"This link with Singino School in Mtwara is a won-



derful opportunity for our pupils to learn about life in another part of the world and to build friendships that could last a lifetime."

The twinning aims to foster mutual understanding and respect between the two schools, with plans for shared projects, cultural exchanges, and collaborative learning experiences.

The children are said to be 'buzzing with excitement' as they rehearse for their performance, which will be one of the highlights of the

anniversary celebration.

The event promises to be a vibrant day of music, storytelling, and community spirit, reflecting the values of unity and global citizenship that Redditch One World Link has championed since 1985.

Moons Moat pupils join headteacher Karen Crawford, Li-an Yeng and Jackie Morgan in celebrating the One World Link anniversary. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2525006MMR



PEN TO PAPER: A WYCHBOLD author has penned a new collection of short stories exploring the human condition from childhood to old age.

Philip Parrish, aged 46, has written Exiles Incorporated - a collection of 12 short stories spanning six continents, 15 countries and more than 2,500 years of history.

The dozen tales encompass ancient Greece to medieval Cairo, first-century Peru

to the Belgian Congo, shogunate Japan to 1960s Los Angeles, and 9th Century Rome to modern-day Hereford.

The self-published collection launched in paperback and e-book last Friday.

Philip, who lives in the village with his wife and daughter, said: "I love history and have always wanted to write a collection of stories that combined different time periods and countries, focusing on characters at different stages of their lives."

"Exiles Incorporated offers a diverse mix of genres, ranging from coming-of-age stories to mystery tales, fantasy to full-blooded horror."

"But at its heart, the book explores human loneliness across the ages and people's capacity for good and evil."

Aimed at mature, intelligent lovers of historical literary fiction, Exiles Incorporated is Philip's third book in five years.

His first novel, Game of Life, is a claustrophobic family drama influenced by the Covid-19 lockdown and the #MeToo movement. It released in 2021.

This was followed by The Bleeding Horizon in 2023, a sci-fi fantasy political thriller inspired by the dangers of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the world's social and political turmoil.

Exiles Incorporated is available to buy on Apple, Amazon and Google Play as an e-book, plus on Amazon and Barnes and Noble as a paperback.

Visit: philip-parrish.com for more information.

Wychbold based author, Philip Parrish has self-published a new collection of short stories. s

A PERSON was rescued from the Alvechurch Canal around 7.50pm last Friday.

A Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service crew from Redditch Fire Station plus the boat crew from Worcester were called to the scene off Redditch Road.

One boat was relocated to the canal

bank and three people were rescued from the boat by fire service personnel.

A large branch was removed from the back of the barge.

One man in his 50s was rescued from the water by the crew and received treatment from West Midlands Ambulance Service paramedics.

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www.fladburywalkabout.com



Festival continues to offer wide range of concerts and events

THIS YEAR'S Bromsgrove Festival is now in full swing and the next week has lots of events and activities for all tastes.

Music

On Tuesday, July 1, at 6pm, Ahoy! Sing for the Mary Rose will be performed at Artrix. The production will feature pupils from local first and middle schools coming together for a day of singing and renowned amateur before this early evening performance. Tickets are £4, available from artrixbromsgrove.co.uk or by calling 01527 361324.

The next in the series of Festive Classics comes to Avoncroft Museum's New Geusten Hall on Wednesday, July 2. Julia Aberg and Jackie Tyler will perform A Kaleidoscope of Music at midday with lunch at 1pm. Julia (violin) and Jackie (cello) are from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and will guide the audience through a kaleidoscope selection of music from over the centuries. Tickets can be bought for just the concert or for lunch as well. Visit: festiveclassics.co.uk or call 01527 832492 for more information or tickets.

The Bromsgrove Ukulele Open Event takes place from 2pm to 4pm next Friday, July 4, at Stoke Prior Village Hall, Hanbury Road. The session, suitable for people of all ages



and musical tastes, is for those interested in learning to play the ukulele or those just wanting to enjoy an afternoon of musical entertainment.

Birmingham-based Cantoras Upper Voices Chamber Choir presents 'All Together We Are Love' at St John's Church, Kidderminster Road, at 7.30pm next Friday, July 4. The concert features a capella choral pieces written for the choir and musical director Mariana Rosas. Visit: cantoraschoir.co.uk or call 07815 071179 for more information and for tickets.

Artrix plays host to Paul Hopkins' Roy Orbison and the Travelling Wilburys' Experience at 7.30pm next Friday, July 4. The musical journey spreads several decades and celebrates the supergroup which featured Roy Orbison, ELO's Jeff Lynne, former Beatle George Harrison, Bob Dylan and Tom Petty. Visit: artrixbromsgrove.co.uk or call 01527 361324 for tickets and more information.

The Core Reggae Band will perform live at The New Inn, Doctors Hill, Bournheath, at 8pm next Friday, July 5. The event is free and there is no need to book - just turn up on the night. There will also be Jamaican food for sale. Call 01527 577555 for more information.

Comedy

Tiny Tim's Biggest Adventure takes place at Artrix at 6pm on Wednesday, July 2, with a meet and greet beforehand at 5.30pm. The show centres on Tiny Tim who, seven years ago, decided to go on his own adventure, navigating adult life and posting about his prank calls on social media. Tiny Tim's adventures has more than 120million views on YouTube and 10million views on social media - this event gives those who go along the chance to see the man behind the voice. Visit: artrixbromsgrove.co.uk for more and to buy tickets.

WORDS

The first of two Bromsgrove WORDS events at this year's Bromsgrove Festival sees a presentation from Lord Brady of Altrincham at Avoncroft Museum's New Geusten Hall at 7.30pm next Friday, July 4. The former chairman of the Conservative 1922 Committee in the House of Commons will be in conversation with Patrick Burns, the former Political Editor of BBC West Midlands, about



his book 'Kingmaker'. Lord Brady was Chairman during the most turbulent times in modern political history, and had a ringside seat throughout the Coalition government, Brexit, Covid and the election and removal of five Prime Ministers. Search for 'Kingmaker' at ticketsource.co.uk for more information and tickets. Go to: bromsgrovereadings.com for more on Bromsgrove WORDS.

Art

The Creative Arts Showcase has a stall at Hanbury Countryside Show from 9am to 6pm next Saturday, July 5. The showcase, which promotes

LEFT: Lord Brady of Altrincham will talk about his role as the former chairman of the Conservative 1922 Committee, during which there was a Coalition government, Brexit, Covid and five Prime Ministers. s

art for everyone in the Bromsgrove community, will offer fun, free interactive activities for all the family. There will also be a handmade artisan goods from across the region. Visit: hanburryshow.co.uk for more information on the Hanbury Show and tickets.

Other events

Bromsgrove Beer Festival takes place from Thursday to Saturday (July 3 of 5). The first session runs from 1pm to 5pm on the Thursday (for CAMRA members and trade only). It opens to the public from 5pm that day and runs from 11am to 11pm on Friday and between 11am to 9pm on Saturday. The event at the Bromsgrove Rugby Club boasts more than 100 real ales and 40 ciders and perries. Visit: bromsgrovebeerfestival.org.uk for more or tickets. Tickets are available on the door and this year's chosen charity is the Primrose Hospice.

Visit bromsgrovefestival.co.uk for more on these and future events.

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Midlife Crisis - 7.30pm - 9.30pm (indoors)

DISCO
from 9.30pm

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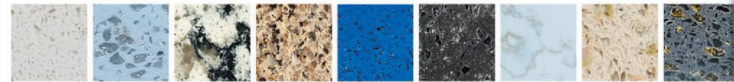
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Windsor Carpets was established in 1985 and we feel that throughout the years it has built an excellent reputation based on our attention to detail, our high standards of customer service and knowledge across a wide range of floor coverings.

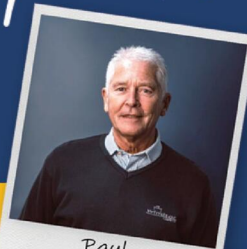
Paul who had been a carpet fitter for a number of retailers in Birmingham, moved to Redditch with wife Colette and opened up Windsor Carpets in the same location where we remain today.

In those early days, Paul was estimator, fitter, sales and marketing all in one. Still a family business, with Paul's son's David and Philip looking after the day-to day running, they are now supported by a greatly experienced team of fitters and sales, estimating and warehouse staff.

We work for both domestic and commercial customers. We provide options to suit every budget, from end of rolls to bespoke border work, stair runners, and velvets as well as an array of hard flooring and commercial options.

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"Thank you to all our Customers who have supported us over the years!"



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Founder



David
Partner



Philip
Partner



Graham
warehouse Operative



Kevin
Surveyor/Estimator



Mark
Surveyor/Estimator



AN ODE TO WINDSOR CARPETS AT 40

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What our customers had to say...

We've recently had most of our downstairs floor fitted. I can honestly say I couldn't be more pleased. The fitters were amazing and nothing was too much trouble. Their attention to detail is second to none. They worked late and tirelessly left no mess and were here ages to ensure everything was perfect before they left. I'd only ever use Windsor carpets for my flooring and carpets!

The guys at Windsor carpets said yes to some tricky work when every other carpet company said no, they couldn't do it. They absolutely smashed the job out the park and their general customer service is fantastic.

*We had Phil come and quote us for some work and from start to finish he was attentive, informative, polite and very professional. He had confidence in his Tradesmen, and we are very happy with the whole process from start to finish. His installer Darren completed work for us in our kitchen, Hall and Porch. He was tidy, polite and knowledgeable in his craft. The work is faultless. We wouldn't use anyone else now having used Windsor Carpets and flooring. We would recommend their service to anyone looking for all aspects of flooring especially Karndean...
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Fancy some great fun and top tunes? - this is the one you want

Theatre review



The cast of Grease The Musical put on a memorable night at the Norbury Theatre in Droitwich. s

MOST people will know Grease from the hit film featuring John Travolta and Olivia Newton John, along with all the songs – many of them have hit high chart positions over the years.

But it is great to see this classic movie adapted for the stage, providing a good chance to introduce it to younger people and others, who may not have seen the movie.

This show is well worth a watch – it has a fantastic cast which brings this much-loved High School story of teenage angst to life with bags of energy.

There are too many characters to mention everyone but each member played their part – from the ensembles to the lead roles.

David Bradley and Laura Pullen were wonderfully suited to their roles as the focus pair Danny Zuko and Sandy Dumbroski. They worked well together on the stage and performed their musical numbers with plenty of skill and confidence – starting with the renowned Summer Nights and never looking back, right through to 'You're The One That I Want'. Pullen – in 'Hopefully Devoted' and 'Look At Me I'm Sandra Dee (Reprise)' had two of the vocal performances of the night.

Other superb vocal performances came from Grace Duggan as

Marty, singing 'Freddy My Love', and Hayley Gass with 'There are Worse Things I could Do' – she was excellent as feisty Betty Rizzo.

As well as the teen angst, there was plenty of humour in this show too. The comedic relationship between Roger (Jake Jones) and Jan (Hayley Marshall) was a joy to watch, right from the song 'Mooning', through

their on-off and somewhat quirky relationship.

More laughs came from Paul Steele as stereotypical radio DJ Vince Fontaine and the Teen Angel in the song Beauty School Drop-Out with Abii Ward (Frenchy). Her facial expressions during this number also provided plenty of smiles.

The dance performance of the

night went to Lois Press as the aptly named 'Cha-Cha Digregorio' who joined Zuko for the hand jive contest.

There will always be logistical issues when it comes to staging a theatre version of a film with regard to scene changes but these were overcome well with a clever and versatile stage that transformed from

Rydel High School, to a bedroom, a garage, a park, a drive-in movie and The Burger Palace and salon.

And - while the car race in the film would have been a step too far - the talented crew did create a moving car that could be used for the famous 'Greased Lightning' scene, including its transformation.

Well done also to Jimmy Hill for directing, producing, filming and editing the Twi-Light Horror Movie screened during the drive-in scene – it provided a few more laughs and showcased more of the Norbury team's talent and versatility.

And, I need to give a shout-out to the fabulous Norbury Theatre Orchestra which is always faultless and never disappoints. They were the High School band and, ever-present at the back of the stage, provided the fantastic scores to these classic songs.

Grease The Musical at the Norbury is the perfect way to spend a Summer Night.

The remaining performances at the Norbury Theatre take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday to Saturday (June 25 to 28) with a 2.30pm matinee also on the Saturday.

And when 'The Word' spreads about this production the tickets will fly out of the box office like Greased Lightnin' so make sure you get yours by visiting: norburytheatre.co.uk here or by calling 01905 770154.

Tristan Harris



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Choose from a glass of Prosecco, house wine (125ml), a bottle of Coors, or a soft drink with your meal.

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Our main and specials menus also run during this time, with gluten-free and vegan options available.



Going the extra distance for fun



The Fun Run raised funds for its charity partner - Acorns Children's Hospice - and representatives from Acorns were at the event. Picture by Ian WG. s



Torg Bilgimer from David Lloyd with the top three in the Women's 10k Louise Collins (2nd), Hayley Carruthers (winner) and Elizabeth Watters (3rd) with European silver medalist Hannah England and Sophie Boreham from Acorns. Picture by Tristan Harris.



The leaders of Happy Feet Fitness and the runners who graduated from the Couch to 5k programme

ALMOST 650 runners took part in this year's Hollywood and Wythall Fun Run which was back - bigger and better than ever before.

As well as the 5k and 10k races, there was also the Family Relay and a fun day with plenty of other activities, including the chance to try new sports and a host of stalls.

The winner of the 10k race was Joe Smith who completed the course in 33mins and 27secs.

The 5k race was won by Matthew Pollard who notched up a time of 17mins, 12secs.

The fastest woman in the 10k race was Hayley Carruthers from Tipton Harriers.

She said: "I last did this race six years ago and won it - it is really good fun and a great way to get people into running."

"It is a fun run but I'm really enjoying my racing at the moment."

"It felt really warm but it is a 10k so it is going to be tough. It was also nice to meet Steve Cram."

The event was sponsored by David Lloyd fitness clubs.

Alisha Byrne, from David Lloyd, said the company was all about family and community and the

Hollywood and Wythall Fun Run really aligned with its values.

"We are always looking to be involved in the local community and we have four or five clubs within half-an-hour travelling time."

"When we got here, the atmosphere was absolutely buzzing, we've met plenty of other vendors we can work with in the future and have given out week-long memberships so it has been fantastic for us."

"We can't wait to be back again next year."

People whose homes were on the route came out and cheered the runners as they ran past, some rang handbells or bashed pots and pans and children living nearby made motivational signs.

Sara Hewison from Bournville Harriers ran last year and this one.

She said: "The atmosphere was great and there was fantastic support from the local community."

"We have such a good team spirit at Bournville - from beginners to really fast runners and they all enjoyed coming here."

"This is a very well organised event and there's things you take for granted here that you don't get at other places - plenty of toilets available, good organisation at the start, a decent goodie bag and everything is really well-signposted."

"It is all really good."

Turn to the next pages for the full 5k and 10k results.

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5k results



- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Matthew Pollard 17:12.7 | 43 Lee Brotherhood 23:47.1 | 87 Stephen Rynne 27:30.6 | 128 Carrie Jarrett 33:06.3 | 167 Sophie Groves 36:24.1 | 206 Tracey Sutton 39:45.7 |
| 2 Christopher Burrows 18:00.0 | 44 Miles Parker 23:53.3 | 88 Harvey Davis 29:32.0 | 129 Megan Jones 32:52.3 | 168 Mark Farrell 36:24.4 | 207 Ken Byng 40:20.7 |
| 3 Luke Scarr 18:02.8 | 45 Kevin Storey 24:09.1 | 89 Isaac Parker 29:35.5 | 130 Hannah Kitson 32:43.2 | 169 Hannah Roden 36:34.3 | 208 Eleanor England 40:32.8 |
| 4 Chris Cooper 18:09.0 | 46 Jude Pails 23:27.5 | 90 Daniel Parkinson 29:06.7 | 131 Alison Blyth 32:51.7 | 170 Sandra Kokowicz 36:49.0 | 209 Kiara Davis 40:30.6 |
| 5 Richard Keep 18:32.5 | 47 Ezra Parker 24:23.1 | 91 Katie Deeley 29:23.5 | 132 Steve Devlin 32:47.9 | 171 Fran Setchell 36:11.5 | 210 Julia Kowalska 41:25.6 |
| 6 Nathan Watkins 18:54.5 | 48 Dafydd Lampard 23:05.3 | 92 Jon Cockerill 27:51.6 | 133 Debbie Ford 33:39.0 | 172 Elsie Kenny 36:12.0 | 211 Kathryn Alton 40:27.4 |
| 7 Jacob Cope 19:23.8 | 49 Luke Goodall 23:48.3 | 93 Lucas Gough 29:45.5 | 134 Katie Meredith 33:15.8 | 173 Freya Taylor-Saul 36:24.5 | 212 Ashleigh Osborne 40:22.2 |
| 8 Daniel Neal 19:24.2 | 50 Guy Goodall 23:50.3 | 94 Liz Bird 29:13.0 | 135 Mat Wright 33:29.3 | 174 Emma Swan 36:25.6 | 213 Madie Osborne 40:21.2 |
| 9 Adam Neal 19:21.8 | 51 Lauren Hevey 24:49.7 | 95 Emma Kearns 28:39.8 | 136 Claire Stables 32:55.4 | 175 Clive Sweet 37:31.1 | 214 Claire Lane 41:25.4 |
| 10 Frazer Slade 19:27.6 | 52 Anthony Scicluna 24:37.5 | 96 Matthew Blizzard 29:16.3 | 137 Kerry Murdock 32:48.3 | 176 Vipavinee Artpradid 36:27.8 | 215 Gillian Cusdin 41:30.7 |
| 11 Chris Hartley 19:49.3 | 53 Jude Glynn 24:47.6 | 97 Shelly Forrester-West 29:07.5 | 138 Donna Wright 33:40.3 | 177 Scott Maddocks 36:15.2 | 216 Sarah Powers 40:41.5 |
| 12 Adrian Fowler 20:03.3 | 54 Alex Setchell 25:09.1 | 98 Callum Cornfield 29:51.3 | 139 Diana Bridgman 33:47.1 | 178 Rachel Gordon 36:49.7 | 217 Florence Seckham 41:37.7 |
| 13 Lucy Hellingworth 20:10.5 | 55 Martin Ludford 25:28.3 | 99 Ben Skelton 30:32.2 | 140 Fiona Curnow 34:09.3 | 179 Joanne Penn-Crossland 37:37.0 | 219 Sinead Lyons 41:17.6 |
| 14 Matthew Slater 20:23.4 | 56 Kevin Ell 24:56.3 | 100 George New 30:31.9 | 141 Joanne Cottle 32:12.3 | 180 Gareth Bownes 36:32.1 | 220 Mark Seckham 42:02.0 |
| 15 Richard Blyth 20:29.5 | 57 Jacob Blyth 25:39.5 | 101 James Westwood 30:34.0 | 142 Gill Hill 33:46.2 | 181 Adam Bownes 36:34.3 | 221 Deborah Horsley 42:30.8 |
| 16 Ethan Hevey 20:57.6 | 58 Oscar Howard 25:57.9 | 102 Ethan Stanley 30:32.6 | 143 Rob Gordon 33:35.4 | 182 Charlotte Wilde 37:43.4 | 222 Janice Dunford 43:01.5 |
| 17 Glenn Lacey 21:06.3 | 59 Tom Cronin 25:43.1 | 103 Jacqui Bazley 30:00.0 | 144 Laurie Goldsby 33:57.1 | 183 Oliver Wilde 37:43.3 | 223 Ann Southern 43:08.9 |
| 18 Fred Bird 21:18.1 | 60 Susan Hardy 25:48.5 | 104 Alastair Lewis 30:13.9 | 145 Elizabeth Bird 33:58.6 | 184 Nicole Mcmanus 37:57.8 | 224 Lucy Phillips 43:57.1 |
| 19 Andy Wheeler 21:15.2 | 61 Shay Foyle 25:58.7 | 105 Sarah Benn 30:18.6 | 146 Sophie Calvert 34:27.1 | 185 Deborah Downey 37:58.0 | 225 Mark Hall 43:57.5 |
| 20 Gayle Tyler 21:21.9 | 62 Anna Mcmanus 26:02.6 | 106 Mitchell Hawthorn 30:15.5 | 147 Isabelle Stait 34:27.2 | 186 Oliver Hulbert 36:55.5 | 226 Stephen Bessant 43:58.7 |
| 21 Lee Neal 21:47.4 | 63 Rohan Walker 26:10.7 | 107 Peter Coleman 29:22.6 | 148 Rebecca Thompson 34:00.1 | 187 Ciara Knight 37:32.5 | 227 Cindy Osborne 46:21.6 |
| 22 Michael Beadle 21:18.6 | 64 Henry Rivera 26:31.5 | 108 John Cheel 31:05.9 | 149 Davi Reynolds 33:24.8 | 188 Lewis Pendry 37:46.4 | 228 Hardeep Kalsi 47:09.5 |
| 23 Melanie James 21:47.5 | 65 Matt Knight 26:17.7 | 109 Erika Vince 30:16.3 | 150 Amm Baller 33:25.8 | 189 Kirsty Crawley 39:00.5 | 229 Ishaan Vara 47:59.0 |
| 24 Travis Hammill 22:12.9 | 66 Harvey Empson 26:54.7 | 110 Theresa Coello 29:51.1 | 151 Jonathan Roden 34:19.3 | 190 Rebecca Beard 37:13.6 | 230 Kiran Vara 48:08.8 |
| 25 George Spann 21:53.3 | 67 Simon Stadnyk 26:50.5 | 111 Candice Nolan 30:58.9 | 152 Martin Foster 35:07.4 | 191 Darren Beard 37:12.4 | 231 Susan Richards 48:29.6 |
| 26 Steve Morton 22:09.7 | 68 Nick Mealey 25:51.1 | 112 Natalie Taylor 30:50.4 | 153 Nadene Bryan 35:02.5 | 192 Sarah Ali 37:26.9 | 232 Sally Padgett 48:30.1 |
| 27 James Astle 22:18.5 | 69 Carl Rutter 26:45.3 | 113 Tayven Bourne 31:31.3 | 154 Lisa Lester 34:39.1 | 193 Colin Bexley 38:03.5 | 233 Emma Cartwright 49:42.0 |
| 28 Joe Mcleod 21:48.0 | 70 Vinnie Connor 27:36.5 | 114 Abigail Scott 30:55.6 | 155 Anne-Louise Henderson 34:39.0 | 194 Richard Bell 38:51.5 | 234 Nick Walker 50:27.7 |
| 29 Thomas Rushton 22:09.8 | 71 Sam Fall 27:38.4 | 115 Ava Smith 30:55.8 | 156 Jamie Blundell 34:16.1 | 195 Helen Sandland 40:15.3 | 235 Kaja Fawthrop 52:23.3 |
| 30 David Coombs 22:25.3 | 72 Joshua Cooper 26:35.8 | 116 Annie Lees 31:44.3 | 157 Toby Blundell 34:15.4 | 196 Alana Wells 38:58.4 | 236 Margaret Sherman 52:49.7 |
| 31 Sam Rosson 22:41.9 | 73 Meirion Williams 26:53.8 | 117 Amy Skelton 31:57.2 | 158 Simon Parker 35:06.2 | 197 Adrian Mills 39:33.7 | 237 Ceri Armstrong 52:51.3 |
| 32 Lucas Mulryan 22:47.4 | 74 Ian Thomas 26:33.9 | 118 Richard Cottle 30:37.4 | 159 Demenika Shafi 35:10.8 | 200 Elizabeth Sales 39:22.4 | 238 Tony Rand 52:53.8 |
| 33 Lewis Foster 23:06.1 | 75 Adam Moline 26:47.5 | 119 Richard Cawton 32:19.2 | 160 Sam Setchell 35:08.7 | 201 Katie Sales 39:22.7 | 239 Simon Norbury 1:01:47.5 |
| 34 Daniel Neely 23:06.6 | 76 Andy Parker 27:32.8 | 120 Philip Pearce 31:22.6 | 161 George Hill 35:59.2 | 202 Lotti Willan 39:16.1 | 240 Samantha Bache 1:33:09.3 |
| 35 Imogen Mccann 23:08.9 | 77 Alex Blyth 27:09.3 | 121 Kathryn Healy 32:23.6 | 162 Charlotte Robinson 36:00.1 | 203 Jennifer Hallett 39:15.9 | |
| 36 Jayden Walker 22:51.9 | 78 Elizabeth Cottle 26:47.2 | 122 Emily Astle 32:38.4 | 163 Tracie Shafi 36:15.1 | 204 Astrid Horton 39:18.5 | |
| 37 Isabelle Mccann 23:17.0 | 79 Matthew Vas 28:22.8 | 123 Adrian Cornfield 32:06.7 | 164 Rebecca Haddon 36:27.2 | 205 Lucie Mchugo 40:04.1 | |
| 38 Daniel Cook 23:01.3 | 80 Anna Scicluna 28:22.9 | 124 Ruth Pails 32:06.8 | 165 Samantha Cooper 36:17.8 | | |
| 39 Dylan Bryan 23:44.4 | 81 Arjun Parsonage 28:42.1 | 125 Jane Astle 32:51.1 | 166 Lyndsey Falconer 36:17.5 | | |
| 40 Ben Marshall 23:02.9 | 82 Alex Fotheringham 28:03.4 | 126 Nick Winnall 31:58.2 | | | |
| 41 Katy Mcgowan 23:40.0 | 83 Suz West 28:31.1 | 127 Deborah Knight 33:02.8 | | | |
| 42 Joseph Brotherhood 23:44.9 | 84 Liz Whitworth 28:34.2 | | | | |
| | 85 Dan Foster 29:18.4 | | | | |
| | 86 Tristan Harris 27:38.5 | | | | |



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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Joe Smith 33:27.8 | 40 Ian Price 43:38.6 | 81 Peter Eckersley 48:29.7 | 120 Richard Slater 52:10.6 | 160 Bryony Morris 55:36.9 | 200 Michael Mcdermott 57:04.2 |
| 2 Mark Couldwell 35:19.6 | 41 Craig Madeley 43:34.6 | 82 Chris Blount 48:16.6 | 121 Andrew Shephard 52:26.1 | 161 Gabrielle Lowe 55:32.1 | 201 Kath Newton 58:17.5 |
| 3 Steven Dunsby 35:28.1 | 42 Tim Ogbourn 43:31.8 | 83 Rachel Bowden 48:09.3 | 122 James Morrison 52:26.5 | 162 Fran Garcia Justicia 54:46.3 | 202 Alasdair Campbell 57:09.9 |
| 4 Matthew Herbert 35:53.8 | 43 Peter Kilbey 43:57.9 | 84 Georgia Bough 48:37.9 | 123 George Husbands 51:24.6 | 163 Iain Stephens 55:38.6 | 203 Adam Cooper 58:20.3 |
| 5 Stephen Nurrish 36:07.7 | 44 Kathryn Holliday 43:56.6 | 85 Steve Ellis 48:43.4 | 124 Joe Hall 51:27.4 | 164 Habib Khan 54:39.6 | 204 Colin Hevey 58:59.8 |
| 6 Alexander Heyes 36:17.4 | 45 Joel Kavanagh 43:59.1 | 86 Conor Seery 48:12.3 | 125 Philippa Bligh 52:50.5 | 165 Rebecca Wright 54:30.3 | 205 Dan Masters 58:40.4 |
| 7 Richard Lloyd-Frith 36:28.0 | 46 Sara Hewison 43:59.8 | 87 Richard Ell 48:24.7 | 126 Kian Chohan 52:56.9 | 166 Katie Hipwell 54:37.0 | 206 Neill Jongman 57:51.5 |
| 8 Jamie Shingler 36:37.5 | 47 Mark Allen 44:26.7 | 88 Geoff Henning 49:02.5 | 127 Shangxi Wen 52:03.2 | 167 Louisa Moore 55:08.1 | 207 Zoe Pearman 57:33.6 |
| 9 Adam Walker 36:56.0 | 48 Chris Kavanagh 44:23.5 | 89 Oscar Meek 49:24.4 | 128 Jo Baker 52:01.4 | 169 Gerard Mercer 56:18.4 | 208 Samuel Smith 58:12.4 |
| 10 Hayley Carruthers 37:05.1 | 49 Heidi Murphy 43:53.2 | 90 Andrea Christopher 48:04.8 | 129 Chris Cheatele 53:17.1 | 170 M db Kilbey 56:49.0 | 209 Michael Jones 58:23.7 |
| 11 Wayne Watkins 37:20.4 | 50 David Norman 44:37.2 | 91 Jeremy Spires 48:42.1 | 130 James Clark 52:15.4 | 171 Thomas Clinton 56:34.0 | 210 Anthony Maddison 59:24.9 |
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| 13 Tom Clark 38:10.8 | 52 Dominika Malinowska 44:54.4 | 93 Richard Banks 49:36.6 | 132 Sam Giles 52:46.0 | 173 Anne McCallion 56:14.8 | 212 Holly Jansen Van Vuuren 58:48.4 |
| 14 Johnathan Ritchie 38:23.8 | 53 Rob Styles 45:05.7 | 94 Nigel Flook 49:40.2 | 133 Ben Freeman 53:19.3 | 174 Lisa Flook 56:46.5 | 213 Peter Collins 58:56.8 |
| 15 Richard Banks 38:37.1 | 54 Daniel Bates 45:12.5 | 95 Georgina Clark 48:43.4 | 134 Stephen Philp 53:12.7 | 175 Richard Easthope 56:09.6 | 214 Kathryn Byng 58:07.6 |
| 16 Joseph Hook 38:46.7 | 55 Clare Third 45:25.5 | 96 Gregory Bennetts 49:24.4 | 135 Sam Freeman 53:21.9 | 176 Daniel Johnson 55:41.9 | 215 Conor McDonnell 58:51.3 |
| 17 Tim Stent 38:49.4 | 56 Samuel Sherman 45:10.3 | 97 Alison Price 50:05.5 | 136 Claire Freeman 53:22.1 | 177 Nicky Beasley 56:54.4 | 216 Lauren Jenkins 58:47.1 |
| 18 Jaspit Bissel 39:24.3 | 57 Brendan Spooner 45:27.4 | 98 Richard Doherty 50:16.5 | 137 Graham Good 53:34.1 | 178 Kerry Allen 56:39.7 | 217 Alex Sheppard 59:27.7 |
| 19 Richard Costello 39:33.8 | 58 Sam Owen 45:01.4 | 99 Michael Zarno 50:09.1 | 138 Bradley Temple 53:46.2 | 179 Liam Chambers 56:08.1 | 218 Jenny Jansen Van Vuuren 58:55.6 |
| 20 Luke Edwards 39:37.7 | 59 Millie Flynn 45:35.3 | 100 Caroline Park 50:09.0 | 139 Michaela Thompson 53:44.1 | 180 Ian Stokes 56:56.9 | 219 Ryan Jansen Van Vuuren 58:59.7 |
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| 25 Joshua Bough 41:20.3 | 64 Ian Morgan 46:06.6 | 105 Dawn Hartford 50:50.6 | 144 Gary Jilks 53:34.2 | 185 Jak Raymond 56:36.9 | 224 Pauline Wright 59:16.5 |
| 26 Elizabeth Watters 41:31.3 | 65 Frank Astle 46:14.4 | 106 Samantha Donohoe 50:42.2 | 145 Lee Wood 53:28.5 | 186 Keith Whitehead 57:16.5 | 225 Sarah Ktori 59:33.6 |
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| 38 Pat Norris 43:15.4 | 77 James Cusack 47:33.1 | 118 Dan Jones 51:21.4 | 157 Andrew Foster 55:25.5 | 198 Robert Saunders 58:05.9 | |
| 39 Paul Salvin 42:51.5 | 78 Liam Dwyer 47:30.0 | 119 Ben Andrews 52:03.1 | 158 David Stokes 54:21.5 | 199 Christina Bennetts 57:43.5 | |
| | 79 Edward Slater 47:26.6 | | 159 Deborah Parker 55:33.3 | | |
| | 80 John Harrison 47:30.6 | | | | |

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Is Hand Pain Holding You Back?

Whether it's the frustration of struggling with buttons, the difficulty of opening jars, or the sadness of not being able to plant bulbs in your garden, it can be truly upsetting when pain and discomfort affect your hands.

Many common hand conditions share similar symptoms, but understanding the signs can help you identify what might be going on. Can you spot the symptoms of these common hand conditions?

Common Hand Conditions and Their Symptoms

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Carpal tunnel occurs when a nerve in your wrist is put under pressure. You might be at higher risk if you have diabetes, are pregnant, or if your job or hobbies involve repetitive hand movements.

Symptoms to look out for:

- Pins and needles in the fingers, especially the thumb, index, middle, and half of the ring finger.
- Numbness in the hand.
- Muscle wasting in the thumb area (in more severe cases).
- Waking from sleep due to hand discomfort or numbness.

Dupuytren's Disease

Dupuytren's disease involves a thickening of the tissue in the palm, fingers, or thumbs, often causing fingers to bend inwards towards the palm. Risk factors include smoking, heavy alcohol consumption, manual work, diabetes, and a family history of the condition.

Symptoms to look out for:

- A finger that has started to contract (bend downwards) or a noticeable lump in the palm.
- It most commonly affects the ring and little finger, but can appear in any finger or even the thumb.

Common Cause of a Palm Lump: Thumb Arthritis

Thumb arthritis frequently affects the basal joint at the base of the thumb. This can make everyday small tasks, like doing up buttons, quite challenging.

Symptoms to look out for:

- Pain and stiffness at the base of the thumb.
- A reduction in grip strength.
- Clicking and cracking sounds in the joint with movement.

Trigger Finger

Trigger finger happens when a tendon in the front of your hand thickens and gets "caught," causing your finger to lock in a bent position.

Symptoms to look out for:

- A finger that locks down in a bent position.
- A clicking sound or sensation when trying to straighten the finger.
- It can affect any finger, and sometimes the thumb.
- Pain that radiates up the arm from the affected finger.

Why Choose Us? What Our Patients Say:

"An extremely nice man. Professional but very pleasant and caring. He listened to me and took the time to explain things and advise me. I felt confident in the treatment offered and would have no hesitation in consulting him again and would recommend him to others".

"I have been treated by Mr Shyamalan before and find him excellent. That is the main reason for using the clinic".

"Genuinely caring surgeon, very happy with how I was treated".

"I can only say 5 stars for Mr Shyamalan. Friendly, kind and very easy to talk to. Very happy after keyhole surgery to help my wrist problems. Highly recommended".

Get In Touch – We Can Help

If you're experiencing any of the symptoms listed above, and if hand pain is getting in the way of your day-to-day life, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We're here to help you understand your condition and find the right solution to get you back to doing the things you love.

www.midlandhandclinic.com

or give us a call
07973 696 606

Website
www.midlandhandclinic.com

10k results



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| 237 Robert Perks 1:00:42.1 | 1:02:57.7 | 295 Hana Hughes 1:06:16.0 | 1:11:06.1 | 617 Emma Tisdell 1:08:56.4 | 1:21:46.5 | 368 Emma Scott 1:25:53.4 |
| 238 Mark Witheridge 1:00:47.0 | 267 Laura Ben Kahla 1:02:55.3 | 296 Adrian Spink 1:06:16.8 | 330 Nat Leddy 1:11:08.6 | 310 Emma Tisdell 1:08:56.4 | 363 Marie Tyrrell 1:21:47.3 | 369 Alice Bell 1:25:32.1 |
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| | | 328 Richard Lane 1:10:03.7 | 362 Alison Maycroft | | | |



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Warning issued over measles resurgence as cases start to rise

HEALTH chiefs have issued a warning to parents after an increase in measles cases across the West Midlands and the UK.

And, as many people get ready for summer travel, there are fears over further outbreaks.

According to the UK Health Security Agency, measles outbreaks will continue across the UK, with 109 confirmed cases in April and

86 in May.

The cases were predominantly found in unvaccinated children aged 10 years or under.

Of these, there have been seven confirmed cases within the West Midlands and almost half of all cases occurring in London.

This increase coincides with an increasing number of measles cases within Europe as a whole.

'Serious illness'

UK Health Security Agency Regional Deputy Director in the West Midlands, Katie Spence, said: "Measles can cause serious illness and while most people will recover completely within a couple of weeks, the virus can sometimes leave permanent disability and can even be fatal.

"Measles is very infectious and can spread rapidly among communities, if people have not had at least one dose of the MMR vaccine."

Since January 1, there have been 420 laboratory confirmed measles cases reported in England, with a number of regions reporting outbreaks.

A total of 25 per cent of cases appeared within the North West and 11 per cent in the West Midlands.

People are urged to receive vaccinations, which have prevented at least 20million cases and 4,500 deaths in the UK since its

introduction in 1968.

The UK Health Security Agency fears cases may increase as UK citizens, specifically those with young children, travel for the summer.

Those most at risk

Infants aged under one year and people with weakened immune systems are at a larger risk of serious illness and complications upon contracting the disease, though there are also many reported cases among healthy young people and adults.

Consultant Epidemiologist at the UK Health Security Agency, Dr Vanessa Saliba, said: "It's essential everyone, particularly parents of young children, check all family members are up-to-date with two MMR doses, especially if you are travelling this summer holidays or visiting family.

"Measles spreads very easily and can be a nasty disease, leading to complications like ear and chest infections and inflammation of the brain with some children tragically ending up in hospital and suffering life-long consequences."

People are urged to contact their GP surgery if they believe they have not received two doses of the vaccine.

This is especially important if they are about to start college or university, are travelling overseas, are planning a pregnancy, are a

frontline health or social care worker or if they work with young children.

National Director for Primary Care and Community Services at NHS England, Dr. Amanda Doyle, said: "The first MMR vaccine is offered to infants when they turn one and the second dose to pre-school children when they are around three years and four months old.

"Around 99 per cent of those who have two doses will be protected against measles and rubella."

Symptoms

People should be aware of measles' symptoms.

They usually start with cold-like symptoms, such as a high temperature, a runny or blocked nose, sneezing, a cough and red, sore, watery eyes.

These are followed by a rash a few days later which starts on the face and behind the ears before spreading to the rest of the body.

Some people may also get small spots in their mouth.

Anyone who suspects they or their child has measles should call NHS 111 or their GP to get an appointment.

People are being urged to be aware of measles symptoms, which include a rash that spreads to the whole body. s



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A Dress Full Of Stories



We're incredibly proud of Lianne Sturmey, our Home Manager at The Oaks Care Home in Birmingham, who won Best Dressed at The Stars of Social Care Awards 2025!



It was a proud and emotional moment as Lianne took to the awards in her Dress Full of Stories, representing not just herself, but our whole care home community with creativity, compassion, and pride.

“Wearing the dress was something I’ll never forget. It reminded me how lucky I am to be part of such a special community. On my journey to the ceremony, there were train delays and I was so worried that I wouldn’t make it to the awards – not because I was sad to miss the awards, but because I couldn’t let this artwork go unseen”
- Lianne, Home Manager at The Oaks Care Home

Lianne wore a truly one-of-a-kind white dress, lovingly decorated with meaningful artwork created by the people living at The Oaks and our amazing team. Each design told a story, a cherished memory, a personal passion, or a piece of someone’s heart.

Across the back, in sparkling rhinestones, the words: "The Oaks" because that’s where the heart of this story truly lives.



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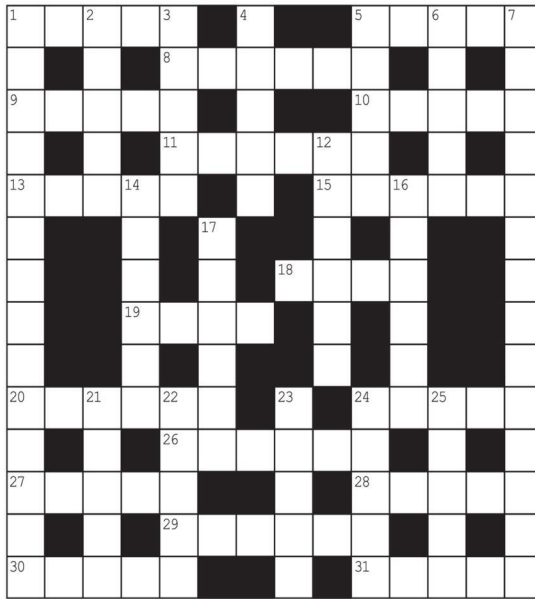
For more information about The Oaks, our services and events, please contact The Oaks.

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1, 18 Across & 23 Down Famous book by Nevil Shute (1,4,4,5)
- 5 American carnivore related to the racoons (5)
- 8 --- Arnaud, comedy actress after whom a theatre is named (6)
- 9 Surname of the inventor of dynamite (5)
- 10 Type of light boat (5)
- 11 Canadian capital, once known as Bytown (6)
- 13 Closely woven, lustrous, silk fabric (5)
- 15 Covered passageway with shops (6)
- 18 See 1 Across
- 19 An insignificant part, a jot (4)
- 20 See 5 Down
- 24 See 14 Down
- 26 God of the winds in Greek myths (6)
- 27 A young eel (5)
- 28 Yachting centre on the Isle of Wight (5)
- 29 Genus that includes the wattles (6)
- 30 Kind of Dutch blue and white pottery (5)
- 31 Letters or characters of the earliest Teutonic alphabet (5)



DOWN

- 1 In Dickens's novel, the second wife of David Copperfield (5,9)
- 2 Path in space round a heavenly body (5)
- 3 Synthetic textile fabric (5)
- 4 General and founder of the Salvation Army (5)
- 5 & 20 Across Belgian composer known for his religious works (5,6)
- 6 Tropical genus that includes the custard apple and sweet-sop (5)
- 7 Painters such as Manet, Monet, Degas and Renoir (14)
- 12 Large North American deer (6)
- 14 & 24 Across Large expanse of water lying between Africa and Australia (6,5)
- 16 A clergyman (5)
- 17 Body of people entering into an organisation, new recruits (6)
- 21 Incus of the ear (5)
- 22 Measure of weight for precious stones (5)
- 23 See 1 Across
- 24 Annual cinema award, in various fields (5)
- 25 King of Northumbria from 617-633 (5)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 A Town; 5 Coati; 8 Yvonne; 9 Nobel; 10 Sloop; 11 Ottawa; 13 Satin; 15 Arcade; 18 Like; 19 Jota; 20 Franck; 22 Bravo; 23 Despondent; Down: 1 Pleat; 2 Entirely; 3 Employ; 4 Egan; 5 Consent; 6 Detestable; 9 Resolvent; 12 Possible; 14 Steeple; 16 Prison; 19 Exact; 20 Deep; 22 Carat; 23 Alice; 24 Oscar; 25 Edwin; 29 Acadia; 30 Delft; 31 Runes. DOWN: 1 Agnes Wickfield; 2 Orbit; 3 Nylon; 4 Booth; 5 Cesar; 6 Anora; 7 Impressionists; 12 Wapiti; 14 Indian; 16 Cleric; 17 Intake; 21 Anvil; 22 Carat; 23 Alice; 24 Oscar; 25 Edwin.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Preference; 7 Eject; 8 Plainer; 10 Exterior; 11 Less; 13 Tussle; 15 Portal; 17 Beer; 18 Prospect; 21 Express; 22 Bravo; 23 Despondent; Down: 1 Pleat; 2 Entirely; 3 Employ; 4 Egan; 5 Consent; 6 Detestable; 9 Resolvent; 12 Possible; 14 Steeple; 16 Prison; 19 Exact; 20 Deep.

Crossword

DEFIATION Niner
 McEnroe, Serena Williams, Pat Cash
 Ivanisevic, Evonne Coolidge, Rafael Nadal, Martina Hingis, John Laver, Steffi Graf, Pete Sampras, Lindsay Davenport, Goran Ivankovic, Andre Agassi, Venus Williams, Venus Williams, John McEnroe, Serena Williams, Pat Cash

Wordwheel Pathfinder

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

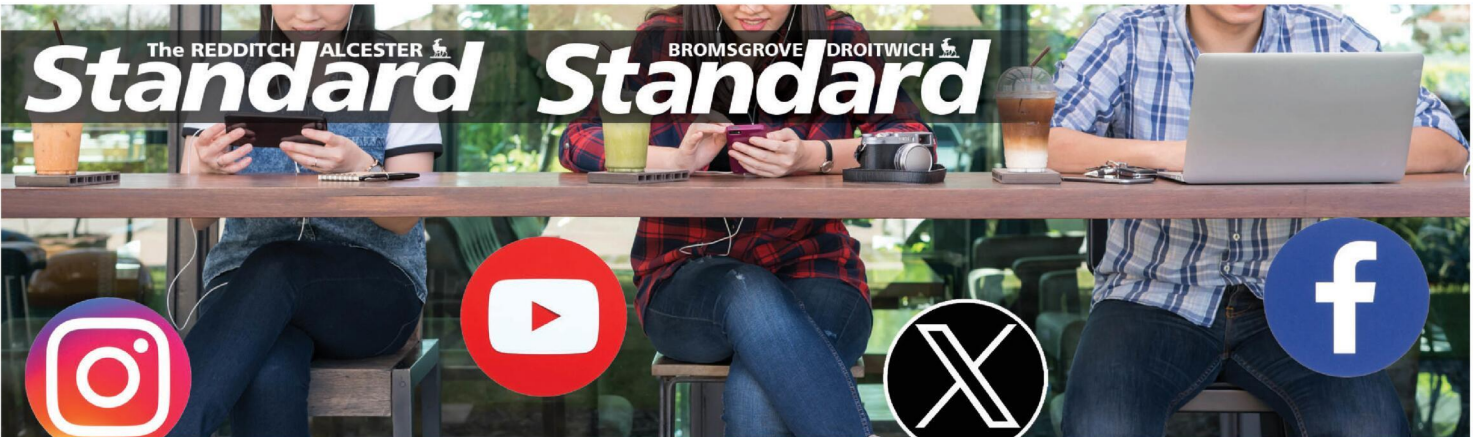
Codeword

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Family Notices

DEATHS



PAULINE FLYNN

Sadly passed away on 5th June 2025.
Pauline will be greatly missed by her family and friends.
A service to celebrate Pauline's life will take place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Redditch on Tuesday 8th July at 11am.

If you have a message for a loved one, call our team on
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

HOO MILL ROAD, UPTON
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic. Reason for Order: Works to install water mains bypasses.
Order Commences: 14 July 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 1 August 2025
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 0330 008 0820.

COVENTRY HIGHWAY, MAPPLEBOROUGH GREEN
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable works to provide 2 telegraph poles.
Order Commences: 14 July 2025 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 14 July 2025
Access & Diversion: Alcester Road, Coventry Highway, Ullenhall Lane, Gorcott Hill and vice versa.
Contractor: Core Highways, Tel: 0330 016 9688.

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, Assistant Director of Governance & Policy, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL Date 27 June 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended by the Water Act 2003)
Notice of application for a transfer licence to abstract (take) water

J N Bentley Limited has applied to the Environment Agency for a licence.

The Environment Agency is giving notice of this application, in accordance with Section 37 of the Water Resources Act 1991 and Regulation 6 of the Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006.

The application is for a licence to abstract water from the Helsby Sandstone and Sidmouth Mudstone aquifer within the area defined by the National Grid References SO 95803 68666, SO 95906 68709, SO 96079 68279 and SO 95954 68124 and to transfer it to an unnamed drain off the River Bure at National Grid Reference TG 39949 15518, without intervening use.

The application is to abstract water as follows:

- 25 cubic metres an hour • 588 cubic metres a day
- 49,352 cubic metres a year • Abstraction will take place all year.

Abstraction is anticipated to span until 31st March 2038.

Further details are: The proposed abstraction lies within the Worcestershire Middle Severn Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy reporting area.

Please contact us via email or use the number below to arrange to see the application documents.

Send any representations about this application in writing, quoting the name of the applicant and Reference Number NPS/WR/044992 to the Environment Agency, at the Permitting and Support Centre, Water Resources Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF or by email to PSC-WaterResources@environment-agency.gov.uk by 25th July 2025.

For advice about how to make a representation call 03708 506 506.

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, FFS = Footpath Setting, LB = Listed Building, LBS = Listed Building Setting, MAJ = Major Development, OBJDEC = Informing Objectors of decision

23/00192/FUL MAJ EA LBS - Supplemental Environmental Information (SEI) Received 21.02.2025, updated 24.04.2025.

Site: Land At (OS 9911 5879) Earls Common Road Stock Green and Cable Connection to National Grid Electricity Distribution Feckenham Substation, The Saltway, Feckenham Redditch.

Applicant: JBM Solar Projects 11 Ltd

Proposal: Cross Boundary application accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) for the Construction of a Solar Farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) facility together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure (Land to the east of Stock Green adjacent to Roundhill Wood (Wychavon District Council Ref: W/23/00270/FUL) and proposed grid connection to the existing National Grid Electricity Distribution Feckenham Substation (Redditch Borough Council) Ref: 23/00192/FUL

The above proposal has been amended and the Environmental Statement has been augmented with Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI). A copy of the SEI may be viewed at Redditch Borough Council Customer Service Centre, Kingfisher Shopping Centre, 5 George Walk, Redditch, B97 4HB until 30.07.25. The plans, documents and SEI may also be viewed online at: <http://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications/> quoting the above reference number.

Requests for copies of the SEI should be made in writing to newplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk or in writing Planning Services, Redditch Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch B98 8AH. Comments should be made within 30 days of the date of this publication. The Council does not acknowledge comments but will make these available for inspection online.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Licensing Act 2003 Public Notice

APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE TO BE GRANTED UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003 Name of applicant/club: **Majed Haider Sakem** Postal address of premises/club premises or description: **Mini Market, 20 Mount Pleasant, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4JG** The applicant proposes to carry out the following licensable activities or qualifying club activities on or from the above premises/club premises: **Sale of alcohol - Mon-Sun 06:00-23:00** Representatives by interested parties or responsible authorities should be made in writing to Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Wye Forest House, Fireport Way, Kidderminster DY11 7WF or enquiries@worcesterservices.gov.uk by 16/07/2025 The record of the application is available for inspection by appointment. Please call us on 01905 822799 for an appointment. IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO AN UNLIMITED FINE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO KNOWINGLY OR RECKLESSLY MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN, OR IN CONNECTION WITH, AN APPLICATION.

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ROUND wooden table, two matching chairs £30 one Tel: 01527 523559

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New green scheme for BYD

BYD, the world's leading manufacturer of new energy vehicles, has joined forces with Octopus Energy, the UK's largest energy supplier, to announce the launch of the Power Pack Bundle – the UK's first vehicle-to-grid (V2G) bundle – and it's a gamechanger for EV drivers.

Announced at Octopus Energy's Energy Tech Summit, the Power Pack Bundle will include a leased V2G-ready BYD Dolphin, a V2G Zaptec Pro charger and access to a smart tariff that offers completely free charging at home.

This means typical EV drivers can slash their bills by £620 a year compared to charging on a standard variable tariff – and save almost £1,000 compared to fuelling up a gas-guzzler.

V2G makes EVs work as a battery on wheels - both charging and sending power back to the grid at peak times, reducing the need for having to turn on dirty fossil fuel plants.

The Power Pack Bundle uses Octopus Energy Group's tech platform, Kraken, to unlock these savings for customers and make things as simple as possible.

All drivers need to do is plug in their car most nights and let the tech do the rest. The fully automated process leaves drivers with guaranteed free charging at home for all the miles in their lease.

This is the first time V2G tech has gone commercial in the UK, thanks to the BYD Dolphin's market-leading technology. With more V2G-ready cars coming soon, hundreds of thousands of EVs could soon act as mini power stations.

Octopus and BYD have also part-

nered with Motability Operations to make the V2G technology available to disabled people across the UK – ensuring low-cost electric driving is accessible to all.

Stella Li, Executive Vice President of BYD, said: "We're thrilled to officially launch our V2G project with Octopus Energy and Kraken."

"BYD is fully committed to making intelligent, innovative, sustainable technologies available to our customers, and this project will allow them to unlock the full potential of electric vehicles - not just as transport but as dynamic assets that can play a key role in supporting the grid."

"Together with Octopus Energy, we're enabling EV owners to play an active role in the energy ecosystem, reducing costs and increasing the resilience of renewable power systems."

Greg Jackson, Founder of Octopus Energy Group, said: "V2G is the game-changer for drivers and the grid. For the first time ever, drivers can effortlessly power their homes and help the grid – and drive for free in return. V2G is here, available at scale, and ready to revolutionise our entire energy system."

Andrew Miller, Chief Executive of Motability Operations, said: "It's great to see V2G technology becoming available at scale – effectively turning EVs into energy assets that can help power homes and support the grid."

"We're proud to be part of a pilot that's not only breaking new ground in energy, but also ensuring the benefits are accessible to disabled people across the UK."

The Power Pack Bundle will be available later this year.

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Ingram, Morgan and Chilton all on the podium at Oulton Park



by Aaron Sutcliffe
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BTCC: DROITWICH-based Team Vertu secured three podium finishes in the latest round of the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) at Oulton Park.

Team Vertu drivers Tom Ingram, Adam Morgan and Tom Chilton all stepped onto the podium at the Cheshire circuit.

Ingram claimed his second race win of the season in the first race of the weekend with Chilton and Morgan fifth and sixth respectively and Senna Proctor just behind in eighth.

And Morgan and Chilton then finished second and third respectively in race two with Ingram fourth and Proctor eighth again.

The Droitwich team missed out on a podium finish in the final race of the weekend with Ingram fourth again and Proctor

fifth while Morgan finished 15th and Chilton suffered a DNF.

Speaking after his race win, Ingram said: "This Team Vertu car is unbelievable quite frankly, it's such a joy to drive it feels sad to drive it sometimes because you think how are you ever going to get anything better than this?"

"It's an absolute joy, it seems to look after its tyres, you always want a bit of a buffer, it's a far more enjoyable and nicer experience once you've got a little bit of space behind you to settle into a rhythm.

"Once we were there, we were in the pound seat, once you've built a gap you can control the gap as you see fit, it all went to plan really nicely, this car is unreal."

Morgan added: "There was a little bit of rain with about two laps to go and I was just praying 'please, please, please don't chuck it down now'."

"It's a good haul of points, it felt nice, to stick on the back of Ash [Sutton] for as long as I could, he had the ultimate pace over me but it was only marginal."

Chilton said: "I got a good start initially but [Chris] Smiley on the hard tyre was not as good. Adam was on the outside and won the next corner and got ahead of me."

"We were carving through the field a little bit but I've got to say a massive thank you to Tom [Ingram], he gave me a little red lights on the brake at the

top of the hill.

"I took the opportunity to out brake him and he let me through, I didn't have enough hybrid left to challenge the top-two."

The result means Team Vertu sit second in the teams' standings on 391 points with leaders NAPA Racing UK on top with 410 points.

And Team Vertu driver Ingram sits second in the drivers' standings on 223 points, 10 points behind leader Ash Sutton.

Ingram has now secured 10 podium finishes in the BTCC this season with two wins, six second-place finishes and a

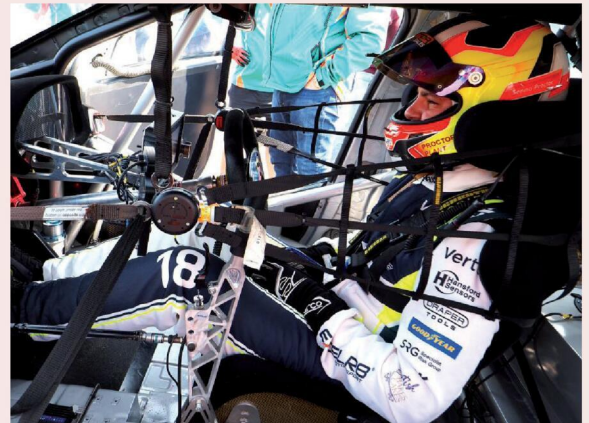
couple of third-place finishes. Morgan sits sixth in the drivers' standings with Chilton just behind in seventh.

And Proctor has already risen to 15th in the standings despite joining the grid during the fourth weekend of the season.

The BTCC season continues at Croft on the weekend of August 2 and 3.

LEFT: Tom Ingram on three wheels at Oulton Park. Picture by Mark Cowdrill.

BELOW: Team Vertu's Senna Proctor secured three top-10 finishes at Oulton Park. Picture by Darren Price.



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